

GREENE COUNTY CHILDREN, YOUTH & COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 13, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M. – In Person with option to join via Zoom

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Ken Brooks, Interim Director

RECORDER: Katy Drake*, Consultant

ATTENDANCE: Ken Brooks, Mary Jo Jaegar, Debra Kingman*, Larry Krajeski, Dr. Sal Massa, Alison Phoenix*, Brenna Rustick, Angelo Scaturro* and Don Smith.

* = Zoom

STAFF: Carrie Wallace & Laura Anderson

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Pam Coloton (Chair), John Scalera, MaryAnn Scalera

The meeting opened at 6:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a confirmation of members present on the Zoom Call. With 8 out of 11 Members present, a quorum was available. Quorum for the Board is 50% plus 1 (7).

Staff Reports

Staff members Carrie Wallace and Laura Anderson joined the meeting to provide the Advisory Board an update on services. Carrie discussed the challenges of balancing all the demands during COVID along with trying to connect with youth during the most challenging of times. Due to the shortage of staff and volunteers, Youth Bureau staff frequently assisted with home delivered meals. Despite being pulled to provide this critical service, Youth Bureau staff have supported 49 youth in the first quarter of 2022. The annual projection for services is 80 youth. The Youth Bureau was commended for their efforts, in assisting the department with HDM and for connecting with so many youth already in 2022. Carrie shared some of the challenges youth are facing today with so many kids being raised by grandparents, being impacted by drug use in the household, and with so many social challenges from the impact of COVID.

Laura shared that 2022 started with low referrals, as school districts attempted to handle absenteeism and other challenges “in house”. Laura shared the mental health and social challenges many students are currently facing. The committee discussed mental health supports, SPOA -Single Point of Access, the shortage of Service Providers and the waiting list for services, especially respite & mental health services.

The committee discussed that the Summer Recreation Program in Catskill may not be held, impacting approximately 60 kids who attend the local program. The impact of families not having that childcare option, along with the potential of kids not having a constructive way to spend their summer days, is a concern.

The strong communication between Greene Probation Department and the Youth Bureau was discussed. The PINS program was reviewed. Deb reported that Juvenile delinquency is at a high right now in part due to anxiety & depression in youth coupled with a lack of supports & resources available. Deb shared that she is seeing a lot of challenges for youth ages 13- 15 right now. The wait list for assistance for youth can be six to eight weeks. Some services, like tutoring for students who are suspended, has gone online; falling short in the depth of the support needed.

Old Business

Larry Krajewski made a motion to approve the meeting notes that were pending from 2021:

- Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2021. Don made a motion to approve. Brenna seconded the motion. Held for future meeting with a quorum present.
- Approval of Meeting Notes from Special Meeting June 28, 2021, with an amendment including the discussion notes from June 9, 2021. Allison made a motion to approve. Don seconded the motion. Held for future meeting with a quorum present.
- Approval of Meeting Notes from September 8, 2021 (due to error, quorum was not present at the October 2021 meeting so minutes could not be officially approved)

Mary Jo Jaeger seconded the motion. With all members in favor, the meeting notes were approved with a quorum present.

Don Smith made a motion to accept the meeting notes from October 13, 2021. Brenna Rustick seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting notes were accepted as written.

Program Funding, Ken Brooks

Ken believes youth funding for 2022 will remain at approximately \$45,494.00. The grants are reimbursement grants, paid out after the programs are completed. Contracts stipulate grants are based on funding available. On March 22, 2022 all Board members received an overview of the 2022 Youth Grant Applications. Prior to retiring, Terry sent out the annual reports for 2021 for the grant applicants for Board review. Ken reviewed the spreadsheets with requested 2022 amounts. Eight less programs applied for 2022. The Athens Cultural Center increase was discussed. The proposed allocations include \$10,000 for Youth Bureau Administration. Under this proposal, there may be \$2,500 available for Laura and Ruth to work together on an RSVP grant that is due at the end of June which links seniors with youth. Mary Jo made a motion to accept the budget as proposed. Angelo seconded the motion. The budget was approved with all in favor.

The Advisory Board was awarded the Wayne Speenburgh Grant for funding of \$500 to increase the Youth Awards for 2022. This \$500 match would allow for awards of \$500 for the Youth of the Year, \$300 for the Chairman's Choice Award and \$200 for the Director's Choice Award.

New Business

Director's Report, Ken Brooks/Interim Director

Ken shared information on the process for hiring a new Executive Director following Terry's retirement on March 31st. Interviews have been completed and contact information will be shared when a new Director is hired.

Ken shared information on the 2022 Youth Awards. Due to receiving the Wayne Speenburgh grant, the award amount has doubled. Greene County Youth Awards nominations were sent to all Board members via email in advance of the meeting. Members are asked to vote by April 30th. Katy will send out an email outlining the awards and nominees to simplify voting. The winners will be presented their awards at the opening ceremony of the Youth Fair. There will be a press release and it is anticipated that a legislator will be present for the awards ceremony to acknowledge the Wayne Speenburgh grant.

The Board discussed the low number of nominees – three. At an upcoming meeting, the Board will look at where the award nomination information is distributed to see if there are any additional ways to increase responses. The nominations received for Senior Awards was also low.

Announcements

- The announcement of upcoming changes in program year for both Youth Development Program and Runaway & Homeless Youth Funding – (SFY 23/24) was shared.
- We are seeking NYS Governor's Youth Council Representative (ages 13 – 21) to represent Greene County (Please see March 23, 2022 email for specifics)

Adjournment @ 7:01

Next Meeting Date: **May 11, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.** – At the Human Services Dept Office -411 Main Street, Catskill with the option to join via Zoom.

Approved by quorum on May 11, 2022.

Notes respectfully submitted by Katy Drake/Greene Consultant