

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
Madison Youth and Family Services Board
Minutes from February 11, 2020

In Attendance: A. Aron, D. Buller, P. Davies, K. Dess, J. Daignault, A. Symonds, , L. LaPorta, K. Snow, L. Kaplan, S. Murphy, Officer J. Yorke, J.M. Parker, K. Kilbourn, J. Rogers, S. Snyder, R. Xeller,

Staff: S. Cochran, M. Fahey, E. Corbett, T. Scalia
Absent: T. Doina, S. Murphy, J. Fitzgerald

I. Welcome – David Buller chaired the meeting in T. Doina’s absence.

- Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

II. Citizen’s Comments—

- None.

III. Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2020

Motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes was made by K. Dess and seconded by J. Rogers.

IV. Correspondence—

- None.

V. Treasurer’s Report – A. Aron

- A. Aron reported that there is \$203 in the Sunshine Fund balance.
- Motion to approve a donation from Madison Foundation Neighbor 2 Neighbor in the amount of \$10,000.00, to be utilized as outlined in their letter attached to the donation, dated January 27, 2020 was made by P. Davies and seconded by K. Kilbourn.
- This donation will be used to provide social services funding.

VI. Student Report –Jake Daignault and L. Kaplan

- L. Kaplan reported on the new Peer Advocate Room in the library. There was a mandatory meeting for Peer Advocates to explain rules and expectations of the Peer Advocate Room. The meeting was well attended.
- J. Daignault reported that he is working with Catherine Barden and other students on the rollout of the Survey Results.
- J. Daignault discussed that C. Barden and C. Depietro (both of MYFS) are hoping to start a student coalition to work on advocacy, both local and at state level.
- J. Daignault reported on the progress of the new Unity Club at the High School. It will be the student version of the Diversity and Inclusion club that was newly formed in Town. J.M. Parker will be the advisor for the Unity Club.
- J. Daignault reported that the Diversity Club in Madison will travel to Guilford High School.

- L. Kaplan reported that she met with DHHS Principal, TJ Salutari, about meeting with Polson teachers.

VII. Staff Presentation—Erin Corbett and Taylor Scalia, School-based Clinicians

- Erin sees students at DHHS for a variety of reasons:
 - Some students self-refer to see someone on a regular basis inside the school.
 - Some parents request that their student see someone in the school on a regular basis.
- Erin also does the Drug and Alcohol Program at DHHS for students who have been suspended for drug and/or alcohol offenses.
- Erin also teaches the Gender and Sexuality Class to freshman in their health classes.
- Erin is also the advisor to the GASP (Gender and Sexuality Program) club at DHHS.
- Erin serves clients outside of school as well as a part of our outpatient clinical services.
- Erin co-leads a Community Service program in the summer.
- Taylor sees students at Polson Middle School. Last year, Taylor split her time between Brown and Polson. When the schools re-organized and Polson now had grades 6-8, it was decided that Taylor would be at Polson full-time.
- Taylor runs a 3-day course on bullying prevention (Who’s Got the Power) for 6th graders. The program focuses on the bystander effect, social media and online advocacy.
- Most referrals are from parents, students, teachers and the nurse.
- Taylor reported that she is seeing more anxiety and depression this year. Issues related to body image has also been a trend this year.
- Taylor also reported that she is seeing more avoidance issues.
- Taylor has a therapy dog, Ruby, who joins her on certain days and is welcomed by students.
- Taylor also co-leads a program called Allies for 6th graders who are nominated by their teachers to participate in a 6 -week course to learn how to use their strengths for the betterment of the school.
- Taylor also co-leads a buddy program called “EPIC” where students work on making friends in and outside of school.
- S. Cochran added that counseling services are carefully coordinated between the schools and MYFS. Scott added that both Erin and Taylor are both very skilled and provide an important role as trained and licensed mental health professionals. Scott highlighted this “systems approach” as critical to meeting the amount and variety of mental health needs of our youth.

VIII. Liaison Report—Sgt. Jeremy Yorke

- Jeremy reported on a conference he attended.
- Recruitment of new officers is a major issue with police departments across the country.

IX. Director’s Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- S. Cochran reported that the additional request for the FY 20-21 for the Parent Support Counselor is still being considered as a budget item.
- Board Enrichment will be on March 10 at 6pm in the Upper Level of Memorial Town Hall.
- S. Cochran reviewed a vaping brochure that he has distributed at the high School.
- S. Cochran gave an update on the development of a domestic violence program to help subsidize safe housing. This would be a collaborative program funded under N2N.
- S. Cochran discussed the 2 marijuana legalization bills that are currently proposed at the State Capitol.

- S. Cochran discussed the SHERo Awards sponsored by Women and Family Life Center in Guilford, MYFS, and other local agencies.

X. Chairperson Comments—David Buller, Acting Board Chair

XI. Adjourn—Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. Next meeting: March 10 at 6pm.