



# CITY OF NORWICH

ESTABLISHED 1659

CONNECTICUT

NORWICH YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

75 Mohegan Road, Norwich, (860) 823-3782, Fax (860) 823-3793

---

## MINUTES

### Youth Advisory Board

January 11, 2022

3pm

---

**In attendance:** Jodi Savage (NFA), Erin Haggan (YFS), Officer Mckinney (NPD), Kimberly Charles (Juvenile Probation), Teairez Atunbi (DCF)

**Absent:** Leopoldine Bertrand (Unexcused), Sue Dubb (Excused, NPS Representative (Excused)

**Vacancies:** Community Member (2), Norwich Tech (1)

---

#### 1. Old Business

---

- **November Minutes:** Unable to be accepted (no quorum)
  - **Collaborations with NPS & NFA:** Peer to Peer Mentoring with NFA students matched with Middle School, and Elementary School students, LGBTQA+ Social Club at Kelly, doing mental health/suicide prevention @ NFA and two social emotional learning groups in elementary.
  - **Human Trafficking Training:** NYFS staff member to be trained in LOVE 146 Not a Number Curriculum. We will be accepting referrals for Norwich students and residents to participate in the program once training is completed in February. Link to learn more about curriculum: <https://love146.org/notanumber/>
  - **Aggression Replacement Therapy:** NYFS purchased curriculum and accepting referrals at this time for Norwich students or residents. Officer McKinney suggested offering the program during school, in addition to the initial plan to host an afterschool group. Link to learn more about the curriculum: <https://aggressionreplacementtraining.com/>
- 

#### 2. New Business

---

- **Updates on Board Membership/Recruitment**
  - NPS rep Katelyn Wagner accepted a new position out of Norwich and therefore we need to elect a new secretary at the March meeting, along with other position elections.
  - Jaime Miller from Norwich Tech can no longer participate due to the new time of the meeting. She will reach out to other school staff to determine if someone has an interest and ability to take her spot.

- Noted that the meeting was changed to new time in order to make it more accessible to youth. Please invite youth to attend.
- Reminder that we still have two community member vacancies.
- **Youth Employment Presentation:** Cancelled due to Coordinator being out sick. Rescheduled to March.
- **NYFS Mental Health/Parenting/Mentoring:** NYFS currently has mentors, a parent advocate and clinicians accepting referrals for services.
- **Open Discussions with Suggestions/Ideas/Concerns**
  - Concern noted about increased mental health hospitalizations for both youth and adults and lack of beds for them to receive the services they need, or they go in and out and are not linked with adequate services in the community. There is a lack of mental health services available across the board.
  - Reminder about Mobile Crisis (211), and the Crisis Text Line (Text HOME to 741741)
  - Suggestion for Quarterly social gatherings for parents and kids to build relationships and have fun. Teairez and Erin will further discuss planning this outside of meeting.
  - Suggestion for bringing back parent and youth Strengthening Families Program. Jodi and Erin will discuss planning outside of meeting.
  - Suggestion for board game nights with resource tables available for families. NYFS will work on planning this.

---

***Next Meeting: March 8, 2022 3pm***

***Location: TBD***

---