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Youth Services Minutes 02/09/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Mary Deyst, Chair
 Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair
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MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Present: Mary Deyst, Chair; Jeannette Mills, ViceChair; Elaine Shea; Jack Bowler; Gene Lucarelli; Donna Dolan' Joan Robbio; Larry Greco; Carlene Newell; Cindy Sheridan; Dave McKenna, ex officio; Elizabeth Oppedisano, ex officio; Patsy Kraemer, ex officio.

Absent: Dorothy Williams

Guests: Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Minutes of the October 27, 2004 meeting were approved.

Chair Mary Deyst opened the meeting by giving a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting, i.e. present to Brian Sullivan, Town Manager, a synopsis of the services offered by AYCC and the Board of Youth Services. Each member introduced themselves to the manager and gave a brief outline of a piece of service done by AYCC and the Board.

Joan Robbio – a thirty-year member of the Board. Joan gave an overview of the history of AYCC the impetus for its beginning, the early hot line program, community hot line volunteers, the outreach done through street work. She told the manager that the board itself had been established in 1962. AYCC began in 1970. Joan stated that the common thread of all the work done over the years is “community involvement.”

Carlene Newell – a 15-year member of the Board. Carlene gave an explanation of the CAPP (Child Assault Prevention Program), emphasizing the community involvement of that program in all its aspects – parents, teachers, school children, community volunteers. She also told the manager about the parent education program, explaining the history of that program starting with an initial concern in the community about the level of teen pregnancy and the lack of sex and health education programming in the schools.

Dave McKenna – a member of the Board since 1979. Dave gave an overview of the networking done between AYCC and the juvenile justice system, including the police, courts, juvenile probation. He talked about the Youth Watch program which was started by AYCC.

Jack Bowler – Jack told the manager about the networking that is done to provide families with the various assistance programs, i.e. the Food Pantry, the Arlington Assistance Program, the Holiday Help Program, the coordination with St. Vincent DePaul. Jack talked about a specific family that had been helped by all of these programs.

Elizabeth Oppedisano – Alcohol and Drug Education Coordinator – Elizabeth talked briefly about the education and prevention programs that are part of the Alcohol and Drug Education Program. She reviewed the SADD Club and the Peer Leadership Program.

Mary Deyst – a member of the Board since the 80's – Mary focused on the diversity work that the Board has been involved with, specifically citing the “Welcome Diversity” banners that the Board commissioned.

Gene Lucarelli – Gene highlighted the networking that is done with the housing programs in Arlington, especially the Affordable Housing Program and its help for women leaving domestic violence situations.

Cindy Sheridan – Cindy introduced herself as the newest member of the Board. She spoke about the close links that AYCC has with the

schools, especially with the Thompson School and the School Links Program.

Elaine Shea – a 20+ year member of the Board. Elaine gave an overview of the work that she and Mary do with the Step groups. She explained the history of the domestic violence groups getting started by collaboration with the police and the Cambridge Court probation system. She stated that approximately 150 women have been helped since the groups' inception. Elaine also mentioned that the groups had just received a Citizenship Award from the Arlington Police Department for community service.

Donna Dolan – Donna talked to the manager about the interconnectedness of AYCC and the school system, highlighting the contracted clinical programs, the assistance programs that we collaborate on, the networking done to help individual families. She gave a specific case example of an Albanian family that we helped through this networking.

Patsy Kraemer – Patsy highlighted to the manager the clinical help that AYCC has given to other town organizations, mentioning some psychoeducational programs that were done with the Unitarian Church (regarding a suicidal adolescent) and with Robbins Library (regarding adolescents in general and difficult library clients, i.e. those with mental illness).

Larry Greco – Larry spoke about the importance of the services overall and the pride that the community takes in “owning” these services. Larry stated that Arlington is a proactive community, looking at needs and trying to address them.

To wrap up Mary said that we are “in the business of hope.” She said that the services really do make a difference in people's lives.

Brian thanked the members for the presentation and stated that he certainly had learned a great deal about what is offered by AYCC and the Board.

Joan asked the manager whether there was yet any specific plan for replacing Patsy when she retires. The manager said there was not anything in place yet, but that he would have to be thinking about that.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 30, 2005. 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.