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Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB)
Room 110-Birdseye Municipal Complex
Minutes-March 16, 2015

In attendance: Jocelyn Ault, Darin Bershefsky, Shelly Bheer, Doreen Chiccarello, Cara Dascenzo, Jack Dellapiano, Paul DosSantos, Madelyn Dragone, Lucretia Duwel, Winnie Etienne, Anna Gasinski, Mary Jackson, Raquel Juarez, Sean Kennedy, Roula Kouvas, Audrey Law, Olivia Mastroluca, James Olsen, Prez Palmer, Brenda Pasquariello, Kristi Pena, Ed Rawls, Julie Robinson, Mary Tiernan, Tammy Trojanowski, Denique Weidema- Lewis

Call to Order

Winnie Etienne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members and guests introduced themselves and described either a "pat on the back" (something that benefits Stratford children and youth), "step up our game" something that Stratford could do better for children and youth), or "fun fact"(something unique about Stratford and its history).

Approval of January 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Prez Palmer made a motion to approve the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Jocelyn Ault seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Local Prevention Council Grant

A request from Sterling House Community Center (SHCC) and the Stratford YMCA in the amount of \$250.00 was sent to fund their community projects, Character & Leadership Development Day at SHCC and Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. The Character & Leadership Development Day helps build leadership skills in youth in grade 10-12. Healthy Kids Day is a national YMCA initiative and is open to the public. The event includes vendors, as well as demonstrating the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

The Executive Committee made a recommendation to approve both requests. Sean Kennedy made a motion to approve the recommendation. Paul DosSantos seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

#Rx4Disaster AMA Grant

The Youth Committee was awarded an \$8,000 Healthy Living Grant from the American Medical Association Foundation to raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of prescription drug misuse using social media. Audrey Law reported that the committee met with two marketing consultants and discussed their proposals for the project. The committee recommended using Susan Rubinsky Marketing Consulting as the marketing consultant for the AMA Grant project. The committee feels Susan's skills in creating infographics will attract Stratford teens and make the campaign a success. Audrey Law made a motion to select the Susan Rubinsky Marketing Consulting to work with on the project. Paul DosSantos seconded

the motion. It passed unanimously.

Committee/ Team Reports

Executive Committee~ The Executive Committee met last week. As the leadership group, they reviewed the budget, set the agenda, and monitored committee activities.

Youth Committee~ Madelyn Dragone reported that the Youth Committee participated in a detailed discussion about underage drinking and marijuana use at their February meeting. The 2015 MEDALS Award nominations are due by Monday, March 23, 2015. Roula Kouvas explained the MEDAL Awards. The Youth Committee will be assisting the PFS Committee at the Freshman Forum on April 1st at Stratford High School.

Partnerships For Success (PFS) Committee~ Sean Kennedy reported that the PFS Committee's main focus is the second annual Freshman Forum. The Freshman Forum is a community forum for Stratford freshmen and their parents about the impact, dangers and consequences of underage drinking. The 2015 Freshman Forum is on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. at Stratford High School. All are welcome to attend.

Data Committee~ The Data Committee is composed of Greta Broneill, Nina Chanana, Paul DosSantos, Denique Weidema- Lewis, James Olsen, Anna Gasinski, and Tammy Trojanowski. As part of the Drug Free Communities grant, the Coalition will use the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model to reduce youth substance use. The first step in the SPF is assessment. Information, learned at Week 1 of the National Coalition Academy (NCA), about community assessment, techniques for analyzing problems and developing a logic mode was shared. The Data Committee is developing the plan for the assessment process. The committee 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.

Logistics Committee~ The Logistics Committee is composed of Doreen Chiccarello, Sean Kennedy, Lucretia Duwel and Tammy Trojanowski. The committee has drafted a new set of By-Laws, which was presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee did not recommend any changes. The committee will look over the draft a second time. The draft will be presented to Town administrators for approval. The By-Laws will be presented to the Coalition in the next two months.

All About Assets! Committee~ The Assets Committee is composed of Patty Hines, Amanda Cotela, Denise Keegan, Collete Fearon, and Lauren Cavalli. The committee is in the process of pushing out Seach Institute data to their fellow educators. This information will be presented at PTA meetings as well as staff development days. An asset support card will also be distributed.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Youth and Family Advisory Board Co-Chairs.

Community Mapping

A community mapping activity, demonstrated at Week 1 of the NCA, was introduced. It helps develop a community description and characterize the community. It includes landmarks, communities within the community and youth hot spots. Coalition members divided into groups of 3-4 at each drawn map of Stratford. Each individual, and as a group, brought different insight to their respective maps. The Coalition was introduced to the root causes of youth substance

use, as demonstrated at the NCA Training. The five root causes are: availability, community norms, laws and enforcement, price and promotion and favorable attitudes.

Youth Committee members presented their map, and focused on hot spots where they believe their peers have access to drugs and alcohol. They described the youth party scene as "Darties" (day time parties) and "Kickbacks" (afterparties). Other groups talked about the beach and boating community can be points of access for youth, as well as the forest and parks. In addition, the north end of Stratford has a relatively high population of elders. Annual Stratford events, such as Main Street Festival and Blues on the Beach, were highlighted. One group mentioned going to neighboring Bridgeport to purchase alcohol.

From this discussion, a community description will be drafted for review at an upcoming meeting. In addition, the information will be further discussed by the Data Committee to include in their assessment planning.

Community Up-dates & Announcements

- Denique discussed the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the state's prevention infrastructure.
- The Stratford South End Reunion Committee is looking for all individuals who are from, have lived, and/or currently live in the South End of Stratford to attend a reunion on August 7-9, 2015. The committee is looking to connect via Facebook.
- Parents SEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence) invites all to Café Night on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 PM at Stratford Academy/ Johnson House Cafeteria. Parent SEE is a 12 week intensive training in education policy and explores how change happens in educational systems.
- Stratford Library Association is hosting Rising Stars @ SLA on Saturday, June 13, 2015 in the Lovell Room from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Teens and young adults will share their talents in performance, including poetry and prose, music, voice, dance, as well as displaying their artwork, photography and short film.
- Healthy Kids Day at the Stratford YMCA is on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is open to the public.
- Bunnell High School Post Prom will be held on Friday, June 5, 2015 at the Sports Center in Shelton.
- Wayne's Walk will be held on June 20, 2015 at Short Beach. More information to come.
- Youth Mental Health and First Aid Training is on Friday, April 24, 2015 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Birdseye Municipal Complex, Room 110. For more information and to register, call Community Services at 203-385-4095.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Gasinski