

Subject to Approval  
Madison Youth and Family Services Board  
Minutes from June 8, 2021

In Attendance: A. Aron, P. Davies, K. Dess, D. Buller, S. Snyder, R. Xeller, D. McMahon, J. Bowler, B. Skudder, Sergeant Yorke, L. LaPorta, J. Daignault, K. Kilbourn, J. Rogers, R. Wahl

Staff: S. Cochran, M. Fahey, C. Barden, C. DePietro

Absent: J. Fitzgerald, S. Murphy, A. Symonds

I. Welcome and Chairperson Comments

- D. Buller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- D. Buller thanked and complimented MYFS staff for the work on the MYFS Awards Ceremony held in May.
- D. Buller offered to meet with board members individually over the summer when needed as the next MYFS Board meeting will not be until September.
- D. Buller led discussion of platform (Hybrid or in-person) for MYFS Board meetings beginning in September. Board members encouraged to share their input via email to David.

II. Citizens Comments

- None

III. Approval of May 11, 2021 minutes

- Motion to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes was made by L. LaPorta and seconded by R. Xeller. D. Buller, J. Bowler, and K. Dess abstained. Motion approved.

IV. Correspondence

- M. Fahey read thank-you note from P. Butler.

V. Treasurer's Report - A. Aron

- A. Aron reported that the Sunshine Fund has \$160. Members may drop off their voluntary donation to Sunshine at the MYFS office.
- Motion to approve a total \$850 in donations in memory of Rosine Van Oss, from Mary DePalma (\$100), Eugene and Mary Cunningham (\$150), Vivian and Mark Gentil (\$500), and Richard Bershtein (\$100).
  - The motion was made by K. Kilbourn and seconded by J. Bowler. Motion Approved.
  - The Board extends its gratitude to the family for these donations.

## VI. Staff Presentations: Catherine Barden and Cristal DePietro—Community Support

- C. Barden reported on the upcoming school survey.
  - Message of student anonymity regarding survey questions will be re-enforced for the students.
- C. DePietro reported on the role of social services during the pandemic.
  - The number of households served by social services grew from 94 to 176.
  - The Covid Relief Program (funded by Guilford Savings Bank and Neighbor-2-Neighbor) has helped 81 households with a total of \$104,100 expended to date.
  - A pilot program to help victims of domestic violence access housing has helped 2 clients.
- Mental health has been a priority for community support this year.
  - There have been 3 community and 4 youth QPR trainings to date.
- Valor is the newly formed youth coalition that C. Barden and C. DePietro are the adult leaders for.
- C. Barden discussed the retail marijuana bill that is being considered by the Connecticut state legislature.
- C. Barden and C. DePietro discussed changes in vaping and how social media and the internet provide easy access for anyone wanting to purchase supplies.

## VII. Student Report – Jake Daignault and Darian McMahon

- The Board thanked J. Daignault for his service to the MYFS Board and presented him with a card and gifts.
- R. Wahl was introduced as the next Jr. Student Liaison.
- J. Daignault reported on a meeting with DHHS Health teachers to discuss modifying the curriculum and the positive feedback received.
- D. McMahon discussed working with R. Wahl over the summer to prepare for the next academic year.
  - D. McMahon will reach out to health teachers in the fall to check on curriculum progress.
  - D. McMahon will continue work to de-stigmatize mental health issues.
  - D. McMahon will work with C. Barden to re-enforce the anonymity of the school survey.

- J. Daignault reflected on his work on the MYFS Board.

VIII. Director's Report – S. Cochran

- S. Cochran discussed the awards ceremony and how the board enrichment and the awards ceremony may look different next year.
- S. Cochran reported on the progress of hiring for the 2 staff openings at MYFS.
- S. Cochran informed the board that they will be invited this summer to work on one or two focus groups to look at the Director's Report and data collection.
- S. Cochran discussed the importance of QPR (suicide prevention programming) in relation to the pandemic and the rates of anxiety and depression.
- S. Cochran discussed the retail marijuana bill before the CT state legislature.
- S. Cochran reported on the state budget and funding for YSBs (Youth Service Bureaus).
- S. Cochran discussed the plan to request funding for summer hours from the Recovery Grant for a MYFS clinician to run groups and address our clinic waiting list.
- S. Cochran showed the video that JM Parker, our CT state representative, put together as a PSA: "It's Ok to not be Ok."
- S. Cochran thanked Board members for their work and commitment to MYFS.

IX. Liaison Report—J. Yorke, Madison Police Department

- J. Yorke discussed preparations for the summer months as residents transition to a post-pandemic normal.
- J. Yorke reported on promotions within the Madison Police Department.
- J. Yorke confirmed that he will continue on the MYFS Board as the MPD liaison.

X. Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair

- D. Buller gave reflections on this year in a pandemic and thanked his fellow board members for showing up every month to continue their work in support of MYFS.

XI. Open Board – Board members encouraged to ask questions and provide input.

- J. Bowler discussed providing the Polson School community with the "It's OK to Not Be OK" video.
- J. Rogers applauded the MYFS staff for a successful awards ceremony and noted that D. Buller had done a great job as the new chairperson.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

