

Tompkins County Youth Services Department

Quarter 2 Newsletter, July 2018

A message from Amie Hendrix, Director

This year has been marked by tremendous transition within the Youth Services Department. We have said goodbyes as well as welcomed new staff. We have launched new initiatives while continuing to support our long-standing systems and partners. Through every change we continue to commit to our mission of ensuring that all Tompkins County communities are provided time, resources, and funding to enable youth to thrive. After nearly eight years, I have decided that I will be leaving the Tompkins County Youth Services Department this fall.

It is truly overwhelming to write these words. I know that I leave the Youth Services Department in strong hands. The dedication of the team will continue to meet the needs of youth throughout our community. We have welcomed Cisco and Bridgette, who will bring new energy and ideas to the powerful department that Janice and Theresa continue to provide fundamental, foundational support to. This small but fierce team remains committed to ensuring youth and families are at the forefront of the minds of our community,

together with a new Director they will lead yet another transformation of Youth Services.

I look back at my time spent with Youth Services with so much pride. I am extremely honored to have been able to lead such an incredible organization. Together, we launched community needs assessments, supported programming that served over 7,000 youth annually, developed performance measures, upgraded our evaluation systems, created a youth worker training program, committed continued services to all Tompkins County communities, launched a non-profit pitch contest, researched special populations, and so much more. This organization has allowed me to meet so many incredible individuals and learn so much about this community. I am so appreciative for all that I have experienced and learned.

Beginning in October, I will take the on a new role in Tompkins County as the Deputy County Administrator, focused on performance and innovation. I am thrilled to be accepting this new challenge as it will allow me to continue to grow while being able to observe the ongoing moves and growth of the Youth Services team. I am beyond excited to observe the ways that Youth Services will continue to develop

and support the youth of Tompkins County as the organization begins the next chapter. Thank you all for allowing me the honor to serve this community. We have a very bright future thanks to our community's commitment to young people, thank you!

2019 County Budget

Each year the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) prepares a budget to support the work of the agencies, organizations and municipalities that provide opportunities for young people. This is never an easy task, and the committee members are charged with being brilliant stewards of our local resources.



For 2019, the RAC has provided the following recommendations for Over Target Requests (OTRs). OTRs are requests for additional resources beyond what the County Administrator has provided to the Department in his base budget. The Resource Allocation Committee will submit three Over Target Requests for 2019:

- Funding to provide additional resources to the Municipal Youth Services System by creating a co-administrator of the system housed

at Cornell Cooperative Extension. This \$50,000 request would provide support to the current Coordinator as well as ensure that all participating municipalities can maintain 1 full time equivalent in their community.

- Resources to support a 2% Cost of Living Allowance for all contracts that are provided to the community by Youth Services Department.
- \$20,000 to implement a second round of the Achieving Youth Results Pitch Contest. Using rollover funding (funds not spent in a previous year), the RAC would like to expand and build off of the initial learning from the pitch contest to hone this community responsive grant competition.

The Youth Services Department will submit their budget to the County Administrator in the coming weeks, so that he can finalize his recommended Tompkins County Budget, to be presented to the Legislature on September 4th.

There are various opportunities for community input as this process unfolds throughout the fall. If you have questions about the 2019 Youth Services Budget please feel free to direct them to Amie Hendrix, Director of Youth Services.

Monthly Messages

In 2010, the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth (CCHY) launched Monthly Messages to provide helpful information to



parents and other allies and advocates of young people. The messages are disseminated electronically and posted on the Tompkins County Youth Services Department website. The early messages focused on such topics as youth and pharmaceutical safety, summer festival safety, and alcohol-free holiday parties since CCHY's concentration was reducing and preventing youth substance abuse.

Staff members from County Youth Services are now responsible for the messages. In recent years, the messages have broadened to other topics supporting healthy youth – eating breakfast, teen dating, teen driving, and even the benefits of dog ownership! We gladly welcome article submissions by other community agencies on topics in which they have expertise.

If you would like to be on our list to receive a message each month or if you have a topic you'd like to see covered, please email us to let us know. And please share them with others who you think may find them helpful!



2018 Summer Youth Employment

Summer youth employment is in full swing with four different programs employing young people from Tompkins County.

The four programs that received New York State funding through a proposal process are Challenge Workforce Solutions, Workforce NY's Office of Employment and Training, Ithaca Youth Bureau's YES Program, and Youth Farm.

For many of the youth employed this represents their first foray into the work world. With support from job coaches and local businesses, youth develop on-site work skills that become invaluable to their development as young people in our community. The worksites range from box stores, to farms, to non-profit agencies, each providing a unique work experience for the young person.

The supported work experience is a fantastic way for youth to earn a paycheck, make real-world work connections, develop employment skills, and interact with the community as young adults.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Tompkins County continues to put forth collaborative efforts towards raising awareness in Tompkins County regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

There have been significant improvements in the communication process through the rolling out of a universal screening tool that is being utilized by Tompkins County Probation and several divisions within our Department of Social Services.

As a designated Safe Harbour County, we have been utilizing the funds specifically targeting this issue in Tompkins County.

Several trainings have been conducted for service providers as well as panel discussions held in the community.

As part of this effort we are revamping our awareness campaign. The campaign to raise awareness during the early stages included a website, listenforthesigns.org, which will be revamped to include information for young people specifically. With the aid of focus groups of young people, the CSEC committee will work with Iron Designs to produce images and messaging that speak to potential victims of CSEC as well as raise awareness. The images will also reflect a renewed effort to reach young people.

Tompkins County remains committed to protecting young people from falling prey to exploiters and to raising awareness in the county to ensure that there are adults and

young people that will recognize the signs of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.



Meet our Deputy Director Bridgette Nugent!



The Youth Services Department is excited to welcome Bridgette Nugent on board as our first Deputy Director of Youth Services. Bridgette will be helping to support the organization as we continue to provide backbone services throughout the community. The following interview provides a little background on why Bridgette will be a great asset to our team!

1. Can you give me some background on your career? I.e. what led you to this position?

I have had the privilege to serve several worthwhile missions in my career – as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching English in Kyrgyzstan, with the New York City Chapter of the American Red Cross, FEMA in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, and most recently with the Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter. In each unique position I found myself building partnerships with multiple community stakeholders to develop grant-funded programming that met the specific needs of the populations being served. I bring to this position experience in programs/grant management, data analysis and reporting, and a specific interest in promoting youth development.

2. Does a particular time in your career stand out as the current career highlight?

During my time with the NYC Chapter of the American Red Cross, I assisted a Congolese refugee to reconnect with his wife and 6 children who had been living in a Kenyan refugee camp for several years and had not been able to locate each other in that timeframe. This experience left an indelible impression on me and informs my perspective on how I approach both personal and professional challenges.

3. What inspires you about your new position?

I am deeply passionate about youth access to opportunities and resources that ensure they are able to thrive. I am excited that this position will add to my experience in relationship building and data analysis in service to a cause I feel most invested in; the future well-being of our youth.

4. What unique talent do you feel you bring to the youth services department?

I am highly detail-oriented while understanding the “bigger picture.” I am able to translate larger ideas and goals into actionable and measurable steps and am skilled at building the partnerships needed to achieve these goals.

5. Do you have any hobbies and interests outside of work that you'd like to share?

I, with my husband, infant daughter, and 3 dogs are always outside hiking and enjoying the beauty of this area! I also love to travel and learn about other cultures, as well as stay on top of international news.

6. What else do you want others to know about you?

I am a recent transplant to Tompkins County and am excited to become a more engaged community member, while learning more about what makes this area such a unique place to live!

Opportunities for Involvement

Do you support the mission of investing time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life? Are you willing to commit to providing your thoughts, insights, and time to help advise the Youth Services Department? If you answered yes to these questions perhaps membership on either a local youth commission or the TCYSD Youth Board is the right fit for you!

Current vacancies include:

- Tompkins County Youth Services Board is in need of representatives from Caroline, Danby, Newfield, and two Tompkins County youth ages 16-21. Youth Board members must be 16 or older and committed to advocating on behalf of the youth in Tompkins County.
- The Joint Youth Commission has vacancies for commission members residing in the Towns of Ithaca and Caroline or the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing.

For more information on ways you can get involved please contact Amie Hendrix at ahendrix@tompkins-co.org



Youth Worker Training Series

To date we've offered:

January: What Does Class Got to Do With It – Part I, Anne Rhodes

February: Mandated Reporter, Kristi Taylor, Advocacy Center & Erin McKenna, Dept of Social Services

March 29: Identifying & Supporting Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Trafficking, Part II.

April 19: What Does Class Got to Do With It – Part II

April 25: Summer Camp Scholarship Guidelines, Dept of Social Services & Child Development Council

June 28: Adventure Based Learning

July 11: Screening and panel discussion of the documentary [SCREENAGERS](#)



SAVE THE DATE – more details to come
We are organizing and finalizing the following offerings for the rest of the year

September: Poverty Simulation

October: Project Look Sharp

November: TBD

December: PATH Workshop

Be sure to check our [web page](#) regularly for more details on upcoming trainings planned!