

# North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

**Date/Time:** Monday, October 22, 2018 6:00pm **Location:** North Reading Town Hall, Rm. 10

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Leslie Shultz	Judy Hall	Debbie Sharp, Guest Speaker3
Frank Ferraro, Vice-Chair	Patty Harrington	Kathy Dardeno	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director
Karen Buscemi, Secretary	Samantha Miller	Amy DiChiara	
		Christy Damphousse	
		Sandy Garniss	

**Chairman Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.**

- Review of Previous Minutes:** September 24, 2018 minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- Financial Report:** Finances remain steady. Pumpkin carving event was a slow sign-up, but then the day before everyone signed up and the event was full. There were deposits from that event, plus some cash donations and reimbursement for Pumpkin Carving event supplies.
- Social Services Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed how a high school teacher reached out to Youth Services regarding a student who was having problems with engaging others. Jen met individually with the student and then invited her to assist with the Middle School Youth Group and Mentoring programs. The student has attended both and has loved it. Jen outlined how she met with Andrew Falanga, advisor of the InterAct Club, who said he has about 100 students currently involved. Jen said she would use InterAct as an avenue to access students to help out with Youth Services activities. Jen was asked to engage Rotary to get involved in the EarlyAct and InterAct clubs.
- Participation Report:** Jennifer Ford discussed how she is still working on building more programming. She noted how fall programming brought in 34 new participants. Since July 1, 2018, one hundred and seventeen different individuals have participated in Youth Services events and programming. According to FY18 records, a total of 171 youth participated during that time.
- Old Business:** Jennifer Ford noted she attended her first P.A.U.S.E. meeting. She noted there was a lot of professional development coming out of those meetings and she outlined how she will be able to express concerns while attending.
- New Business:** The North Reading Youth Services Committee welcomed guest speaker Debbie G. Sharp, M. Ed to the meeting. Debbie was featured in an article in the North Reading Transcript which outlined her need for backpacks and school supplies for her backpack project to benefit Lazarus House. Rotary was doing something similar and it seemed appropriate to invite her to the Youth Services Committee meeting to discuss her project and what she does for the community's youth. Debbie outlined she has been in North Reading for 5 years, coming from San Diego. She has been teaching since 1993 and holds a General Education and Special Education license. She has helped many parents with special needs children and is a child advocate and parent trainer. She became a stay-at-home mom and developed her own business, "Who's Learning Now?" She admits to still learning how to be a business woman, but boasts her abilities in teaching and consulting to build better citizens. She developed her "Backpack Project" in order to show kids that there are kids out here who have less and to help those less fortunate. She approached the North Reading Food Pantry about their needs and they stated school supplies are always in need. Her goal is to grow as a business to serve the community. She has helped at the Hilltop Preschool and given advice during presentations. She is connected with the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) which is a free agency and great resource for connections. She stated how she loves being a great resource for parents. Seeing a need, she created her own "Kindergarten Readiness" presentation to outline how to get a child ready for Kindergarten from age 3 and up. She also boasts her "Summer Learning" presentation which outlines what to do with children over the summer. She discussed how mental health is a huge issue now and she's still learning about it and loves going to presentations to learn more about it. She outlined how on March 28, 2019 at the high school there will be a presentation from licensed social worker Lynn Lyons regarding managing anxiety, help for both students and parents. Debbie, CIT and others are sponsoring this event. It was noted that North Reading has many kids who are doing without because they don't speak up and that leads to avoidance and then it's associated with behavioral issues. Debbie then told the story of how she came to visit Lazarus House to drop off her backpacks from her project and how her main goal was to show her own children how others are doing without and how they could help to do more. Debbie outlined she is looking to do more marketing to try and get the word out about her services. She also inquired how she could be of service to Youth Services and vice versa. Jennifer Ford outlined the need to build more of a community so

kids who may be dealing with anxiety and depression are surrounded with those who care and can help. She noted there are over 1,000 youth currently dealing with anxiety and depression daily, untreated. It was noted that November's guest speakers will be Drug Free Communities Grant Director for North Reading, Amy Luckiewicz and the new North Reading Mental Health Clinician Laura Miranda.

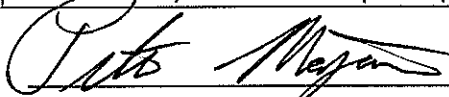
**Next meeting:** Monday, November 26, 2018 - 6:00pm, Room 10

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Documents/Handouts	
Committee Meeting Agenda	Committee Minutes from September Meeting
Financial Report	Participation Report
Debbie Sharp Resume/Background	Jennifer Ford, Y.S. Director Update (2 pages)

*November 26, 2018*

Minutes Approved on Date



Peter Majane, Committee Chair