Youth Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 15th, 2024

5pm-6pm, GOB Room 306

Present  
Laura Toner  
Alicia Miller  
Luc Angelot  
Tara O’Barsky  
Amber Green  
Briana Curtis- Chair  
Sidd Ghosh- Vice Chair  
Logan Dillon- City of Salisbury Liaison   
  
Zoom  
Sophia Oberton  
Emily Zerrenner  
Thashana McKinney  
Amy Stewart  
Kenisha Le’Cole

Opening:

* Logan opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
* Logan gave updates on youth activities in upcoming weeks and during the summer at Newton Community Center
  + Wednesday the 22nd from 5-7: Paint and Sip Night (Mocktails) $5.00 fee, Ages 15+
  + Wednesday the 29th from 4-5: STEM Lab Ribbon Cutting
  + Summer Schedule: different activities everyday with summer lunch program and clubs such as chess, Lego and tech
* Logan turned over the meeting to Chair and Vice-Chair to lead

Open Discussion:

* Briana started off asking about everyone’s week
  + Thashana- Annual mental health conference last Friday, Center at Salisbury youth programming if interested please contact
  + Tara- Community Schools; 13 new community schools in Wicomico due to meeting the criteria within the poverty line. August 25th from 1pm-4pm- Vendor application for back-to-school event at the Civic Center (barbers, hairstylist, community resources and more)
  + Sophia- STEM camp in June-July with transportation provided with lunch; golf, drones and more. The Yes We Can Program at UMES 9-4 every other Saturday, sign-ups in August;
  + Amber- Fenix group project at the Brick Room- partnering with small businesses for raffle prizes (gun license, hair style and more), partnering with Old Navy for mock interviews. Homeless youth- increase, run away youth- increase
  + Luc Angelot- notified group YDAC emails were being sent to his spam and wondered if that was the case for anyone else
  + Laura- Black History walk through June 8th 1-4 at the library
  + Amy- newsletters for families
* Amy asked if we could do a newsletter
* Briana asked how the task force meeting on Wednesday May 8th went
  + Alicia- discussed data and what they are thinking for the next steps
  + Emily shared ZOTERO website with resources and guides that were discussed at the task force meeting
  + Alicia- Zotero is good for compiling information and data
  + James shared the needs assessments from 10 schools at the task force meeting
    - Parent school connection
    - Community connections
    - Refuges
    - Mental health
    - Safe Havens for youth
  + Alicia just hitting the highlights on youth health data
    - 15% of students report being bullied
    - 17% reported electronic bullying
    - 17% reported dating violence
      * 1 out of 3 will be in unhealthy relationships
    - 20% reported food money would run out for their families
    - 6% smoked cigarettes
    - 18% vaping
    - 18.3% for alcohol
    - 17% smoked cannabis
    - 28% reported they did not eat breakfast
    - 19% did not eat breakfast on all 7 days
    - 67% saw a dentist
    - 1 in 10 reported in having a health issue
  + Mental Health
    - 38%- feeling sad or hopeless everyday for 2 weeks
    - 28% seriously consider suicide
    - Stress anxiety and depression
  + Sexual Health
    - 50% of students have sex at least once
    - Wicomico is 5th in the state for teen births, 3rd for chlamydia
  + Amber- last year 80 students were serviced for homelessness from Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties
    - Crisis mode- there are an increase in risk factors such as sex trafficking and sexual abuse
      * Creating a huge mental health issue
    - Jumpstarting the youth master plan- narrow down the proprieties for what needs to be developed in the youth master plan; putting out a survey to see what the community needs in the Youth Master Plan
    - Wanting to find grants for the YDAC committee
  + Tara- questioned if we are focusing on county schools or just city schools
    - Amber stated once we figure out the vision we can determine more
  + Briana had a question about the data, highest percentages for safety and mental health
    - 1/3 of student participants are reporting they feel sad or hopeless
    - Suicide- 23% consider it and 19% attempt
    - Small portion of students feel unsafe at school, smaller portion have been in physical fights at school
      * All data provided is from high school students
  + Amber- in regards to homelessness
    - LGTBQ
    - Black
    - Trans
    - Youth have been impacted by the system weather it’s themselves or seeing parents incarcerated
  + Alicia- community outreach, parent/caregiver, schools. Mental health can fit into the vision statement, our committee is small but made up of a lot of partners. Our city council and mayor will have to be apart of this partnership in order to complete certain actions, we can recommend and give guidance
  + Amber- city must remain accountable with the Youth Master Plan, needs to be easily attainable, and we need to see some wins. A crucial park is engaging with the community
  + Alicia- YDAC can be a guiding hand within the community; in regards to health department, all data is taken and a list of priorities is made which the community can vote on. Wanting to update the plan with the 13 new schools needs assessments
  + Amber- We need to mandate reviews and updates every 3 years with the needs assessments so we are on the same schedule on the schools
  + Tara- wanting to be transparent with needs assessments- ensuring every sub group is represented and that all families are reached, involved and included
    - Portuguese speaking families, Spanish families and Haitian-creole families
  + Amber- YDAC will have a different lens and fill in those gaps, we can assist with community outreach to a variety of families; Fenix- “confessional booth” that are kept private; youth will be asked if they want to share on social media
  + Alicia- Photo Voice: cameras in the hands of community members pertaining to certain topics and gets to write their own captions to be put into a story form; identifying of what youth see as gaps to make the data collecting “less boring”
    - Priorities- community our reach, parent school connection, mental health an safe havens/ third spaces
  + Luc- when is comes to 3rd spaces, is it organized or not?
    - Laura- trusted adults with unstructured activities
  + Briana- in terms of coming up with our vision who has thoughts/suggestions
    - Tara used chatGP to come up with an example vision statement,
  + Alicia- conversations with the community; not wanting to admit kids are having sex, talking about it will encourage it which is a myth. We need to have those conversations.
  + Tara- To put blatantly in the vision about sexual health instead of just physical health
  + Briana- asked if there was anything specific the group was wanting to discuss at the next meeting
    - Alicia- vision statement, pick the priorities wanting the task force. Healthy relationships are a good foot in the door, once established we can go to youth groups and see what they think

**Closing:**

**Next meeting: June 19th, 2024**