

**Bedford Youth & Family Services Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

**Attendance:** Sue Baldauf, Director; Peter Ricci, Chair; Marcia Morgan, At Large; Dori Pulizzi, At Large; Marge Heckman, At Large; Ann Guay, School Committee; Mary Seymour, Board of Health; Scott James, Police; Emily Mitchell, Selectman; Heidi Porter, Health Director; Sarah Stanton, Town Manager

**Minutes:** Minutes of March 14, 2019 were approved.

**Old Business**

**Grants Update:**

- The Bedford Dash Program will end on June 30, 2019. Other transportation options are being considered.

**Programming:**

- Bike Rodeo Day at Lane School on May 7<sup>th</sup> was a big success with 102 students riding to school that day and 65 or so third graders being trained in bike safety. BYFS was able to get a CHNA grant for \$2,000 to purchase 8 new bikes for students to use at the event. We were pleased to learn we had received a SRTS Exemplary Program award from MA SRTS for Lane School and will be attending that award ceremony at the State House end of May.
- BYFS again provided \$2,000 in support of the all-night graduation party for the class of 2019.
- A second conversation on suicide prevention was held last night involving BYFS, the schools, parent associations, and Riverside Trauma Center with about 30 parents in attendance.

**Presentation by Town Manager Sarah Stanton**

Sue introduced Sarah Stanton who came to the meeting to address both the letter our committee had sent to her regarding veterans' services and to explain to us the reorganization plans for BYFS at Sue's retirement.

- As far as the oversight of the Bedford veterans is concerned, the District Director has been overseeing the Lexington veterans, some programs at the Lexington COA and spending a small fraction of her time overseeing Bedford veterans. The new plan is for her to spend 100% of her time overseeing the veterans programs – 50% for Lexington and 50% for Bedford. The question about addressing the clinical aspects of the Bedford VA will be addressed in the next section.
- The new organizational plan for Bedford is to have a Department of Health and Human Services, which will include the Office of Youth and Family Services, the Council on Aging, and Board of Health. Heidi Porter, the current Director of the Board of Health, will be the Director of the new Health and Human Services Department. In addition, they are in the process of hiring a Social Worker who will address the clinical needs of the new department. Sue Baldauf's staff will be reporting directly to Heidi after Sue's retirement in mid-July.

**New Business**

**Election of Officers:**

- Peter Ricci offered to continue to Chair the YFS Committee for another year. The Committee was pleased to accept his offer.

**Other:**

- Sue announced that the Youth and Family Services office has a 4th clinician from Eliot for the Bedford office, and he is the first male clinician on site in Sue's 22 years here. This means that there will be a clinical presence in the BYFS office 4 days a week.
- Group reviewed the meeting schedule for next year and saw no immediate conflicts.

## **Updates from Committee Participants**

**School Committee – Ann Guay**

- Trish Clifford has been hired as the Assistant Superintendent of the Bedford School Department. Trish has been working in the Belmont School Department.
- They are in the process of hiring a new Business Manager for the School System.
- The Robotics Team is a wonderful collaboration with parents and students.
- McLean Hospital is currently working with the Bedford Schools to assess the clinical needs of the students in the system.

**Health Department – Mary Seymour**

- Well-Effects is applying for a food establishment license so they can do food prep on the premises.
- Reorganization of the Board with M. Seymour, chair and S. Thompson Vice Chair
- Reappointment of Animal Inspectors.
- The Falls grant has been extended.
- There is and has been concern about teenagers and young adults feeling isolated. There is no drop-in center in town and currently the High School basketball courts serve as a gathering place for these kids.

**Scouts Program – Peter Ricci**

- The scouts had been doing outreach to Carlton- Willard Village, and they have been very well received by the residents there.
- The number of scouts – both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts – has decreased which concerns Peter. The kids who aren't doing sports, music, or drama could greatly benefit from belonging to a group like the Scouts. The question is how to get the word out about the scouts. Marketing has been a problem since they can no longer distribute flyers to the students in school.
- Marge mentioned concern about teenagers and young adults feeling isolated. There is no drop-in center in town and currently the High School basketball courts serve as a gathering place for these kids.

**Police – Scott Jones**

- Jeff Wardwell has been chosen as the school resource officer of the year.
- A restorative justice case (2 students at Bedford High School were in a harmful relationship) has been successfully resolved.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2019 Clerk: Dori Pulizzi, At-Large