

North Reading Youth Services Committee Meeting

Date/Time: Monday, November 28, 2022 / 6:00 pm

Location: Flint Memorial Library

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Guests/Visitors Present
Peter Majane, Chair	Frank Ferraro	Jodi Sponzo	Lil Hartman, Director of Public Services
Jason Slattery, Vice-Chair	Yan Huang	Beatriz Vautin	Laura Miranda, LMHC
Amy DiChiara	Leslie Schultz		Christina Gandolfo, prospective Director of Youth Services

1. Call to Order. Chair Peter Majane called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Peter introduced Christina Gandolfo, prospective Director of Youth Services starting Dec. 5.

2. Guest speaker Laura Miranda. Chair Majane introduced Laura Miranda, LMHC and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Clinician at NRPD. Laura described the tripod informational intervention model for substance misuse, implemented for youth by Det. Lucci (describes enforcement actions that might occur with continued substance use); Amy Luckiewicz (myth-busting about the substance itself); and Laura (mental health causes and repercussions related to substance misuse). Schools refer students to Laura regularly, as part of an MOU between Det. Lucci (student resource officer) and the school department. Higher rates of anxiety and depression have been noted among middle and high school youth since 2019, along with vaping. Laura reported that providers are accepting new patients, and there's been a shift toward more tele-therapy. Committee members raised concerns about how families and youth might feel going to the police department for help, and about how their interactions at the PD would be documented. Laura highlighted that NRPD officers have commendable de-escalation skills and that they benefit from having a clinician directly available to support their de-escalation skills, police self-care, and to follow-up with families they encounter.

3. Review of Minutes. October 24, 2022 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

4. Old Business. a) Lil & Peter announced that Christina Gandolfo is expected to begin serving as Director of Youth Services on Monday, Dec. 5. b) Lil provided a programs update. The Wednesday mentoring program is near capacity, and Monday middle school youth group did not launch due to lack of interest. Amy Luckiewicz will continue supporting the mentoring program through December to overlap with Christina. c) Peter announced we have a Reality Fair scheduled for April 12. Christina will connect with Amy to find out how much Amy can be involved, and to learn from her experience.

5. New Business. a) Membership. Peter will ask Superintendent Daly and Principal Loprete to recommend high school students for the Youth Services Committee. Jay will reach out to Guiding Good Choices participants to see if any have an interest in joining the Committee. If the committee is not filled to 11 members, a quorum will be reached by a majority of members serving or half plus one.

Next meeting: December 19, 2022, 6pm in the Library Trustees Meeting Room

Documents/Handouts
October 2022 Minutes