

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 5

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Judy Hall	Leah Maihos, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Coordinator
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Kathy Dardeno	Amy Luckiewicz, Youth Services Director
Christy Damphousse	Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	
Leslie Shultz		
Patti Harrington		
Samantha Miller		
Sandy Garniss		
Amy DiChiara		

Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

- Guest: Leah Maihos, Substance Abuse Prevention Program Coordinator/CIT, Youth Services:** Amy Luckiewicz introduced and welcomed Leah Maihos. Leah stated she has worked for many different communities and happy to be in North Reading to help raise drug awareness. She created/distributed information pamphlets around town and worked on the PRIDE Survey with Amy. She will assist in organizing plan for PRIDE Survey Data Results once in and analyzed. She announced Coalition Academy is next on the agenda. Amy discussed permanent office for Leah. She has temporary one now at the NR Police Department but feels she's not visible enough. Amy is confident her new office will be able to accommodate both of them.
- Review of Previous Minutes:** February 2017 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously. There were no questions.
- Financial Report:** Amy Luckiewicz distributed the financial report and outlined there were no real changes and everything was on track with budget. She discussed how budget meeting with Selectmen went well and reminded everyone she also handles the CIT budget. She said her tuition is up-to-date though she has not been reimbursed yet. She is on target to finish classes. Her COLA is on hold and not being paid out of Federal Grant currently, but she has submitted for it.
- Participation Report:** Amy Luckiewicz outlined she has 52 kids starting mentors and this is usually her slow time, but it has doubled, which she is thrilled about. She stated there has been a big jump in enrollment by elementary kids.
- Social Services Report:** Amy Luckiewicz stated it was a tough month. One family going through heavy emotional/mental issues, but thankfully no drugs involved. Amy mentioned one youth approached her after receiving her business card and Amy feels her increased visibility at the schools is paying off. She mentioned this year has the highest number of special needs kids enrolled. She outlined they require special accommodations but all is good thus far. She mentioned an instance through the school guidance department that was not helpful. A parent was handed a list of therapists after meeting regarding their child and one of the numbers listed was incorrect, other therapists listed didn't take the family's insurance, another didn't handle that particular type of therapy, and others were not accepting new patients. Amy did address the situation and helped the family.
- High School Reach Out:** Amy said she had 1 student call and stated they are not on a regular schedule yet.
- CIT/Grant Update:** Amy Luckiewicz mentioned grant is still being worked on. She mentioned upcoming events included: "D.I.R.T." with John Morello, a one-man show that explores the challenges and decisions that young people face daily, April 3. Dr. Ruth Potee on Tween/Teen Brain Development, May 18th. "Mock Car Crash", May 23. Battle of the Bands: "Unplugged", June 16. National Night Out, Aug. 1.
- Battle of the Bands:** Amy Luckiewicz discussed upcoming 10th Anniversary of Battle of the Bands. This year's theme is "Unplugged" so they're looking for acoustic performances. Also looking for volunteers. The only date available at the Moose Lodge was June 16th so it was finalized. Amy stated she will be away and will need support from the NRYS Team for coverage.
- Old Business/Education Update:** It was suggested that NRYS meet with all three elementary principals in the future. Amy Luckiewicz stated she would like to increase her visibility there. Peter Majane said he would reach

out to all three for dates. It was asked who had not completed their Ethics Training for the year. All were completed.

10. **New Business:** Sandy Garniss opened with discussion about how the Middle School Teachers Project worked out. The MS Teachers Project consisted of 15 stations with 9 teams visiting each. They had to work as a team to complete tasks. Sandy talked about the School Climate Survey which reflected morale was down amongst the staff and this was an effort to increase it. It was outlined that feedback was not established so there was no way of telling how it was perceived or whether it actually met its goal. There is a survey in the works, but the fear is it'll be too late to get accurate feedback from event. Amy Luckiewicz introduced the Financial Literacy Workshop Series being offered to high school students and beyond. It is generously sponsored by the Reading Cooperative Bank and will occur on April 26, May 10, and May 25. Amy will ask business classes at the high school to offer extra credit for attending. Amy Luckiewicz then discussed "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Harmony" program. She is working on getting one here as she has noticed a lot of grandparents as primary caregivers here in North Reading. She will be encouraging North Reading grandparents to visit other communities hosting these programs until North Reading can establish one.

Next meeting: Monday, April 24, 2017 - 6:00pm, Room 5

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Participation Report	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Harmony
Financial Report	Financial Literacy Workshop Series
Previous Meeting Minutes	Budget Report
Social Services Participation Report	Dr. Ruth Potee Presentation
Youth Services Program Calendar	

May 1, 2017
Minutes Approved on Date

Peter Majane
Peter Majane, Committee Chair