



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **BYS Minutes 01/09/2008**

Minutes of the Board of Youth Services  
 January 9, 2008

In attendance: Leon Cantor, Jeannete Mills, Cindy Sheridan, Carlene Newell, Elizabeth Oppendisano, Dave McKenna, Dorothy Williams, Gene Lucarelli, Lynn Horgan, Elaine Shea  
 Absent: Mary Deyst, Joan Robbio, Larry Greco and Donna Dolan

### Reports:

#### CAPP

Lynn met with Nate Levenson who stated that the principals felt there were controversial aspects to the program, although he was not specific. Board will revisit issue in May and decide if we should continue to push for the reinstatement of CAPP. Carlene will begin the personal safety curriculum next week for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades.

#### First Step

The group has three new participants. The Christmas party was a success, the party was supported by generous donations from the Arlington community.

Inspector Joyce Wilson will retire this year after the Yellow Dress presentation at the high school. There is some concern about domestic violence work, as the passion Joyce has demonstrated seems to be unmatched within the police department, although some women in First Step have commented on the wonderful work of a few Arlington Police officers. The issue seems to be that the referrals coming in to First Step thin out considerably if Joyce is not working.

#### Alcohol Awareness

Elizabeth: SADD has 150 members at the high school.

Liquor Store Compliance speaker from MADD came to AHS for an after school presentation; 60 students stayed to participate. The event was a success.

On Tuesday Feb. 26th SADD will celebrate its 25 year anniversary in Lowe Auditorium. Coffee at 8:30 am; presentations at AHS at 9am and 10am and at Ottoson in the afternoon.

#### Youth Coalition

Carlene: YRB survey done and should be out within the month. If the survey is out before the next meeting Leon will try to get copies out to board members.

Elizabeth: School resources who have and will be central to the coalition effort to help keep our students safe and healthy include: Court Liaison- Ellen Digby, Student Resource Officer- Brian Gallagher, Walker Grant position- Maura Green in the Class program and Intervention Coordinator- Andrea Razi.

#### AYCC

Leon: AYCC has a signed contract from the School Department. 2008 budget looks intact. Possible retirements at AYCC in coming few years.

No waiting list for clients yet, (typically starts the end of February or early March).

Leon has set aside a few hours for staff each month to deal with insurance billing. Each company has different limits and requirements, which creates a large amount of paper work and demands staff time to complete.

#### Diversion Program

Cindy: Official start up of program was October 1, 2007. The program offers a minor who has committed a criminal offense an opportunity to be diverted from the court by entering into an agreement with the Diversion Program. This agreement (the Diversion Contract) is meant to address the underlying issues giving rise to delinquent behavior with the hope that the minor will not continue to make poor choices and commit criminal or delinquent acts. The program is under the Health and Human Services Department, but works cooperatively with the Police and School Departments.

#### Mission Statement

The following was unanimously voted to be accepted as the Mission Statement of the Board of Youth Services,

(motion to accept as worded below by Elaine, second by Carlene)

“To assist in the prevention, treatment, and control of problems relating to the children and youth of the Town of Arlington and to advise and assist other agencies, both public and private, concerned with such matters”

This text was pulled exactly from Article 63, written in 1962.

Fuel Assistance- \$25,000 still in fund, will discuss in more depth at next meeting.

Next meeting, February 13, 2008.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:40pm by Elaine, second by Lynn.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Sheridan