

## Minutes

### Youth and Family Services Committee Meeting

Thursday September 13, 2012

**Members Present:** Kristina Philipson, At Large, Chair; Sue Baldauf, Director; Alison Malkin, At Large, Noreen O’Gara, School Committee; Cathy Cordes, Selectmen; Tom Pinney, At Large; Kevin Wormstead, Board of Health; Sheryl Barkan, At Large.

**Members Absent:** Matt Nicoli, Hanscom; Jeff Wardwell, Police

**Minutes:** The Minutes from May 10, 2012 were reviewed and approved.

#### Old Business:

- 1. Fall Programming:** Sue shared information regarding several upcoming programs: there are JGMS and Lane parent programs on cyber bullying and bullying to be held during the upcoming Back to School nights. Afterschool JGMS brochures have been sent. All fees collected for these programs go to the instructors. No (joint sponsored) school dances have been scheduled yet.
- 2. Grants update:** Community Transformation grant: (running April-Sept 2012). Surveys of retail food establishments (restaurants, gas stations, supermarkets) about healthy dining. Presently data is being analyzed. Healthy Bedford Planning Grant: (running now through Sept 2013; \$15,000). Presently in data gathering stage; targets entire town; primary issues thus far include affordable housing, transportation, and walkability of town. They are trying to maximize respondents. Then task forces will be developed; goal is to take data and propose implementation options. Bedford in motion grant ended successfully June 2012.

#### New Business:

- 1. Veterans Benefits Officer:** Bedford is considering options for permanent hire for this position. We are temporarily using Lexington for emergency services (Ryan Lennon) and Burlington for Federal Benefits (Bob Hogan). Bedford is getting more veterans from SRO at the VA hospital. Since 7/1/12 we get reimbursed 100% for services provided to those non-Bedford residents living in the Bedford veterans’ quarters and eligible for emergency benefits under Chapter 115.
- 2. 100 Best Communities:** Newly announced 9/12/12 that Bedford has received this award for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. A total of 6 MA communities received the award this year. In particular, Bedford’s RISE and Excel programs at BHS were commended. \$2500 monies received are being used to fund evening programs the Corner—to fund staff and food for Fridays 5:30-7:30pm. Dance monies from last year were used to purchase 5 new computers for the Corner.
- 3. Unplugged:** The calendar is now up on the town website; Unplugged night this year is November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. Safe homes:** The number of people registering for safe homes this year has increased—possibly due to the requirement that parents bring in all signed paperwork to get their son or daughter’s ID.

#### Committee Member Updates:

**Kevin, Board of Health:** This committee last met 9/10/12. Patty Moran is a new community health nurse. She works with COA, providing services such as BP checks and minor medical services for homebound seniors. She is organizing the upcoming town flu clinics. The town wide clinic is scheduled for Saturday October 13 from 9:00am-1:00pm at JGMS for those ages 8 and older. They are also looking to schedule an additional clinic during after school/evening on Election Day November 6 and call it “Vote

and Vax". Other BOH plans include looking to revamp regulations concerning recombinant DNA, animals and commercial hazardous waste.

**Alison, At large:** commented she was excited about John Scheft as being one of the speakers on Social Host scheduled for April 2013. She also mentioned that the community should anticipate a plan of action if Ballot question #3 regarding medical marijuana passes.

**Noreen, School committee:** There are many administrator changes this year including superintendent, HS principal and asst principal, and JGMS principal. A search committee for a new Davis principal will be formed later this year. There are 2483 students across K-12 presently; more concrete numbers will be available in October. This 20 more than expected, with more in BHS than anticipated. Present enrollment: BHS: 876 (with more expected from Hanscom), JGMS: 568, Lane 508 and Davis 526. This week a BHS teacher had viral meningitis. Bus routes: still gathering data, being tweaked; generally going well.

**Cathy, Selectmen:** Springs Brook Park successfully opened and stayed open the entire summer. They are still looking at long term solutions. The fields' task force, looking at field use and needs should be completed by the end of September. It is uncertain whether this will make it on to Special town meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. St Michael's land for fields: on this site there is a small central section of wetland—according to local conservation committee—but not state level—so a land swap is being done. Forty acres will be put under local conservation protection (Princeton and Dudley road) and new wetlands will be built here so the St Michael's land can then be used for fields. The Conservation Commission is working with the town to address wording for a motion to create a variance; there is only funding available at this time to fill in the wetland, not to build the fields. Cathy also reported that Selectman Rosenberg was approached by some parents looking to change the town's Halloween yearly trick or treat time to be on a Saturday. He will be bringing this discussion to an upcoming Selectman's meeting. This was then discussed by YFS, who would not endorse this change.

**Tom Pinney, At large:** He reported there were 261 girls registered for Bedford/HAFB Girl Scouts.

**Sue Baldauf: YFS director:** Youth risk behavior survey data are being analyzed and will be presented to the community November 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall multipurpose room. Police chief and superintendent will be part of the panel. YFS committee asked Jessica to present the data to us at our November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Sue and Jessica are already presenting the data to Selectmen September 17 and to school administration September 18.

Sue also reported there is 1 new clinician from Eliot at BYFS, Julia Lawrence. 3 other clinicians remain. The coordinator position is still unfilled. Sue is working with Heidi Porter from BOH re: home visits for hoarding and drug take back/medical sharps Sept 29. The new resident section on the town website will hopefully be adding the LWV "Know Your Town" publication soon as Sue is working on that with them.

**Kristina Philipson, At large:** appreciates Sue's work in putting out statistics on adolescent brain development.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting scheduled for November 8, 2012 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Barkan, Acting Clerk