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Youth Services Minutes 09/28/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Mary Deyst, Chair
 Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair
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MINUTES

September 28, 2005

Present: Mary Deyst, Chair; Jeannette Mills, Vice Chair; Larry Greco, Elaine Shea; Gene Lucarelli; Dorothy Williams; Donna Dolan; Carlene Newell; Cindy Sheridan (late); Elizabeth Oppedisano, ex officio; Dave McKenna, ex officio; Patsy Kraemer, ex officio.

Absent: Joan Robbio, Jack Bowler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Mary asked for a review of everyone's summer.

Elaine Shea moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Gene Lucarelli. Unanimous vote.

CAPP

Carlene gave a report on the CAPP program. She had attended a fall

workshop on the program. The parent workshop for CAPP will be held on October 19th at the Peirce school. They've received a call from Woburn asking about setting up a CAPP program – there was concern about a child being bullied in that community. The first CAPP program with the students will be at the end of October at the Pierce. Donna asked whether the new superintendent has given his support to CAPP vis a vis giving teacher volunteers the time to do this program.

Carlene also reported on the parent forums slated for the coming year. Patsy, Fred Ryan, and Susan Lovelace (school committee member) will be on a panel in November – "What Parents should know about what teens are doing."

She also asked for the board's financial support for the parent forums. A motion to approve \$350 for the program was made with a unanimous vote.

Domestic Violence Groups

Elaine Shea reported on the domestic violence groups. They have disbanded the afternoon group and have consolidated some members into the evening group. One of the early members of the group said goodbye to the group, having very successfully completed her work there. She will now move into a role of "mentor" with potential new members to the group.

Mary and Elaine attended a conference on violence in Worcester. They found the conference very enlightening and helpful. They have developed publicity cards for the group which were handed out on Town Day. They plan to distribute the cards to the police offices so they can give them out on domestic violence calls that they make. The group also plans to develop some posters to place in bathrooms of local doctor and dentist offices.

Alcohol and Drug Education Program

Elizabeth reported that they have started sign-ups for the SADD Club – so far 75 students have signed on. She said that they plan to do the "Grim Reaper" program again this year as part of their awareness programming. It was very successful last year.

Emergency Assistance Task Force

Patsy reported that Jack Bowler and she are very concerned about utility assistance for this winter. The funds for help are going very quickly this year and will run out before the end of the fiscal year. Jack and Patsy would like to establish an Emergency Assistance Task Force under the auspices of the Board. This task force would get an overview of current assistance levels and explore whether additional assistance is available from any resource. The task force would also explore the idea of a budget counseling program to help residents with their bills. Donna Dolan moved that such a task force be established. Unanimous vote. Both Donna and Gene expressed interest in being members of the task force.

Thompson School Request

Patsy reported that the Thompson School is needing scholarship money for the Science Camp program. Motion was made to fund two camperships (\$500) for the Thompson School. Larry wanted to make note that this use of funds might have to take a lower priority in the future, if the greater need is for fuel and other basic necessities of life.

AYCC Update

Patsy reported that she has meet with both the new Superintendent of schools and the new Director of Special Education. The schools are interested in developing a strong collaboration with AYCC, using graduate students to provide much counseling services in the schools – especially for special education counseling requirements. They are also interested in running a pilot program at the Brackett, exploring the use of graduate students to provide school adjustment counseling.

Patsy has increased the number of graduate student interns to seven to help run this new program.

Future programs

The board members discussed the possibility of moving the meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. Patsy will check with the absent members to see whether they could do that. If they can, then we would start that format on Wednesday, November 9th.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30. Please note earlier time!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.