

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, April 25, 2022 / 6:00 pm **Location:** Zoom -Teleconference

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Frank Ferraro	Yan Huang	Jennifer Ford, Director of Youth Services
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair	Kathleen Logan	Amy DiChiara	
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary	Beatriz Vautin		
Jacob Mullin-Bernstein	Jodi Sponzo		
Leslie Schultz			

Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes: March 28, 2022 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Financial Report: YS Director Jen Ford reported no change in finances. Committee member Deborah Mahoney and YS Director Jen Ford will meet to explore grant funding possibilities in the near future.

3. Social Services Report: Conversations continue about high school community service and YS Director Jen Ford shares resources and ideas with callers. If students work with Youth Services for community service they need to keep track of their hours. YS Director Jen Ford had conversations with students regarding college decisions. There have been conversations regarding identity and some youth have come out to YS Director Jen Ford but not to their family and friends. There is frustration that we have formed a community where youth are not completely comfortable being themselves. Mental health is a growing issue and there is trouble finding therapists to help youth deal with issues. Committee member Kathleen Logan has a medical practice, Broadway Healthcare, and is hoping to expand to include psychiatric services in the near future. YS Director Jen Ford does work with Laura Miranda but there is some concern in the community since Ms. Miranda works at the police department and all calls are logged.

4. Participation Report: YAT met with the Wakefield team. Our three members who attended asked questions and there was good interaction. Our team has done similar projects to Wakefield so it validated the work of NR YAT. FreeForm had an event scheduled for April break but it was rained out. FreeForm is a small group which enables a lot of great conversations. Small numbers can be very powerful. Guiding Good Choices has completed three sessions and the final session is this week. The sessions have been very engaging. Two committee members are attending and shared very positive feedback. Participation in groups has been sporadic which is normal in the spring season. YS Director Jen Ford shared a Youth Services' Reach document with the committee which highlights the numbers of youth reached. She feels that these numbers are low since YS Director Jen Ford does not always have the time to update her spreadsheets. Committee member Beatriz Vautin offered to assist with attendance record keeping.

5. Old Business: A committee member asked for follow up regarding Chair Peter Majane meeting with the Town Administrator regarding YS Director Jen Ford's contract. The Town Administrator has not responded to Chair Peter Majane's request for a meeting so the Chair will call to follow up.

6. New Business: No new business.

Chair Peter Majane thanked the members for their time and commitment.

Next meeting: May 23, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
March 2022 Minutes	Youth Services' Reach Document

May 23, 2022
Minutes Approved on Date

Jason Slattery
Jason Slattery, Committee Vice-Chair