



**Town of Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB)
Executive Committee Minutes
Monday, March 9, 2015
Birdseye Municipal Complex, Room 110**

In attendance: Nina Chanana, Paul DosSantos, Winnie Etienne, Anna Gasinski, Sean Kennedy, Gina Mariano, James Olsen, Dudley Orr, Tammy Trojanowski, Denique Weidema-Lewis

Call to Order

Winnie Etienne called the meeting to order at 5:38 P.M.

Approval of the December 1, 2014 Executive Committee Minutes

Dudley Orr made a motion to approve the December 1, 2014 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Sean Kennedy seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant

Tammy Trojanowski and Anna Gasinski attended Week 1 of the National Coalition Academy (NCA) in February. Tammy and Anna discussed key information and strategies learned from the training. Week 1 of the training focused on conducting a community assessment, techniques for analyzing problems and using quantitative and qualitative data collected to develop a logic model. The theory is to know your "local conditions" and the root causes. An activity that Tammy and Anna recommend from the training for the March Coalition meeting was "Community Mapping". This activity will allow the Coalition to dissect Stratford and the local conditions within the town. Along with Community Updates, the Nominating Committee will be appointed at the March Coalition meeting.

The DFC grant financial report was distributed and reviewed.

Denique Weidema-Lewis will no longer be the Other Substance Abuse Organization Sector Representative. Denique has recommended Darin Bershefsky from Wayne's Walk Foundation to join the Coalition as the "Other" Sector Representative. Tammy and Anna met with Darin and provided him with information regarding the Coalition.

Committee/ Team Updates

Logistics Committee~ A draft of the Coalition By-Laws was distributed for review by the Executive Committee. They had no additional comments. The Logistics Committee will meet one more time and the draft By-Laws will be presented to the Town Administration.

Freshman Forum (PFS)~ Sean Kennedy reported that the Freshman Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at Stratford High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The planning is underway and coming together as April 1st approaches. Flyers will be distributed next week to

all freshman students. Also, phone and e-mail blasts will be sent to all freshman student parents.

Data Team~ The Community Assessment process that was taught at Week 1 of the NCA was explained to the team. Next, the team plans to drill down into quantitative and qualitative data to understand the substance abuse problem by determining Stratford specific root causes, i.e. availability, laws and enforcement, price and promotion, community norms and favorable attitudes.

All About Assets~ The committee has decided to present the Search Institute Survey data to the entire guidance team from the middle and high schools during a May staff meeting. Next, the committee plans to refine the presentation, to fit the allotted time frame, as well as create an educator specific "Asset Support Card" for distribution. Dudley reported the Superintendent has agreed to send weekly e-mail blasts, referencing an asset per week for 40 weeks.

Youth Committee~ Winnie reported that the Youth Committee participated as the first youth focus group. Also, Youth Committee members have begun to plan the #Rx4Disaster social media campaign.

Branding~ The Branding Team has not met yet. The Executive Committee will recommend a name change to the Coalition at the March 16 meeting.

Local Prevention Council (LPC) Grant

The LPC grant financial report was distributed and reviewed. A request from Sterling House Community Center (SHCC) and the Stratford YMCA in the amount of \$250.00 was made to fund their community projects, Character & Leadership Development Day at SHCC and Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. Dudley Orr made a motion to recommend approval for both requests. Paul DosSantos seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Denique gave an update on the possible LPC funding cut that was proposed by the Governor's State Budget.

Youth Service Bureau (YSB) Report

A new counselor has been chosen for hire for Stratford Community Services. In addition, the after-school programs, FLASH and CLASP at Flood and Wooster Middle Schools, are fully up and running with 60 students in each program. Tammy provided an update on the possible YSB funding cut that was proposed by the Governor's State Budget.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Gasinski