



TOWN OF VERNON

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VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
MICHELLE HILL, DIRECTOR

**YSB Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
November 29, 2017
Youth Services, 9 Elm St. - 4:00pm
Approved Minutes**

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VERNON CLERK
18 MAR - 7 PM 3:17

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Members present; Teri Ouellette, Nathan Roman, Laurie Bajorek, Ozzie Ramos, Kimberly McTighe, Amy Watt, and Michelle Hill

2. Approval of August 2017 minutes

A motion to approve the draft minutes from August 23 meeting was made and seconded. All voted in favor of approving the draft minutes from August 23rd.

3. Program updates:

School Year Programming

- **YSB After School Program:** Michelle shared that the delay in the release of YSB grant funds which comes from the Connecticut State department of Education is affecting the start date of the afterschool program. Families who inquire are being referred to other community and afterschool program until funding is released. A January beginning of the afterschool program is anticipated.
- **RHS Office:** Kim shared information about her role at Rockville High School where she serves as Prevention Program Specialist.
- **TIP:** Ozzie shared information about his role as Youth Counselor for the Town of Vernon and the Truancy Intervention program he operates within the Vernon Public Schools. Ozzie works with children in all 5 elementary schools and carries a small case load at Vernon Center Middle School.
- **School Readiness-PDG:** Michelle shared information about the state funded preschool programs granted to the Town. There are 18 full day, full year slots operated by the YMCA and there are 58 school day, school year slots operated by the Vernon Public Schools. The funding is awarded to the Town and the Vernon School readiness council, chaired by the YSB Director in collaboration with the Vernon Public Schools oversees the Grant management

4. Collaborations: A list and description of collaborative groups the YSB leads were shared with Advisory Board members

- **Vernon School readiness Council:** Agencies and individuals interested in the development of young children convene to oversee the School readiness grant and PDG grant as well as **provide** recommendations and information to the Town and the Schools on local need or issues related to School readiness
- **Local Prevention Council :** Vernon R.O.C.K.S coalition
The mission of this coalition is to provide resources and Community outreach for community knowledge and success. The Vernon ROCKS coalition is specifically interested in engaging all sectors of the community to reduce the misuse of substances among youth by increasing and strengthening protective factors as well as spreading awareness and information about the risks of misusing substances, prevention efforts and intervention resources.
- **JRB:** The Juvenile Review Board is led by the YSB in collaboration with the Vernon police department. Professionals from law enforcement, juvenile probation, DCF, Mental health services, Vernon Public Schools, and Youth Services convene to meet with referred youth and their guardian. The goal of the JRB is to divert Vernon youth (any person under 18) from the Court system by offering a local system to address minor crimes. The JRB strives to identify and connect the young person with supports to address unmet needs and promote positive youth development as well as implement restorative justice practices.

5. Special Events:

YSB Christmas party: Planned for December 20th, will be held at Bowman's hall for 30 youth who have been enrolled in the afterschool program or the TIP program. The Town of Vernon employees contribute toward the "be a hero campaign" to fund this event. All children leave with a large bag filled with warm jackets, mittens, hats, a couple of toys and goodies

Greater Vernon Holistic healthfest: Planned for April 7th and 8th at VCMS from 10:00am to 4:00pm This event displays holistic health practitioners and includes a large variety of workshops. Admission is \$5.00 and is open to the entire community. Funds raised by this event support the Youth Services programs that directly impact Vernon youth.

6. Funding updates:

SDE YSB grant: Still waiting for information from CSDE on grant amount and time that funds will be released.

7. 2018 meeting schedule: Meeting schedule for 2018 below was shared

February 28, 4:00pm

May 23, 4:00pm

August 22, 4:00pm

November 28, 4:00pm

All meetings are held at the Vernon YSB on 9 Elm St

Submitted by:
Michelle Hill