

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: February 8, 2022

7pm

Meeting Place: Zoom

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 2-8-22 to order at 7:03. Also in attendance were: S. Snyder, A. Aron, B. Skudder, D. McMahon, L. LaPorta, C. Breckheimer, S. Murphy, R. Xeller, J. Yorke, K. Dess, and MYFS staff: A. Ahern, F. Esposito, M. Adler, S. Cochran, and M. Fahey.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
 - D. Buller welcomed everyone.
 - D. Buller thanked S. Cochran for presentations given at the budget workshop and also for the MYFS ‘State of our Youth.’
 - D. Buller thanked board members who attended the budget presentation and the ‘State of our Youth.’
 - S. Cochran welcomed C. Breckheimer as the new BOF liaison.
 - A. Symonds joined the meeting so that the board could extend their gratitude and offer farewell wishes upon his resignation from the MYFS board.
3. Approval of minutes from January 11, 2022. Motion made by K. Dess and seconded by A. Aron. Motion approved.
4. Public Comment—None
5. Correspondence—None

OLD BUSINESS

6. Status update on budget and special projects
 - S. Cochran stated that there was no news on the budget requests made by MYFS.
7. Discussion of meeting format for March and April
 - March and April Board meetings will be on Zoom.
 - May and June meetings will hopefully be in person.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Treasurer's Report – Andrea Aron

- A. Aron reminded board members that they can drop off sunshine donations at the MYFS office.
- Motion made by R. Xeller and seconded by B. Skudder to approve the following donations:
 - Motion to approve a \$4,000 donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards from Neighbor-2-Neighbor.
 - Motion to approve a \$5,000 donation from Neighbor-2-Neighbor for the Discretionary Fund.
 - Motion to approve a \$500 donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards and \$1,500 to use at our discretion from the Madison Jaycees.
- Motion approved.
- S. Cochran gave thanks on behalf of the board and staff for the continued support of Neighbor-2-Neighbor, and the Madison Jaycees.

9. Student Report – Darian McMahon

- D. McMahon reported that Wellness Wednesdays have returned.
- D. McMahon reported that 'Jane Doe No More,' a gender violence program, was postponed last week due to weather.
- D. McMahon reported on the survey data presentation, stating that it went well.
- D. McMahon reported on meeting with Principal, TJ Salutari and the continuing follow-up with team captains regarding discussions about the anti-violence pledge.

10. Staff presentation –Angela Ahern, Asst Director of Clinical Services

- S. Cochran introduced Angela Ahern, Marj Adler, and Frankie Esposito.
- A. Ahern has been with MYFS for 15 years and has been overseeing the clinic for 6 years.
- A. Ahern explained how the agency has listened to the needs of people and have eliminated financial barriers to anyone who may need mental health support.

- A. Ahern discussed the pandemic and how mental health needs have been exacerbated during this time.
- For the 12-month period ending 6/30/21, MYFS had 108 inquiries (people who call looking for services or resources); thru January this year, MYFS has already had 93 inquiries.
- A. Ahern reported seeing more children needing to be hospitalized and staff having to make more calls to DCF.
- M. Adler discussed the SCOPE (School/Community Outreach Program Exchange) program. SCOPE is a grant-funded program where schools and pediatricians refer students under age 10 for up to 10 sessions of therapy for the child as well as the parents.
- M. Adler explained that she brings her trained therapy dog to help in many of the sessions.
- S. Cochran discussed the SCOPE program as a ‘foundational’ program where therapy received for behaviors seen at a young age can help a family achieve better outcomes.
- F. Esposito discussed the ‘Zones of Regulation’ program.
- ‘Zones of Regulation’ is facilitated by 2 clinicians in a group setting and the curriculum helps students identify and express feelings based on a color-coded system of emotions.
- ‘Zones of Regulation’ also incorporates a parent component where children will relate what they have learned to their parents and parents will be given tips on how to use the program at home.
- A. Ahern discussed the importance of having a full-time parent Support Counselor.
- A. Ahern discussed how our need for more space has impacted our services.
- M. Adler discussed seeing more anxiety and more problems with mood regulation in our children.
- S. Cochran also commented on spacing issues for MYFS, emphasizing that MYFS is a revenue-producing agency that continues to stretch every dollar received from the budget.

11. Director’s Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- S. Cochran thanked the board for attending the Zoom presentation of “The State of our Youth.”
- S. Cochran reviewed some highlights from the “State of our Youth” presentation.

- 54 people attended the Zoom event including Peggy Lyons and other members from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, administrators from the schools, and members of the faith community.
- 126 people have viewed the presentation on our YouTube page.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpo0OZRuuBI>
- The students gave important information from their perspective.
- S. Cochran discussed upcoming meetings at DHHS and at BOE to discuss possible steps to take regarding survey results.

12. Liaison Report –TBD

- A. Aron, a member of the Affordable Housing Ad-hoc Committee, reminded board members to complete the survey regarding affordable housing in Madison and to look for a town forum to be held.
- S. Murphy urged everyone to go vote at the upcoming referendum on February 15th.
- R. Xeller reported he had not heard from the Ad-hoc Marijuana committee; S. Cochran and S. Murphy believe the committee is still in the formation stage.
- J. Yorke reported that several officers are interested in the mentoring program “Game Changers,” a collaboration between Polson and MYFS that will connect adults with students.

13. Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair

- None.

14. Open Discussion–Board members encouraged to ask questions, provide input.

- S. Snyder applauded MYFS for their clinical services and being able to help as many people as possible.

15. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 8:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Fahey
 Administrative Assistant,
 Madison Youth and Family Services

