

Subject to Approval
Madison Youth and Family Services Board
Minutes from September 14, 2021

In Attendance: A. Aron, P. Davies, K. Dess, D. Buller, R. Xeller, D. McMahon, J. Bowler, B. Skudder, Sergeant Yorke, K. Kilbourn, J. Rogers, R. Wahl, J. Fitzgerald, A. Symonds,

Staff: S. Cochran, M. Fahey,

Absent: S. Murphy, S. Snyder, L. LaPorta

I. Welcome and Chairperson Comments

- D. Buller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
- D. Buller advised the Board that the September and October Board meetings will be virtual; in-person meetings will resume when it is safe.
- D. Buller asked P. Davies to give her update: P. Davies will be stepping down from the board due to a new opportunity for her.
- D. Buller reminded the board that P. Davies was also a member of the executive committee and that there was therefore, now an opening on the executive board.

II. Citizens Comments

- None

III. Approval of June 8, 2021 minutes

- Motion to approve the June 8, 2021 minutes was made by B. Skudder and seconded by K. Dess. Motion approved.

IV. Correspondence

- M. Fahey referred to a thank-you note from J. Daignault that was sent by email to all board members.

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.

VI. Director's Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- S. Cochran reported on staff updates at MYFS.
 - J. Zeigler has joined MYFS as a full-time Youth Development Coordinator.

- Amy de Lucia-Ferri has joined MYFS as a part-time Youth Development Coordinator; Amy has been active doing mindfulness programs at the schools and the Senior Center here in Madison.
- The Town of Madison has made masks mandatory in town buildings, and will institute a vaccination/testing program for town employees.
- S. Cochran reported on the focus group held this summer to review MYFS data and how to present it.
 - More information on data will be reviewed at an upcoming board meeting.
- MYFS ran 3 programs over the Summer:
 - Community Service
 - Summer Youth Employment—a Grant-based program where students are matched with employers for a positive work experience.
 - Social Skills Groups—a pilot program that had 10 students –ages 5-15—participate in social skills groups. These groups were reimbursable through insurance.
- S. Cochran reported on using American Recovery Act funds to pay for staff member T. Scalia, the school-based clinician at Polson, to work during the summer.
- S. Cochran reported on using American Recovery Act funds to pay for a robust back-to-school program called “Be Cool for School.”
 - “Be Cool for School” gave gift cards to Clinton Crossing and to local salons/barber shops to help with anxiety and financial issues for 70 students.
 - “Be Cool for School” was in addition to our usual ‘backpack’ program where we help our social service clients with back to school supplies.
- S. Cochran reported on updates with the Academy School.
 - MYFS has participated in discussions regarding the Academy School as a community center; with offices for MYFS and the Beach and Recreation Department as well as ample meeting/activity space for community members.
 - MYFS has communicated our need for enough square footage with controlled access in order to protect the privacy of our clinic and social service clients.
- S. Cochran reported on the bi-annual student survey which will be given on 10/27/21.

- A special effort will be made to ensure that students know that the survey is completely anonymous.
 - S. Cochran reported on QPR (suicide prevention) training and the emphasis on suicide prevention this year.
 - The town will be creating 2 ad-hoc committees to get input on how to best use the American Recovery Act funds; and how to assess the new marijuana legalization law.
 - Board members will receive invitations to “Finding Hope,” a short film on addiction presented by DemandZero.
- VII. Student Report – Darian McMahon and Rebecca Wahl
- Darian discussed a new program regarding sexual assault and how team captains can lead their teammates and help identify sexual violence. This is a joint effort between D. McMahon, K. Beiner, and Coach Becker.
 - D. McMahon reported that Valor, the youth prevention coalition, will begin meeting once it locates space.
 - D. McMahon reported that the Unity Club will be holding a winter clothing drive for Afghan refugees through IRIS in New Haven.
 - D. McMahon reported that Wellness Wednesday resumes this week.
 - D. McMahon discussed updates with vaccination and contact tracing.
- VIII. Liaison Report – Andrea Aron; Officer Jeffrey Yorke, Madison Police Department
- Andrea Aron, gave an update on the ad-hoc Affordable Housing Committee.
 - Officer Yorke reminded everyone to “lock your cars!”
- IX. Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair
- X. Open Discussion – Board members encouraged to ask questions, provide input.
- J. Bowler asked about the possibility of having a club fair at DHHS as a way to welcome and engage students who have been remote learning. D. McMahon agreed and indicated that a club fair has been discussed at DHHS and may possibly be held on a ‘Wellness Wednesday.’
 - R. Wahl discussed new ways to think about helping students feel included at lunch.
- XI. Adjourn
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:42.