



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Youth Services Minutes 05/19/2005

### TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Mary Deyst, Chair  
 Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair  
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#### MINUTES

May 19, 2005

**Present:** Mary Deyst, chairperson; Jeannette Mills, vice chair person; Cindy Curran; Larry Greco; Carlene Newell; Dorothy Williams; Gene Lucarelli; Elaine Shea; Patsy Kraemer, ex officio; Elizabeth Oppedisano, ex officio.

**Absent:** Jack Bowler; Donna Dolan; Joan Robbio; Dave McKenna, ex officio.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Dorothy Williams, seconded by Carlene Newell, unanimous vote.

**Correspondence** – Mary passed around the letter from the Board that was in the Arlington Advocate. There was an email from Donna Dolan thanking the Board members for the flowers sent to her.

**CAPP** – Carlene reported that the Brackett School received the program the previous week. The Hardy will have the program on June 9<sup>th</sup>. One issue was brought forward by a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and the situation was handled by the principal. It was reported that CAPP is paid for through school grant funding and the Sanborn foundation. Last year some grant funding from Keyspan also helped support the program. CAPP has been in existence in Arlington for 15 years not.

**STEP groups** – Elaine reported that there have been a few issues in the groups over the last month related to some individuals in particular. There have been a couple of new referrals.

**Alcohol Awareness Program** – Elizabeth reported that the SADD grant has been received from the state. Banners have been hung in various places throughout the school campus. The students conducted a pre-test on usage of seat belts and will do a post-test later. She reported that Mr. Skidmore will install two permanent “Buckle Up” signs at the school.

Elizabeth also described the “Grim Reaper” program that was held at the school. She felt it was quite successful. This was done as a prom safety awareness program. The Junior Prom was held without problems.

Finally Elizabeth reported that the Alcohol Peer Educator Program is ready to go this spring.

**CASH Presentation Follow-up Discussion.** Carlene related two concerns she had vis a vis the CASH advocacy for condom distribution in the school. (1) – who would pay for the condoms and (2) are there appropriate people available to distribute them along with some minimal counseling. She stated that there are no health education classes available to support this program. Cindy stated that she was deeply opposed to condom distribution in the high school. She was wondering about the legalities of such a program. Larry wondered whether the program encourages inappropriate behavior. He would like us to encourage a health program. The Board felt that we need to review the legal issues and what policy would be established. Carlene will investigate what Cambridge does about that. It was noted that the Gay Straight Alliance has already been distributing condoms for some time. It was also noted that the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey tells is that 49% of students have had sex by the time they are seniors. That compares favorably to state statistics which

are 64%. Finally the Board recommended that we explore a joint meeting with the Arlington Board of Health in September to discuss this issue.

**Budget Update – Patsy reported that there are two very different budget recommendations at this point. The Town Manager’s budget recommendation – as approved by the Selectmen – would remove all town money from AYCC. The Finance Committee’s budget recommendation is for full funding of AYCC. The Board will need to organize a strategy for town meeting if the override fails and there is then a budget discussion on Town Meeting floor about AYCC.**

The next meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.