

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

7:00 pm

Meeting Place: Memorial Town Hall

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 11-15-22 to order at 7:05 pm. Also in attendance were: A. Aron, B. Skudder, G. McGrimley, K. Rasimas, R. Wahl, J. Yorke, T. Rizzo, A. and MYFS staff: S. Cochran, E. Corbett, T. Scalia and P. Marchese.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
 - D. Buller welcomed everyone.
3. No vote on September minutes will approve next meeting
4. Public Comment - None
5. Correspondence - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

6. TREASURER'S REPORT – Andrea Aron – email approval requested due to lack of quorum
 - Motion to approve \$850.00 gift card donation for Stop & Shop from Neighbor-2-Neighbor.
 - Motion to approve a \$300.00 donation from Health Care Advocates International to be used for the Polson “Family Night” event.
 - Motion to approve \$238.22 raised at Pridefest by G.A.S.P. and Polson Services and events up and running. Polson, Family Event “Coming Out” 48 were in attendance.
7. COMMUNITY EVENTS – Scott Cochran
 - “PrideFest”, estimated 150 to 200 were in attendance, varying in age as well as residents and participants from out-of-town.

- Red Ribbon online event hosted by C. Barden, featuring the documentary, “Finding Hope”, produced by Lisa Dean had 18 in attendance and the movie is available on MYFS home page and viewership is increasing into the hundreds.
- K. Rasimas commented on how important it is for parents and educators to view this film and how impressed she was with the panel of experts involved in the Red Ribbon event discussion.
- J. Yorke commented that marijuana laced with fentanyl has been found in other CT towns.
- S. Cochran shared that Trunk or Treat was well attended. MYFS had a prominent spot on the green, led by S. Cochran and shared by MYFS staff. Special mention of S. Clarke and C. Barden for an exceptional job decorating our space in a Western theme this Halloween.
- Community Engagement and PYD hosted the first annual, MYFS “Mad Dash”, an event based on the Amazing Race with labyrinth of challenges. The event was held in coalition with the Scranton Memorial Library. The race proved to be very popular and was capped at nine teams participating in the race with a total of 59 participants.
- Next year’s Mad Dash event will be a fundraiser.
- November 8th was Civic duty Day which included three acts of service:

1. Library craft time
2. Complement Booth
3. Feminine Hygiene Day

7. Staff Update: School Based Clinicians – Erin Corbertt and Taylor Scalia

- E. Corbertt and T. Scalia provided insight into their unique rolls with in each of their specific schools, E. Corbertt working with students and staff at Hand and T. Scalia at providing support at Polson Middle School.
- E. Corbett indicated she is into her 18th year working with MYFS, providing outreach counseling services to students primarily in regular education. Her sessions with her students vary based upon their needs.

- While an employee of MYFS, E. Corbertt's office is located in the "Helping Hallway" along with DHHS staff including psychologist, social worker and special education coordinator and functions as part of the team providing continuity and weekly meetings regarding student referrals to decide who will be best suited to work with a particular student.
- E. Corbertt shared that last school year has proven to be the busiest year ever for referrals.
- E. Corbertt runs the weekly Gender and Sexualities Program referred to as "GASP" on Friday afternoons. The incoming 9th graders are proving to be a strong group and are excited about having four years to develop and implement projects.
- E. Corbertt holds a two-day Gender lesson in all Freshman health classes as well as the Drug and Alcohol five-day program which occurs for students serving an in-school suspension.
- T. Scalia – caseload consists of 16 formal clients and additionally sees students for outreach. Responsible for running "Who's Got the Power" two-day anti-bullying program.
- T. Scalia's office is located in the main hallway and her presence in Polson is that of a support person and a familiar face to students. T. Scalia runs lunch groups focusing on socialization where students can feel a sense of normalcy and comfort.
- T. Scalia is a cofacilitator of Rainbow Lounge with J. Zeigler.
- T. Scalia employs her dog, Ruby, as a comfort to students when they are having a bad day.
- Additionally, T. Scalia works with a social support team of three guidance counselors to track and support social and emotional well being of students as well as referrals from team.
- "Reading with Ruby", T. Scalia's community service library program pairs DHHS students with Polson students.
- T. Scalia will see a student as an outpatient if there is a need.
- MPS Superintendent Dr. Cooke has praised their work as vital programming that is an open and productive collaboration for our schools and community.

- E. Corbertt also leads summer community service for 7th, 8th and 9th
- Board thanked E. Corbertt and T. Scalia for their valued work within the school systems and their presentation to the Board.

8. Student Report – Trip Rizzo and Rebe Wahl

- R. Wahl spoke about the movie, “Finding Hope” and understanding why DHHS is not in favor of presenting film.
- T. Rizzo & R. Wahl felt perhaps delivering education and discussion about opioids and fentanyl through DHHS Advisory would allow message to be communicated, processed and thoughts expressed through immediate discussion. Also using advisory allows all grade levels to receive message.
- R. Wahl reported on the Roots – Civic Duty Day as “90% positive” from response from community as well as a truly and amazing exercise. Noted some people expressing “a few negative comments.”
- R. Wahl and T. Rizzo reported that Principal Salutari is very interested in finding a motivational speaker for a student assembly
- Student representatives reported that Principal Salutari’s has shared concern that while students are in a competitive academic environment and have individual goals, they also need to be able to come together and be present with their peers and view each other as part of a team.
- R. Wahl was excited about the possibility of developing a social media use program where H.S. students speak to younger school students about how social media post can have lasting effect on future. R. Wahl felt have H.S. students as the messengers would be received well by younger students that truly look up to high schoolers and value their advice.
- T. Rizzo reported that Advisory is “exponentially better”, groups are growing closer but there is room for improvement with team building activities.
- S. Cochran shared that Senior Advisory training is in its pilot year and assigning leadership has been difficult.
- Board thanked student liaisons for their input.

9. Director’s Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- S. Cochran updated on the meeting with the Academy Building Committee he observed on 11/14, and informed the Board re what

was now anticipated at the next meeting for the questions related to the MYFS space allocations in the future Academy Community Center.

- S. Cochran informed MYFS Board members could virtually attend the next Academy Building Committee meeting via zoom on 11/28/22 at 5:30 with opportunity for public comment. MYFS input to their design needs will be discussed with the MYFS Director during that meeting.
- S. Cochran informed that the Academy Advisory Committee is about to launch a public survey for input to what types of programs are wanted/needed in the Community Center itself.
- S. Cochran informed that the December Board Meeting will include a slate of nominated Officers including David Buller (Chair), Beth Skudder (Vice Chair) and Andrea Aron (Treasurer). S. Cochran discussed that given our bylaws, these officers are serving their last terms in those specific roles. Contact Scott for additional information.
- Report on the Social Work/Police Pilot will be emailed and executive summary available next board meeting.
- Federal Opioid settlement, Madison to receive \$12,600 intended for prevention and/or treatment. S. Cochran and MADE C. Barden is working with other Town Dept heads to create a proposal to best utilize these funds.

Chairperson Comments – David Buller, Board Chair

- Treasures report has been tabled and an email approval for donations will occur. September minutes will be approved at the next Board Meeting scheduled for 12/13/22. D. Buller gave thanks to all the MYFS Board members for choosing to spend their time in support of the youth of Madison.

10. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Marchese
Administrative Assistant,
Madison Youth and Family Services