



TOWN OF VERNON

9 ELM STREET, VERNON, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3555

E-Mail: mhill@vernon-ct.gov

VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
MICHELLE HILL, DIRECTOR

**YSB Advisory Board
Regular meeting
February 28, 2018
4:00 p.m. – 9 Elm Street - (Bowman's Hall)
Approved Meeting Minutes**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
18 AUG 31 AM 11:41

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Members present: Laura Bush, Teri Ouellette, Laurie Bajorek, Amy Watt, Shai-Anne Gaston, Ozzie Ramos, Kim McTighe, and Michelle Hill

2. Approval of November 29, 2017 minutes

The draft meeting minutes for November 29 were reviewed. One correction was made. Amy Watt was added to the list of members present. A motion to approve the corrected Nov 29 Draft minutes was made and seconded. All voted in favor of approving the corrected minutes with the exception of one abstention. The motion passed.

3. Program updates:

a. School Year Programming

- **YSB After School Program:** The first session began in January right after the YSB grant award was received. Homework help, mentoring, and positive youth development activities are key components of the program.
- **RHS Office:** Kim provided an update on prevention activities along with describing the support she provides to RHS students. Two main events coming up include:
 - Volley ball lock in, March 2 at RHS, Substance free event for 250-280 RHS students. 10:00pm- 6:00am
 - Mock car crash planned and operated in collaboration with the RHS peer advocates advised by YSB, law enforcement, emergency management, and the School. The peer advocates create the scenario. The goal is to show a realistic version of the tragedy that could happen when students are involved with distracted or impaired driving due to use of cell phone or substance use. It is held at RHS for Juniors and Seniors around prom season.
- Kim provides support to students throughout the day who may be dealing with peer conflicts, social emotional issues, and other issues. Kim works closely with school personnel, and the School Resource officer to ensure the needs of the students are addressed.
- **TIP:** Ozzie provided an update on the Truancy Intervention program. He currently has a case load of 65 children, mostly elementary aged, throughout the district. Ozzie leads attendance team meetings at the various schools and works closely with the schools to mentor students and partner with their parents to combat chronic absenteeism.
- **School Readiness-PDG**
Michelle shared that there is one full time full year preschool opening in the State funded school readiness preschool program at the YMCA located on Elm St.

b. Summer programming , Michelle shared the following update on the YSB summer programming

- **Summer nutrition program sponsored by YSB;**

Free lunch during the summer for anyone 18 and under.

Making application for 4 sites:

Henry Park, open site

Talcott Park, open site

Parkwest, open site

Rockville public library, closed site for summer literacy program

- **YSB Summer program**

Runs for 6 weeks in the summer

Serves 20 children

Includes summer lunch and a variety of activities including visits to the library, pool, and Quassy Amusement Park.

- **SYELP: Summer youth employment and learning program**

Runs during the summer months for Vernon students.

Minimum age is 16

Is contingent upon state funding

4. Collaborations:

a. **Vernon School readiness Council**, Michelle shared that the application for 18-19 SR grant due May 15.

b. **Local Prevention Council** : Vernon R.O.C.K.S coalition update and event info provided:

- Narcan training: 3/12/18 at Rockville public library, rsvp to Kaitlin Carafa at: kcarafa@thevillage.org
- Engaging in Media campaign to spread awareness
Please like us FB and Instagram
New website: www.vernonrocksct. (includes TIP line)
- Compliance checks for tobacco like products and alcohol are being scheduled for the Spring

c. **JRB**: Update provided

10 new referrals this year

5 carried over

7 closed cases

Truancy referrals

5. Special Events:

Greater Vernon Holistic health fest, April 7 and April 8, 10:00am to 4:00pm at VCMS

6. Funding updates

SDE funding grant award for 2017-18 was awarded in January 2018. Slight cut of approximately \$800.

7. Members' comments, questions, and sharing.

Members and staff shared some of their experiences of real life inspirational stories demonstrating the impact that encouraging and supportive adults in the school and community can have on a young person and their later success. This reminded us of the importance of our work.

8. Next meeting : May 23, 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Hill

