

Youth and Family Services Committee Meeting

March 1, 2023

Meeting called to order at: 6:06 PM

In attendance: Megan Traficano Youth and Family Services Director, Jacob Matson Youth and Family Services Administrative Assistant, Anne Fussichen, Colleen Norton, Deana Herrman, Ade Onayemi, Genevieve Grove, Angelika Rupp, Roza Briskovic, Cal Davis, James Norman, Joanna Skubish, and Jen Olsen

Approval of last meeting's minutes (October): Note changes (if any), if approved- who motioned, who seconded. Genevieve motioned to approve, seconded by Roza. Passed a voice vote (All in favor), minutes approved.

Public Comments (if any): None

Director's Report: Girls on the Rise has gotten established at Willard. DEI Coach will be assisting Dominique at Willard to start the program. It begins March 13th with Moriah and Gina leading the group. Alternative Call Taskforce is looking into alternative police responses in mental health crises. An interdisciplinary team inside the Police Department will be best for the community they have concluded but there will be information sessions for the community to learn about it and add input. The YEP team is currently on a waitlist, approximately a month. Referrals are still being taken with a lead time. YFS is also looking into Restorative Justice training for the staff.

Liaison Reports (brief summary of OP & RF Reports):

Ade Onayemi OP: New Communications and Engagement coordinator was introduced yesterday. She will be taking over the public communications campaigns. The Decennial Committee is looking for two Oak Park residents. We are beginning the 18-month process to show efficiencies and inefficiencies of the Township. CMHB is coming up on their 50th anniversary with a reception May 24th. Senior Services is also looking for 2 new members for their committee.

Deana Herrman RF: Still exploring a template for the efficiency study. Website goes live at the end of the Month. April 19th is parents university at OPRFHS. The Mental Health person would like to start a mailing campaign for mental health resources.

Old Business: Thamani: Genevieve said the answers they gave the committee were not enough, Ade, Deana, and Joanna agreed. There were concerns voiced by everyone about the vagueness of the religious aspect of the counseling. James questioned what would happen to the funding if we do not fund and if there are alternatives currently, Sib Shops is an alternative members mentioned. Too much of religious undertone and a lack of a plan to determine OP and RF residents would be mainly helped was the consensus. Genevieve Motioned to fund Thamni \$0, Angelika Seconded. All were in favor.

Wonderworks: Anne loved how detailed the application was. Genevieve was wondering how it helped the community, seems like funding for the company and not the committees' goals. Jen wanted to know how many members were from OP and RF more specifically. Deana and Colleen pointed out that they had 8,000 RF visitors out of 11,500 Rf residents. Colleen interpreted that the funding would be going towards special speakers which we cannot guarantee will only be OP & RF residents, not everyday tasks. Would have liked to see funding go towards scholarships to residents to participate. Deana expected some unique programming with our grant. Colleen said the special speakers are the "unique programming." Jen and Genevieve want to see the money go directly towards residents, not for programming you have to pay to get into. Colleen has experienced a special event and it was busy and fulfilling for her family. Angelika suggested funding a lower amount. Anne pointed out \$3,500 for speakers + \$400 for scholarships. The scholarship money pays for 40 people a year, Jen and Genevieve stated. James was wondering why the scholarships did not go directly to OP or RF families or specify for those outside Snap Benefits. Colleen is hesitant to just funding programing, without funding staff to coordinate it. Colleen Motioned to fund Wonderworks for \$3,900, for the Presenters \$3,500 and \$400 for the scholarships. Seconded by Anne. All in favor.

New Business: OP RFP Discussion

PDOP Scholarships: They asked for \$10,000 for scholarships for children at the park district. Jen Motioned to find it fully at \$10,000. Genevieve Seconded. All in favor.

Dream Team D97: Jen cannot vote because she is a Social Worker in the Middle Schools. Multi-Tiered System of Support was in the elementary schools and the middle schools have been growing this. This program has been a gateway for students who need adult interaction and relationship building. Jen has seen it in person, and it has demonstrated great help for students. Self-referral, teacher, parent, and community can all refer students to it. Genevieve motions to funding fully \$10,000. Seconded by Anne. All in favor.

Smart: Joanna was wondering why there were so many staff being listed in the budget and why we are paying for the curriculum every year. Veronica was a professor a Concordia and left. Then FNP was brought in as mentors for kids. Concordia has since not been a host; Julian was used last year and North Park. Jen said it is one week this year to clarify. Joanna pointed out they

have \$36,000 in outside funding (most in kind) and charge kids \$130. The lack of a location is concerning due to transportation. Jen reached out to Brooks tier 3 person, and they had not heard from Smart even though they said they had a relationship in the RFP. Genevieve Motioned to not fund Smart. Anne Seconded. All in favor.

KUUMBA Kids: They love that it is unique. Very specific proposal and a lot of youth are reached by it. Ade appreciated the age range and the amount of it has been around. Genevieve motioned to fund for \$10,000. Anne Seconded. All in favor.

Your Passion 1st: Genevieve was unclear what they are asking and how it is only for Oak Park residents. It started as a program for job experiences, teens to early 20's. The RFP stated it would be Oak Park and River Forest, but it can only be for Oak Park kids because that is what they checked in the RFP. The committee had trouble understanding the exact funding which they received as well as what they do. Anne went through the steps of the program describing what they do to add clarity. The festivals appear to be community-based events. The numbers served and funding were confusing to committee members. This would be for 5 Oak Park kids who participate in the international events. Genevieve motioned to fund fully for \$10,000 once they meet with Megan 1:1. Seconded by Anne. All in favor.

YEMBA: They already receive funding from the CMHB which is part of the Township. They also recently received a 300k grant which was not disclosed. Cannot be voted on or funded.

Miscellaneous Notes or info: None

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:46pm PM Motioned by: Anne Seconded by: All