SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: January 11, 2022
7pm
Meeting Place: Zoom

Madison Youth and Family Services
Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 1-11-22 to order at 7:04. Also in attendance were: S. Snyder, A. Aron, J. Bowler, J. Rogers, B. Skudder, D. McMahon, R. Wahl, R. Xeller, J. Yorke, K. Dess, and MYFS staff: P. Butler, J. Zeigler, M. Balletto, A. deLucia-Ferri, S. Cochran, and M. Fahey.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
   • D. Buller welcomed everyone and reminded board members to use their cameras if possible.

3. Approval of minutes from December 14, 2021. Motion made by J. Bowler and seconded by A. Aron. Motion approved.
4. Public Comment—None
5. Correspondence—M. Fahey read a thank you note from a client for assistance received during the holidays.

OLD BUSINESS
6. Status update on budget and special projects
   • S. Cochran updated Board on MYFS submission of a level operational budget, with 2 additional requests.
     o MYFS is requesting approx. $10,500 to regrade the School-Based Clinician positions.
     o MYFS is requesting $38,106 to make our part-time Parent Support Counselor position a full-time position, which would include benefits.
   • S. Cochran discussed the request made to MPS Superintendent for support for programming done in the schools.
   • S. Cochran updated the status of the Academy School Project and reported on the community presentations.
   • S. Cochran informed board members they can watch the recordings of the Academy School Project community presentations. S. Cochran
thanked board members who attended the meetings and offered their support.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Treasurer’s Report – Andrea Aron
   - A. Aron reminded board members that they can drop off sunshine donations at the MYFS office.
   - Motion made by B. Skudder and seconded by J. Bowler to approve the following donations:
     - $1,000 donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards from Neighbor-2-Neighbor.
     - $500 donation from Lisa Rollins, Realtor
     - $700 donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards from the Madison Teacher’s Union.
   - Motion approved.
   - S. Cochran and D. Buller gave their thanks on behalf of the board for the continued support of Neighbor-2-Neighbor, the Madison Teacher’s Union, and the Rollins Group.

8. Student Report – Darian McMahon and Rebecca Wahl
   - R. Wahl discussed the Valor group.
     - Valor meetings are on hold due to Covid.
   - R. Wahl also discussed Roots.
     - There are 10 students who are leaders in other groups who are now part of Roots.
     - Students brainstorming for possible solutions to the pause for Wellness Wednesdays, due to Covid.
   - D. McMahon reported on meeting with Principal, TJ Salutari and the possible follow-up with team captains regarding discussions about anti-violence pledge.

9. Staff presentation – Positive Youth Development Staff (Melissa Balletto, Justin Zeigler, Amy deLucia-Ferri, and Peg Butler)
   - M. Balletto introduced herself and her staff to the Board.
   - M. Balletto has been with MYFS for 16 years and is working at Jeffrey, Polson and the high school, facilitating multiple programs.
• P. Butler has been with MYFS for 15 years and works mostly with students at Polson, but is occasionally at the high school.
• Amy started with MYFS in August, 2021. She has been teaching mindfulness for 18 years and is now teaching mindfulness in the elementary schools in Madison. She is also working with Brown students in a mentoring program.
• J. Zeigler started with MYFS in August and has spent most of his career working in youth development. He is working at Brown, Polson, and the high school.
• J. Bowler and A. Aron commented on the presentation as a representation of all of the good work that is being done to support the youth in Madison.
• The power point presentation is attached.

10. Director’s Report – Scott Cochran, Director
• S. Cochran informed the board that MYFS has 4 staff members quarantining related to COVID.
• S. Cochran discussed the community roll-out of survey results on 2/3/22 on Zoom and encouraged board members to attend.
• S. Cochran reported on the DHHS PTO meeting where he and C. Barden presented the survey results to those in attendance for the zoom meeting; and the subsequent request by TJ Salutari to also give the survey results at the DHHS faculty meeting that occurred earlier today.
• S. Cochran informed the board that board member Art Symonds is resigning from the MYFS Board effective 2/1/22.

11. Liaison Report –TBD
• A. Aron, a member of the Affordable Housing Ad-hoc Committee, reported that they are working on a survey to present to the town.
• J. Yorke reported that the Madison Police Department is dealing with Covid-related absences and making necessary adjustments.
• J. Yorke reported that he had been promoted to Lieutenant—Congratulations!
• D. Buller, as school liaison, reported on the well-received presentation for the DHHS faculty, done by C. Barden and S. Cochran on the survey results.
• D. Buller also reported that Wellness Wednesdays is fully supported by Mr. Salutari, but has been temporarily paused due to Covid.

12. Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair
• D. Buller acknowledged the resignation of board member A. Symonds, a long-time supporter of youth in Madison. The board has benefited from his commitment and he will be missed.

13. Open Discussion–Board members encouraged to ask questions, provide input.
• R. Xeller reminded board members to find ways to add information regarding the good work of MYFS into their everyday conversations.
• R. Xeller informed board members that he has received 2 applications for the MYFS board and that he is on the nomination committee for boards and is happy to talk to anyone interested in joining the MYFS Board. There are now 3 vacancies on the MYFS Board.
• D. Buller thanked the board for their continued commitment and support.

14. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Fahey
Administrative Assistant,
Madison Youth and Family Services
Positive Youth Development: Let us illuminate a few things for you
WHO ARE WE?

Melissa Balletto
Assistant Director: PYD

Amy de Luccia-Ferri
Youth Development Coordinator

Justin Zeigler
Youth Development Coordinator

Peggy Butler
Youth Development Coordinator
What did we hear about the needs of our youth?

- We need to help our kids play...they forgot how.
- Our kids need help with their mental health.
- We need programming at Polson and the elementary school levels.
- Our kids need safe space to explore LGBTQIA+ identity.
- We need to address issues of sexual harassment.
QPR Training

The school system asked us to train EVERY student at Daniel Hand in QPR. We’ve begun that process and have been working in all health classes to provide this essential suicide prevention training.
New Programming for 2021/22 School Year.

Rainbow Lounge
6th-8th Grade
Space for LGBTQIA+ students and allies, to gather during lunch and learn, play, and discuss life.

Mindfulness
K-3rd Grade
These in school sessions support children to explore how to calm themselves and be mindful of their own bodies and emotions.

Social Lounge
6th-8th Graders
Students can sign up on a weekly basis to come after school and play games, hang out with friends, and connect others.

Monday Funday
6th-8th Graders
Students can join MYFS during lunch for conversation, Games and connection.
Revised programming for 2021/22 school year.

Epic
6th-8th Grade
We have added a session during the fall as opposed to spring in order to help build relationship between students earlier.

Roots
9th-12th Grade
Students have voiced a need to create action in the school. Roots is now designed to be a project building action oriented group.

Grub Club
4th-5th Graders
Using the Boys Council curriculum Grub Club has been edited to be more about play and connections, less curriculum based work.
Need: We need to help our kids play. Response: We created Social Lounge, Monday Funday, and changed Grub Club and Epic.

Need: Support with mental health. Response: Created mindfulness in the classroom and QPR trainings.

Need: Programming at Polson and Elementary School Levels. Response: All new initiatives focused on those schools.

Need: LGBTQIA+ Exploration. Response: Creation of Rainbow Lounge and continuing GASP.

Need: Focus on sexual harassment. Response: Increase focus on Girls Group, Girls United, and Boys Council, and Peer Helpers having these conversations.
**Sessions and Programs:** A *program* is a generic term for a group we run (Examples of programs are Peer Advocates, Peer Helpers, Boys Council) A *session* is a generic term for a meeting, a training, an event, etc. (Example: 1 peer advocate meeting is a session, 1 GASP meeting is a session)

**Opt in/Classroom sessions:** An *opt in* session is a session a student chooses to attend (Peer Helpers, Rainbow lounge, Etc.), a *classroom session* is one where they attend because they are a student in that class (QPR, Boy Talk, Girls Talk)

**Engagements:** This is a number that tells us how many times we worked with a young person in a program. It’s sometimes called “touches”. (Example: “Student A” goes to peer advocates on Monday and Roots on Tuesday...they have 2 engagements that week.)

**Unique Students:** This is the number of students that we work with. (“Student B” is part of Peer Helpers and Girls Leadership Group, when counting total numbers they are 1 unique student.)
On the week of December 13th Beyonce attends Peer Advocates, and Girls United. (2 Engagements)

On the same week Abraham attends Peer Advocates, and Boys Council. (2 Engagements)

On the same week Sonia attends Peer Advocates, and Girls United, and GASP. (3 Engagements)

If these were our ONLY students at Daniel Hand. We would have…

3 Unique Students and 7 Engagements at Hand that week.

Girls United would have 2 Engagements

Boys Council would have 1 Engagement

GASP would have 1 Engagement

and Peer Advocates 3 Engagements.

We know that Sonia is deeply engaged, and developing assets…and Abraham and Beyonce may need to connect more. We know Peer Advocates is where a lot of people are connecting, and Boys Council and Girls United less so.
These 4 are in Girls United. Girls United meets 4 times in a month. Rose forgets twice. This group would have 4 unique students and 14 engagements.

These 7 are in a Peer Advocate Group which has 3 meetings in the same month. In that time Iron Man misses twice, Hulk once, Captain once, Black Widow twice. This would be 7 unique students and 12 engagements.

Reviewing Unique Students and Engagements helps us get a better picture of the health our groups.

Example: Peer Advocate Group in this month has 12 engagements, but there were 21 possible. We can ask “Why?...What’s happening that so many students are missing meetings?”

Using these stats to help evaluate the health of our programs!
What questions can we answer with our new data gathering?

- How many students are we working with in each school and at what depth?
- How many engagements do we have total?
- What are some strategic moves?
**Unique Students**

**Opt In:**
- Brown: 38
- Polson: 140
- Hand: 136
- Total: 314

**Engagements**

**Opt In:**
- Brown: 372
- Polson: 1035
- Hand: 860
- Total: 2267

**In the Classroom**

- Ryerson: 414
- Jeffery: 660
- Polson: 166
- Hand: 415
- Total: 1655
13% of Hand Students, 24% of Polson Students, and 12% of Brown Students choose to engage with us.

-The Largest area of growth has been elementary students. 100% of K-3 graders will be engaged by the end of the year.

-We’ve had 3922 engagements this academic year (classroom and opt in).

Data as of 1/4/21
A BIT MORE TO THINK ABOUT...

We’ve run 324 sessions of programming totaling 404 hours of staff to student hours.

We average 8 students/session. Our students average 7 opt in engagements with us (so far this school year).

The programs with the most engagements are Grub Club (324), Girls United(250), and Rainbow Lounge(374).

Data as of 1/4/21
**Moves to make**

- We’ve noticed that Brown has had fewer chances at engagement. We will move social lounge to Brown in February.
- We’ve noticed a large number of students who have one engagement. We will evaluate our programming from a first time user perspective to assess any potential barriers to deepen engagement.
"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt.
QUESTIONS?