

Minutes

Youth and Family Services Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Members Present: Sue Baldauf, Director; Kristina Philipson, At Large; Tom Pinney, At Large; Capt. Thomas Smith, Hanscomb AFB; Jeff Wardwell, Bedford Police

Members Absent: Caroline Fedele, Selectman Liaison; Ann Guay, School Committee; Alison Malkin, At Large; Kevin Wormstead, Board of Health.

Welcome: The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Tom Pinney (Chair). Captain Tom Smith from Hanscomb AFB Family Advocacy Services was welcomed to the Committee by Sue.

Minutes: The Minutes from September 12, 2013 were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- 1. Programming:** Sue reported on Bedford Unplugged and said they are planning to add a second one during March this school year, to further integrate the concept into the community. Issues with school space use need to be worked through to make this successful in the future. Jessica Wildfong distributed some excellent materials for Substance Abuse Awareness Month. Sue passed out two handouts, "Rethinking Drinking: Alcohol and Your Health" and a brochure about the Social Host Law in MA, "Preventing Underage Drinking...Priceless". These will be distributed regularly. Jessica has also begun distribution of the winter middle school after school activities program. There was a Veterans Breakfast sponsored by the Lexington Rotary last Sunday and about 150 people attended. There will also be a Bedford Memorial Day observation on Monday.
- 2. Grants Update:** Sue reported successful receipt of the \$25,000 implementation portion of the CHNA planning grant, those monies designated for developing a Pedestrian Master Plan and researching a Fixed Route local bus. Sue hopes the pedestrian master plan will be on the CPC list for March Town Meeting. She is working with the Department of Public Health on a CHNA collaborative grant for hoarding case management, a challenging social issue. The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership is offering to do some training and case management for Bedford.
- 3. Homeless Families in Bedford:** Sue reported that the number of families has stabilized at about 80. The state has promised not to add families in Bedford until the rate is more proportional to our community population. The clothing drive was very successful. Sue is working on plans for the holidays and is coordinating with Police and the churches. DPH is providing on-site case management and Board of health is doing flu clinics. Sue coordinates a regular monthly meeting of the volunteer groups and is planning a meeting for the professional providers.
- 4. Veterans Update:** Bill Linnahan has added hours to his schedule. There is currently \$15-20,000/month being spent for veteran benefits, which means if we continue at that rate, the account will be overspent by about \$66,000 before fiscal year end and Sue will need to request a Reserve Fund Transfer.

New Business:

- 1. FY14 Budget Update:** Sue stated that she is thinking about suggesting a contingency line item to the FY15 budget for the Healthy Bedford Coordinator position so it has a fixed source of support and Healthy Bedford will not have to continually rely on obtaining grant funding.
- 2. FY15 Budget Preparations:** Town Manager Rick Reed has asked the Selectmen departments to attend a Selectmen meeting to further clarify the role of each of the departments and help them

better understand what they do prior to FY15 budget preparation process. Sue is scheduled to be there 12/2. She will likely get budget materials late in December.

Committee Member Updates:

Jeff Wardwell: Jeff reported on the Trunk or Treat program at Halloween and said they had lots of kids turn out. He said Police participated in the prescription drug take back program. Jeff also spoke at the High School Peer Leaders meeting. About 20 parents attended and listened to presentations by the students on stress, social media, and drug/alcohol issues. Police will be starting up a Police Athletic League in partnership with Recreation. The police will coach high school kids in basketball. This is a positive way for teens and police to interact.

Captain Tom Smith: Tom reported that Matt Nicoli is now working with the Coast Guard. Ms. Terry Jordan will replace Matt. They are currently working with families having significant medical issues. Captain Smith offered to work closely with BYFS in the future.

Tom Pinney, At large: Tom reported that money collected at the JGMS dance is going to the D.C. Trip Scholarship Fund. He also said that JGMS is going to be starting a student run store at the school which will teach commerce skills. Tom said he's currently working on reviewing the School Handbook.

Kristina Philipson, At large: Kristina did not have any updates to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next Meeting scheduled for January 9, 2014 at 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Philipson