

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board**  
**Minutes**  
**September 24, 2018**

**Present:** Bernice Yarosh, Kathy Servoss, Pete Angie, Patty Van de Bogart, Lisa Campbell, Ian Schachner

**Excused:** Kelly Suave, Ronny Hardaway, Karlem Sivia Gimenez, Barbara Sadovnic, Shawna Black

**Staff:** Amie Hendrix

Meeting called to order by Kathy at 5:03 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

**Budget 2019:**

Amie provided an overview of the 2019 Budget presentation to the Legislature. There were three over target requests which the County Administrator has recommended for approval.

- OTR # 1 - Additional \$50,000 to support a FTE at CCE and increase hours of Danby staff to stabilize the MYSS.
  - Fiscal cuts have affected smallest municipalities the most (e.g. Danby cannot maintain a staff person at the level at which this position is funded).
  - It is believed that this additional funding will stabilize the system.
  - The concept of Target Funding was clarified. This would be funding, if approved, that would be a part of the baseline budget for the TCYSD in future years.
- OTR #2 is a 2% increase (Cost of Living Adjustment) split across both MYSS and Agencies
  - Overview of Agencies Budget provided by Amie
  - No major changes from previous year
- OTR #3 is a request of \$20,000 to hold the Pitch Program
  - The initiative was successful in its first year, with projects that were not awarded money that evening later awarded funding through the relationships that were made at the event.
  - Use of our already certified rollover.

**Board Focus Areas:**

Ian provided an overview of ad-hoc committee that has met to discuss ways board members can be stewards of Youth Services in the community. Working with Pete, Ronny, and Youth Services staff the first two areas we would like to explore as a board are:

- 1) Information Gathering and Distribution: Through attending community and youth services meetings we will be able to provide information to the Youth Services Board on community happenings as well as bring information from the County level to the community. These items may be program experiences in other communities, like lunch bunch, community concerns, or providing other support to youth partners such as attending a Town Board meeting when a commission is sharing their work. Youth Board members should also attempt to attend one of the Youth Commission or Community Council meetings on an annual basis to understand what the planning group is up to.
- 2) Sharing Information Via Print/Social Media: Youth Board members may be asked to create articles for the Newsletter, social media, or other print outlets about things happening with and for young people. The group discussed sharing of the trainings for youth workers on their own social media as well in other groups they are part of.
  - Upcoming Training/Events:
    - October 23 – I am Jane Doe – Movie presentation at Cinemapolis at 6pm
    - October 30 – Project Look Sharp – Training on Youth Culture and New Technologies – at Hotel Ithaca from 8:30am – 12:30pm – registration is required by emailing Theresa
    - November 29 – Raise the Age – at Hotel Ithaca from 9-11am – registration is required by emailing Theresa (this training has not yet been announced)
    - December 12 – PATH Training – more information to come

- 3) The group agreed that they would be willing to take on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> activity in support of the staff. At the October board meeting the board will discuss the newsletter articles to be crafted for the 11/15/18 newsletter.

### **Board Recruitment:**

- Vacancies: Caroline, Danby, Newfield, and 4 At-large/youth seats.
- Patty will be reaching out to an at-large representative.
- We have 4 at-large seats which can be filled by youth or adults.
- Lisa is working on building a relationship with a potential Newfield representative.
- Pete will be reaching out to Naomi to see if she is still interested in joining the board.
- It is important to not just have a full roster, but a board that can attend meetings. Under the new bylaws 10 members must be present for quorum. We currently have 11 of 18 seats full.

### **Departmental Updates:**

- We have offered the position of Community Coordinator for Youth Services to Shannon Alvord who has accepted and will begin on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Director of Youth Services position has been posted and is open until October 5 at 4pm. Currently there are 9 approved applications (approved means applications that meet the minimum qualifications).
- Raise the Age implementation goes into effect on 10/1/2018. This will mean that youth aged 16 will now be treated as a young person within the legal system. Youth Services has been participating in Raise the Age meetings to ensure that as these changes are made we are looking at how the system change can embrace prevention and after care for these young people.
- Staff should be commended for all of the work and energy they have provided to the department as we experience many transitions in 2018. They continue to impress and inspire through every new challenge and opportunity.
- Amie will begin her new position on October 1 though she will spend time at Youth Services each week meeting with staff to ensure all pieces are moving along. She will also support Bridgette during the onboarding process of the new Community Coordinator for Youth Services. She will continue to serve as Runaway and Homeless Youth Coordinator until the new Director has been brought on and is fully trained in the regulations and services.

### **Three takeaways:**

Board members shared items they can share with the other groups they work with and/or elected officials around the work of Youth Services:

- 1) The Director Search is underway and applicants have until 4pm on 10/5 to apply.
- 2) A new Community Coordinator for Youth Services (Shannon Alvord) will start on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 3) Agencies were provided 3 year contracts with an opportunity to extend for 2 additional years in 2017. The staff will be recommending how long this extension should be (either 1 or 2 years). Once the recommendation is finalized the agencies will receive notice.
- 4) The Youth Services Department serves as an administrative department for all youth programs throughout Tompkins County, providing research services, training, data collection and much more.
- 5) We are recruiting 7 board members.
- 6) We are offering free trainings to youth workers (defined as people who work with or inspire youth) on a monthly basis. The goal of the department is to publish trainings on a 3 month basis.
- 7) There is much to be learned from program to program and shared in the community, from program activities like lunch bunches to best practices in program models like monitoring. Youth Services and our meetings help to share these things.
- 8) We have a great team at youth services with dedicated staff that continue to support our youth community. There is so much to learn and each meeting we each learn more about what this small department does to support young people.

Adjournment: 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Amie Hendrix