



Minutes

**Town of Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB)
Partnerships For Success (PFS) Committee
Freshman Forum Work Group
Room 110- Birdseye Municipal Complex
Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

Attendance: Jocelyn Ault, Darin Bershefsky, Greta Broneill, Lauren Cavalli, Nina Chanana, Amanda Cotela, Anna Gasinski, Denise Keegan, Sean Kennedy, James Olsen, and Denique Weidema-Lewis

Call to Order

Sean Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Freshman Forum Planning

Speakers:

- Youth in Recovery~ The committee was able to speak with Carter via Skype. Carter briefly told her story and was able to discuss the nature of this year's Freshman Forum. The committee unanimously decided that Carter would be an excellent fit to the Forum.
- Wayne's Walk~ Darin Bershefsky, representing Wayne's Walk, suggested a Wayne's Walk collaboration with the Freshman Forum. Due to his connection with the community, as well as his powerful story, Darin offered to be a guest speaker and tell Wayne's story at the Freshman Forum. Since Carter was scheduled to be the only youth in recovery speaker this year, there is time allotted to include Darin to the panel.
- MADD~ Lauren Cavalli reported that Robin Cullen from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is available and will speak at this year's Forum.

Budget:

The committee reviewed the budget for the 2015 Freshman Forum.

Other:

Numerous aspects of this year's forum were briefly touched upon in this meeting to determine what has been done and what still needs to be done. Darin had suggested streaming a live internet feed would allow for people who cannot find transportation to the event to watch from a computer at home, a library or other public place. Stratford High School's video production students will record the forum, which will be available to students in school.

The committee realized that linking Bunnell and Stratford High culinary students will be difficult. Denise Keegan suggested that Stratford High students can provide dinner, while Bunnell students provide the dessert. The student volunteers will be served pizza in the cafeteria prior to the event. The committee recommended encouraging students to take photos at the event for social media to increase awareness of the event. Cardboard cut outs of celebrities, a photo booth and other ideas were suggested. The t-shirt design was approved by the committee. The

committee discussed offering a token of appreciation to the guest speakers. Denise and Amanda suggested a thank you card, a framed certificate of appreciation made out to the guest speaker and a 2015 Freshman Forum T-shirt.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Olsen".

James Olsen