

Youth Services Committee Meeting  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Meeting called to order at: 6:11 PM**

**In attendance:** Megan Traficano Youth and Family Services Director, Idalit Zavala Youth and Family Services Administrative Assistant, Deana Herrman (RF Liaison), Cal Davis, Anne Fussichen, Tracy Templin, Debra Taylor, Genevieve Grove, Margie Trybus (OP Liaison), Colleen Norton, and Joanna Skubish

**Approval of last meeting's minutes (May):** Anne motioned to approve, seconded by Cal. Passed a voice vote (all in favor), minutes approved.

**Public Comments (if any):** None

**Director's Report:** Welcome back everyone! We just had our School Supply Drive last month, the biggest one yet; we had a DJ, 2 barbers, 3 face painters, and our community partners were present. The park district approached the YFS team about partnering with the schools for next year's event and delegating responsibilities to the community partners. Dominique Hickman is now the assistant director of YFS, as well as DEI coordinator, congratulations to her! School just started, GOTR is back at Willard. They are officially in all 3 middle schools during the day. Lincoln Elementary in River Forest is concerned with the label "girls"; the GOTR team does not identify anyone: parent and student identify themselves, and students decide their pronouns. Community Justice program is taking off, Jacob has now been fully trained in Restorative Justice and he also attended the civics fair, students were amazed at the services we offer and that they were completely free! Other updates: Gavin Morgan resigned in June and Pam Mahn and Megan Traficano are current co-interim managers. The board is currently conducting their search.

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

**Margie Trybus:** A lot of the work is letting people know that we are one of the lowest taxing bodies in Oak Park. People don't know what the township has to offer, we have to be more aware of our transparency and visibility! The decennial committee was created with the goal of being more transparent and we have 2 residents working with our board and staff on how we can support the work of committees. Decisions will be made regarding how much money we are going to levy, and about working with other committees.

**Deana Herrman:** River Forest recently did the Food Truck Rally and it was a big success! The website is still not done, it is about 80% complete. Our assessor has been getting praise, she has completely revamped and even has made appeal packets for residents. D90 has asked for our input on parent support for students with IEPs.

**New Business:**

- a) The committee sets the guidelines for how the RFP will be each year. Start thinking about whether we are keeping the grant capped at \$10,000, as well as if we want a focus group. If you need an RFP please email Idalit, YFS Admin Assistant.
- b) Pam met with her Senior Services committee co-chair and they would like to get their committee more involved, they asked if they would be able to join us during the RFP discussion. Colleen asked what do the SS Committee do during their meetings and Margie informed that they work on initiatives like Celebrating Seniors, discuss the lunch program, they also provide advising. Deana liked the idea of an intergenerational program. There was some discussion on what currently exists and if there is a gap that a program may be able to address. There has been talk of intergenerational circles, and the township used to have a service where a senior could call and ask for a youth to mow their lawn or do other errands but there are liability issues to keep in mind. Cal suggested a Veterans Day Program, have kids meet with veterans and learn. Colleen wants an organization that already does work like this to submit an RFP, and instead of starting an entire new program support an existing one. Conclusion: the YFS Committee is interested but will wait until Pam meets with her committee and provides more details.
- c) Cal wants OPT Youth and Family Services to be known for something. Suggests starting some form of contest or game or sport (i.e. chess club) and slowly building it each year into something big. Genevieve says there is an interest in chess. Margie worries about how we can include all kids, concerned about kids being left out.

#### **Old Business:**

- a) OMA Training- everyone please send certificates of completion to Idalit! FOIA “auditor” coming to different townships and one of the items he’s requesting is everyone’s certificates.
- b) Update on D97 grant: originally, they had rejected it but Megan reached out to principal and they said they will definitely take the grant. All the information has been sent over to them (RFP, guidelines, award letter) and we will continue to work with them regarding their program.
- c) OPRF Intramurals and Lincoln Belongings and Inclusion have not sent over their signed award letter. YFS Director Megan Traficano and YFS Admin Assistant Idalit Zavala met with programs: Kuumba Kids and YourPassion1st to go over all the guidelines and answer any questions. Both meetings went well!

#### **Miscellaneous Notes or info:**

Carla Sloan wanted us to put together a folder for you all, inside you will find the calendar of all our meetings for fiscal year 2024, a blank RFP form, as well as a blank volunteer form for this committee, and the site visit guidelines since the committee members will be conducting site visits to the contracted programs. Lastly there’s also a contact sheet for the members of the committee. We are officially full for members in Oak Park with the addition of Tracy and Debra but we now do need one for River Forest.

**Meeting Adjourned at: 7:15 PM Motioned by: Anne Fussichen Seconded by: Cal Davis**