

## MINUTES

Bedford Youth and Family Services Advisory Committee  
September 10, 2015

**Members Present:** Tom Pinney, Chair, at large; Sue Baldauf, Director; Caroline Fedele, Selectmen; Jeff Wardwell, Police; Dan Brosgol, School Committee

**Members Absent:** Peter Ricci, at-large; Ali Malkin, at-large; Caroline Donnelly, Board of Health; Marcia Morgan, at-large (appointed 9/8/15)

**Introductions:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with introductions.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2015 were held for approval at next meeting.

### Old Business

**Grants update:** Sue reported deciding with Health and our trainer to return approximately \$9947 of unused portion of the hoarding grant rather than try to extend the grant and do another training. One Mental Health/ First Aid training has been successfully completed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> offering in October and the third and final one in January. Received notice that the grant that was submitted to MA Housing for a de-cluttering group was funded so Sue will be working with the Bedford Hoarding Task and the trainer on scheduling that community group.

**Veteran's Update:** Services have remained stable; Sue has been working with the Veterans Agents and Town Manager on the plans for the 70 bed Bedford Green facility. There has been some question about whether the Town would be reimbursed at the 100% rate for any Ch. 115 eligible veterans applying for that facility. Staff are trying to resolve this.

**Transitional Families Update:** There were 24 homeless families living at the Bedford Plaza at last count. Bedford Housing Task Force offered a microwave cooking class over the summer that was very well received as well as child care event with Clarendon Family Services. Sue reported on the DESE ruling change related to transporting homeless students back to their originating district, which only applies to their previous school, not their previous community if they have moved on to another school. Repercussions here will likely be a decrease in out-of-district transportation costs for Bedford but an increase in students in Bedford Public Schools. Discussed possibility of joining Project Wish to help with the various needs of these families that volunteers have been doing drives for in the past, thinking that might be more efficient.

### New Business

**Programming:** Sue handed out flyers related to the 3 upcoming parent education events, expressing appreciation for working with the schools on the 2 back to school night events and highlighting the November event in collaboration with Concord Carlisle Youth Services and at Concord-Carlisle High School. She also handed out the JGMS After School brochures and the BYFS fall newsletter.

Sue said there had been some confusion related to Bedford Families Unplugged. Though there is not an official date this year, Sue has sent out PR encouraging residents to do their own unplugged.

Sue reported on new Eliot Clinical Coordinator Sarah Hollaway working hard to address the waiting list. Long-standing clinician Lynne Chapas will be leaving end of September and will be sorely missed.

Sue mentioned that staff had been dealing with more food and rent insecurity issues than usual from residents and asked for any suggestions from folks.

Sue and Carla attended Selectmen meeting this week when the draft Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan was presented. Sue highlighted some of the recommendations, including the Complete Streets policy adoption that was suggested by Toole Consulting. Carolyn said the Selectmen had discussed Complete Streets and had held a spot for this on the Fall Town Meeting agenda.

**Updates from Committee Participants:**

Police: Jeff thanked YFS staff for their help with a homeless woman in the last month. Jeff and Steve attended the SRO convention in July in Orlando, Florida. Sheriff's camp was successful this summer. In general, police experienced a quiet summer and said school had started well. Jeff talked about promoting a driver training offer from N. Andover to youth during an upcoming "Friday with the Fuzz" program at BHS.

Selectman: Caroline Fedele report the Selectmen completed goals for this year and offered to share them with the group via email. As Recreation liaison she reported on-going concerns with Springs Brook Park due to a not very successful summer and being \$200,000 in the red. There are plans for an ad hoc committee to come together to look at the future of the park. Recreation has plans to recommend that Wilson Field be developed as a turf field with CPC funds, thinking that that would be a better use of the CPC funds and the field would get more use.

Schools: Dan reported that Bedford was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest ranked school district in the state in a Boston Magazine article and the schools were very proud about that. He reported on an enrollment study projection that included birth rate trends, move-in rates, and the like and said space was their number one issue currently. Feasibility and design at Lane will be next on their agenda. Schools are also dealing with ongoing issues with HAFB and retirees living there with children who ask to attend BPS. BPS have agreed to take 2 kids until the state issues some clarification.

Next Meeting – November 12th , 2015 Caroline Fedele, Clerk

**Adjournment** 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Baldauf, Acting Clerk