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Youth Services Minutes 04/20/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Mary Deyst, Chair
 Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair
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MINUTES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Present: Mary Deyst, Chair; Gene Lucarelli; Joan Robbio; Dorothy Williams; Larry Greco; Cindy Sheridan; Elaine Shea; Dave McKenna, ex officio; Patsy Kraemer, ex officio.

Absent: Jeannette Mills, Vicechair; Donna Dolan; Jack Bowler; Carlene Newell; Elizabeth Oppedisano, ex officio.

Guests: Rachael Lewiton, Amanda Forman

- 1) The two guests were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.
- 2) The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted, motion made by Joan Robbio and seconded by Dorothy Williams.
- 3) Our two guests, Rachael and Amanda, gave a presentation of their program. They were representing a group from Arlington High School called CASH – Community Advocacy for Student Safety and Health. They distributed some hand-outs for the group. Their group would like to have condom availability through the nurse's office at the high school. They are also advocating that condoms be demonstrated as a birth control device in health classes at the school. They stated that 88 other high schools in the Commonwealth provide condoms through their schools.

The group has approached Arlington's Board of Health and have received their support for this effort. The Safe Schools Task Force also supports this. The two students are seeking the support of the Board of Youth Services for this effort. They stated that this is not meant to promote sex among students, but is to promote birth control availability and options if students choose to have sex.

The Board members held a lengthy discussion about the pro's and con's of condom distribution in the school setting. A motion was made by Gene Lucarelli and seconded by Elaine Shea that this report from the AHS students be received and discussed at the next meeting. Unanimous vote. The sense of the Board's discussion was that members would favor condoms being demonstrated as part of the health curriculum and also be made available at AHS for students who have met with a trained adult and had a discussion about this choice. Present members wanted to have the absent members be part of this discussion before taking a formal vote of recommendation.

- 4) CAPP – Dallin and Pierce have recently received CAPP presentations – Hardy is next and then Brackett.
- 5) Step Groups – Elaine reported that there is some concern about fluctuating membership. She also wondered whether it would be a wise idea for us to make a presentation to the police department. There is still concern about the lack of police referrals and follow-up when Joyce Wilson is out on leave. This is primarily due to the manpower restrictions at the police department. Elaine showed samples of some "calling cards" that are used in other communities. We might consider developing similar cards that could be used by the "sector guys" of the police department to pass out as they are called to houses.
- 6) Budget – Patsy informed the Board that the budget cuts as recommended by the Town Manager would mean a cut in personnel at AYCC if the override doesn't pass. She also reported that she is working on a very large federal grant with the school system. Arlington has a good shot at this money – there will be 44 grants awarded nationally. Arlington is one of two communities from Massachusetts applying. The grant could be as high as \$6 million for three years. AYCC's services would be an integral part of the grant programming.

The Town Manager has mentioned the possibility of additional CDBG money being voted for AYCC, given that the COA has a large surplus in their transportation enterprise fund at the present time.

7) **The Override Campaign** – Patsy told the Board that a primary strategy for the override campaign is to get out the “yes” vote. The Board members agreed to draft a Letter to the Editor, endorsing the override and in support of AYCC. The subcommittee for drafting the letter is:

Gene L.
Elaine
Mary
Larry

Several coffees will be held during May to get the word out.

8) **Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 pm – WRH

9) **Meeting adjourned at 8:55, moved by Cindy S., seconded by Mary D., unanimous vote.**