

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board**  
**Minutes**  
**May 20, 2019**

**Present:** Kathy Servoss, Bernice Yarosh, Ian Schachner, Barbara Sadovnic, Khaki Wunderlich, Karlem Sivia Gimenez, Jen Foote-Dean, Tamer Elshourbagy\*, Magdalena Smith\* (\*paperwork in process to be officially appointed)

**Excused:** Patty Van de Bogart, Ronny Hardaway, Kelly Suave, Shawna Black, Lisa Campbell,

**Absent:** Pete Angie

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Theresa Albert

Meeting called to order by Kathy at 5:05 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Brief introductions around the room.

**Minutes:**

December, January, February, and April minutes were not approved due to a quorum was not present.

**Assigned Update: Barbara Sadovnic - Enfield**

- Mostly involved with the Enfield Community Council (ECC) and CCE Rural Youth Services (RYS).
- ECC - produces a quarterly newsletter, includes a lot of good community information (passed around).
  - Ian - do people still read paper version of newsletters? Is there a way to survey that?
  - Yes, any people do read the paper version; depends on your target audience; for some in the rural areas, it is their only communication about going-ons in the community; contains a lot of good information; good reference.
- ECC has been sponsoring youth programs since the 60's.
- Their 2 large fundraisers are the Harvest Festival and the Country Faire.
- This year the PTA joined forces with the ECC to hold the Country Faire, big success.
- CCE RYS - offer many wonderful programs in the community.
- Eric Carter is the Program Educator, he is so great with the kids.
- Grange has allowed the teens to use their kitchen and building for events/programs.
- Recently they were able to hold an "Iron Chef" for the kids. Event was really fun.

- This year Eric helped the teens apply for funds through the Pitch Program. They received funding to hold 4 teen events between April - Dec 2019.
- In talking with Eric and others in Enfield, agree that one of the biggest issues is transportation.
- Bus transportation is limited. Many families do not have cars. School late bus is not always convenient.
- Eric finds he needs to give many kids rides home from his programs.
  - Barb helps with rides when she can
  - Magdalena - has done a lot of research over the last 3 years on programs for youth who want to go to top colleges, helping with some prep work, they get to attend programs/lectures, etc. (i.e.: TASS at Cornell). She would be happy to share some of that information if interested.
  - Magdalena - why can't they just get another bus for the later hours? Not just that easy, many costs involved - staff time, insurance, gas, etc.
- Would love to be able to get kids to Running to Places. Program is now free to any youth. But again, many of the kids do not have the transportation to get there and back (located up at the mall).
- Some really great programs being offered for youth in the community: Summer Camp, Farm to Table, Seed to Supper
- No library in the community.

#### **Department Updates from Kate:**

- *Report was sent out with agenda.*
- Kate will continue to set informal "coffee" meetings with each Board member; time to talk and get to know each other.
- Paperwork is in process to officially get Tamer and Magdalena appointed.
- Trainings have had great turnouts
  - Screening of Angst - 75 attended
  - Surrounded by Bullying - 56 participants
- Coming up on June 4<sup>th</sup> - author and national speaker, Ben Cort will be in Ithaca. Three sessions that day: 9 - 11 am, Hotel Ithaca or 6 - 8 pm. Cinemapolis Theatre; plus, he will do a shortened presentation for Ithaca High School, students and faculty/staff.
- Next meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup>. It is **imperative** that we have a quorum that evening; quorum = at least 10 appointed, voting members. That evening the Board needs to vote on the 2020 budget.

#### **Other Updates from Board Members:**

- Ian - as a follow-up to discussion at the March retreat on student debt; college education costs have risen nationwide; student loan debt continues to grow; the stress, anxiety and financial burdens to students and families are immense. However, there are some recent things happening locally and wider.

- Robert Smith, billionaire and Cornell alumni; during his commencement speech at Morehouse College, he pledged to pay the entire 2019 graduating class' student loan debt. This gift's estimated worth = \$40 million.
- Ithaca College - missed their enrollment target by about 200 students. They will be using their reserves to cover this loss of several million. How this will affect the community remains to be seen.
- Wells College - announced the published cost of its tuition, for all new and returning students, will drop by 25% beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year (~\$39,200 to ~\$29,400). How this will affect the community of Aurora is unknown at this time.
- Khaki - question on the Summary of Highlights; page 4 bottom chart on Mental Health. Rates are alarming. In the bars indicating "feeling sad or depressed most days", it seems it's weighted by the Middle School count. Would like to have that figure checked.
  - Kathy - can we get the individual school districts results? Knowing this information, Towns may be able to focus funding towards certain programming.
  - We do not publish individual school results; specifically, so comparisons are not done between schools. However, the Superintendent of each school district does have their individual results.

**Next Meeting:**

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (extremely important that we have a quorum at this meeting).

Adjourned: 5:55 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Theresa Albert