

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board  
January 2021 Minutes  
Meeting Conducted virtually via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Tamer Elshourbagy, Lisa Campbell, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Glenn Morey

**Excused:** Magdalena Smith, Marnie Kirchgessner

**Absent:** Jennifer Foote-Dean, Sara Watrous

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent, Theresa Albert

**Guest:** Pat Buechel (pending board approval)

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions**

Zaun Mashburn and John Gregory of the Trumansburg/Ulysses Youth Commission were both present. Zaun is a resident of the Town of Ulysses and is interested in becoming more involved in various committees and ensuring youth voice is incorporated. John serves as Chair of the Trumansburg/Ulysses Youth Commission and wants to ensure that Ulysses/Trumansburg is well represented on the Youth Services Advisory Board.

**Approval of Minutes**

Due to a lack of quorum, the vote on the approval of the November December minutes will be moved to the February meeting agenda.

**Rick Alvord from the Learning Web – Agency Presentation**

Rick Alvord, the Director of Operations at the Learning Web, provided a brief overview of the programs and services offered at the Learning Web. Rick outlined the recent staffing changes of the agency (retirement of longtime Deputy Director Sally Schwartzbach, and the onboarding of a new Executive Director, Danielia Barron). These significant staffing transitions occurred in the midst of COVID-19. Additional information provided by Rick included:

- Overview of the Youth Exploration/Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Program which serves to connect youth in Tompkins County with apprenticeship and career exploration opportunities (i.e. tours).
- One Youth Exploration program is funded by the Joint Youth Commission, which also funds a volunteer program at LACS where students lead and participate in volunteer projects that serve the community.
- A contract with DSS supports life skills training with foster care youth which focuses on career exploration, financial literacy, cooking, and other important life skills.
- Another pilot program, Supporting Safe Families, is a parenting education program to support parents at risk of CPS involvement or currently involved with CPS to encourage prevention and reunification of families.
- The Youth Outreach program supports youth and young adults aged 16-24 that are homeless. This program operates 15 apartments (TILPS) where young adults can live for 18 months, learning independent living skills prior to transitioning to more stable housing. Youth Outreach also operates a Drop-In Center where youth can visit for basic necessities (toiletries, clothing, internet access, food).

In response to questions from Board members, Rick provided the following:

- Due to COVID, the career exploration and apprenticeship program was hit particularly hard, with a lack of in-person apprenticeship and tour opportunities. However, it did allow for the expansion of virtual opportunities, which expands the different careers that youth can be exposed to, across the nation.

- Apprenticeship opportunities and mentors are always being recruited based on what young people say they are interested in.
- COVID also posed challenges for the Youth Outreach program, including the need to safety proof the office, close the Youth Outreach center, and shift to virtual group sessions/trainings. The lack of connection in these forums is noticeable.
- Rick states that the Learning Web is moving towards solidifying a continuum of services for youth, and encourages any youth facing challenges or in need of opportunities to be referred to the Learning Web. Rick can be reached at [rick@learning-web.org](mailto:rick@learning-web.org)

### **Municipal Youth Services System Overview**

Kate Shanks-Booth provided a presentation that gave a high-level overview of the MYSS, to include its history, mission, foundation of Positive Youth Development, and a breakdown of how each municipal youth commission receives and allocates its funding. Information was also provided on the Rural Youth Services program through Cornell Cooperative Extension and on the municipal Recreation Partnership.

Slides will be shared with Youth Board members and can be used to present to municipal boards and other partners. Questions from board members on various funded programs, what defines “underrepresented,” and how youth voice is incorporated were all addressed.

### **Director’s Update - Highlights**

#### State Budget Update

- 2020 State Aid Update – This funding amount originally reduced in late 2020, and the YSD distributed the cut evenly across funded programs. In the beginning of January 2021, OCFS notified of an increase in YDP/RHY funding for 2020. YSD now is in the process of amending 2020 contracts and budgets to be able to claim for the additional funds for 2020, a significant accounting challenge.
- Kate reported that the Governor’s budget relies on a federal stimulus that will address the \$6.5 billion NYS budget gap. There is a proposed 5% cut to YDP/RHY funding, with the 20% withholding continuing through the first Quarter of 2021 (through March 31<sup>st</sup>). It is then anticipated that 15% will be reimbursed back to the counties, and the remaining 5% will be the cut.
- Onboarding for the Coordinator of Community Youth Services position has been put on pause by the County Administrator until the impacts of the NYS budget are more fully understood. Kate continues to be in touch with the selected candidate to keep them updated.
- Conversations with potential RHY funded Host Home operators continues. Several local non-profit agencies have been explored as potential hosts for this program, without success. The Village at Ithaca has expressed strong interest and will be required to submit a full application for review by the Youth Services Advisory Board and staff.

#### **Pat Buechel Approval**

- The Youth Board went into Executive Session but, without quorum, was not able to approve Pat Buechel’s nomination to serve as an At-Large member of the Youth Services Board.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bridgette Nugent

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board**  
**February 22, 2021 Minutes**  
**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Tamer Elshourbagy, Marnie Kirchgessner, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Glenn Morey, Sara Watrous

**Excused:** Lisa Campbell

**Absent:** Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean,

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Theresa Albert, Meghan Lyons

**Guest:** Pat Buechel (pending board approval)

Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions**

Welcome to Meghan Lyons, newly hired Coordinator of Community Youth Services. Bridgette is officially on maternity leave; John Henry was born on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Approval of Minutes**

Due to a lack of quorum, the vote on the approval of the November/December and January minutes will be tabled to the March meeting.

**Membership Approval**

Due to a lack of quorum, again the Board was not able to officially approve the application of Pat Buechel to join the Board as an At-large member. This vote will be tabled until the March meeting.

**Melissa Perry, Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Child Development Council**

Melissa gave a brief overview of agency:

- Offices in both Ithaca and Cortland
- Services offered: Child Care Resources and Referral, Family Support Services, Teen Pregnancy and Parent Program, and Warm Line.
- Home visiting services through Family Support Services and Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program.
- TP3, funded in part by Youth Services Dept, works with pregnant or parenting teens up to the age of 21. Help meet basic needs and transportation as needed. Work with participants to set and reach goals in areas of education, parenting, health, employment and housing. Once the participant ages out of the TP3 Program, they can move onto the Family Support Services Program. This program works with participants ages 22 and older with children up to the age of 5.
- These programs work with the families on a one-to-one basis, services are free and are child-centered.
- Due to the pandemic, services are now being done remotely. It hasn't been easy, but staff are dedicated and committed to the families they serve.
- Child care – stretched even more now with pandemic. Child care providers are facing hard times: reduced capacity, reduced staffing, strict guidelines to adhere to, but increased costs due to necessary PPE, supplies, equipment, etc. Many had to rework their space, add partitions, new air purification systems, etc. Some were just not able to stay open.
- Approximately 90% of the child care centers are now open, however, only about 1/3 of those needing care can be served.
- CARES Act funding has helped, there has been 3 rounds of the funding. Funding has helped with child care costs, salaries, grants for food, supplies, PPE, building equipment needed, etc.
- At the beginning of the COVID pandemic there was an increased and continuing need for diapers, supplies, and formula. With mostly local funding (United Way, Park, FEMA, Community Foundation,

and community donations), the Child Development Council established the Baby Supplies Drive. It is held every Thursday and it's free. Families can get items such as: diapers, formula, baby food, books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, masks, hygiene items, and books. To date, over 50,000 diapers and 6,000+ meals alone have been handed out.

- Pat – with home visits all being virtual, there is a real concern kids will be falling through the cracks. Melissa – share the same concern, staff are doing the best they can, continuing to build relationships and trust; trying to have youth be involved in the virtual meetings whenever possible, seeing them, talking with them, etc.
- Meghan – are there any services or help for Child Care workers? Most are barely making living wage and working long hours. Melissa – not particularly, agency advocates for child care providers, staff and increased wages. Struggle between keeping child care costs low and affordable, providing safe, reliable, and creditable child care while balancing the need to pay their workers a good wage.

### **Checklist Accountability Overview**

Kate reviewed the Municipal Planning Group Vitality & Accountability Assessment

- A working tool used with commissions and councils; meant to be used as a guide to help them towards structure and organization; not meant as an evaluation.
- Six areas of focus: Group structure & governance, Organization, meetings & leadership, Planning, Oversight, guidance & accountability, Advocacy & coordination, and Youth leadership & voice.
- Being reviewed and discussed with every planning group or at least a subset of that group.
- Each group is different and will therefore have different goals, focus and or approaches.
- Could be used with our board as well.

### **Board discussion**

*Members attending local meetings:*

Patty has been attending the Danby Council meetings for months and has found them very interesting and helpful. Attending the meetings has been helpful, keeping her more involved and informed about the community.

Patty asked if other Board members were willing to also attend their local commission/council meetings? Doesn't have to be every month. What are the barriers to you attending? What's making you hesitant?

Khaki asked if there is a way we can make it easier for members. Is there a way to put together a shared calendar with the meeting dates, times and zoom links?

Kate agreed a shared calendar could be put together and will look into having this created. However, the zoom links are not set up as being the same every month. If a board member is interested in attending a meeting, let one of us in the department know and we can be sure you receive the correct link for the meeting. We will also start putting reminders at the bottom of every month's Board agenda. Minutes can also be made available to those who would like to receive them.

*MYSS Overview presentation:*

Marnie thought the presentation Kate did at the January meeting was very good. She thinks people in her and other communities would also find it helpful. She asked that this presentation be posted on the department website.

*RHY update:*

The Village at Ithaca is in the process of completing a Funding Application for Runaway and Homeless Youth funding. Application is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting adjourned: 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Albert

## **Tompkins County Youth Services Board**

**March 29, 2021 Minutes**

**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Tamer Elshourbagy, Marnie Kirchgessner, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Sara Watrous, Lisa Campbell

**Excused:** Glenn Morey

**Absent:** Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean,

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Meghan Lyons

**Guest:** Pat Buechel (pending board approval)

Meeting called to order at 5:06 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

N/A

### **Approval of Minutes**

Due to a lack of quorum, the vote on the approval of the November/December, January, February minutes will be tabled to the April meeting.

### **Membership Approval**

Due to a lack of quorum, again the Board was not able to officially approve the application of Pat Buechel to join the Board as an At-large member. This vote will be tabled until the April meeting.

### **Kate Shanks-Booth, Director's Report**

- I didn't have anything in my notes here and I didn't see a recording of the meeting to do a write up...do you remember? Sorry!

### **Meghan Lyons, Update on Coordination of Community Youth Services**

Meghan gave updates on her role with Department

- New position going well, difficult to build new relationships during Covid, been to each commission meeting apart from attending Danby's Meeting
- Municipalities are looking into summer programs and camps. CDC recommendations has camps at ½ capacity, so it is difficult to cover costs for extra staff and longer days
- Youth development programs via CCE, participant numbers are increasing
- Created Annual Reports and will present for each Commission
- Nick Wagner – has been hospitalized, please keep him in your thoughts
- JEDI – Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: will start working with them in place of Kate

### **Board discussion**

Due to lack of attendance, there was a discussion on changing bylaws to be able to vote via email.

Discussion lead to the need to have all current members to attend meetings so that quorums may occur.

Khaki mentioned that maybe the quorum should be changed on the bylaws to reflect a percentage of current membership versus number of seats on board.

Need for youth to be assessed regarding social, mental health, and physical needs during/post Covid. Could use Student Survey or create new Needs Assessment. Possible to connect with Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health Services, to see if there is a Covid assessment available. CCHY is looking into changing of Student Survey to a more updated version of the Community That Cares Survey.

*RHY update:*

The Village at Ithaca submitted their application. Staff reviewed and asked for The Village to give some clarifications. Staff will regroup and meet again once application is reviewed again. Ian, Patty, and Khaki will work as the Resource Allocation Committee to review the application and will make recommendation to the Board at the April Meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Lyons

## **Tompkins County Youth Services Board**

**April 26, 2021 Minutes**

**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Marnie Kirchgessner, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Sara Watrous, Lisa Campbell, Glenn Morey, Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean

**Excused:** Tamer Elshourbagy

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent

**Guest:** Pat Buechel

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

N/A

### **Approval of Nov/Dec. 2020, January, February, and March 2021 Minutes**

Marnie motioned to approve all aforementioned minutes. Ian seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously with no corrections.

### **Membership Approval**

Lisa Campbell motioned to approve the board appointment of Pat Buechel as an At-Large representative.

Marnie seconded. Pat's appointment was approved unanimously.

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Funding & Village at Ithaca Application**

- Patty, Khaki, and Ian of the Resource Allocation Committee provided an overview of the RHY funding that Youth Services has typically used to fund a host home model for youth at risk of running away and/or are homeless. The funding has supported Bridges and Berkshire Farm in the past and, since 2015, supported the Open Doors program at Family & Children's Services. As of December 31, 2020, Open Doors no longer operates given the inadequate amount of RHY funding available to support this program.
- After conversations with other community partners serving this population, the Village at Ithaca submitted an application to fund a host home program for youth. Upon review of the application, the RAC has the following concerns:
  - Current lack of staffing/infrastructure to support this program at this time.
  - An overall desire to better understand the needs of at risk youth in the county in order to best allocate the funds. The question was raised as to if this particular model is the best fit for the current needs.
  - It is generally agreed that there needs to be additional funding to support this and/or another model. If a well-resourced organization such as Family & Children's Services was not able to operate the program with this amount of funding, it doesn't feel responsible to fund a relatively new program with an organization that is also piloting several other new initiatives.
- Considerable discussion was had amongst board members regarding the way forward. How can Youth Services further engage with the Village at Ithaca and other key partners to 1) identify the needs of this population and 2) fund a model that best meets these needs. Most importantly, how do we ensure that the youth no longer being served by Open Doors are still being reached and served?
- Kate provided some additional context in that the RHY funding received via NYS OCFS can be re-allocated to the Learning Web's RHY services, freeing up that funding to be able to be allocated more creatively as county funding. She has also been in conversations with community funders (Park Foundation, Community Foundation, Human Services Coalition) and there is great interest in getting an

understanding of the scope of this issue and how resources should best be allocated. Tompkins County Youth Services will continue conversations with all community partners, to include the Village at Ithaca, and determine what potential collaborations could best be supported with this funding.

- Khaki made the point that as we move into issuing a new RFP in 2022, these conversations and collaborations will be imperative.
- Ian motioned to deny the Village at Ithaca's application; Ronny seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **Director's Report**

Kate provided updates on behalf of the Department and will send out document

- Update on Summer Camps 2021 – Kate will be the guest speaker at the Community Foundation's monthly virtual "Let's Talk..." on Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup> to share information on summer camps this year.
- The 2021 Summer Camp Guide is in print this week via the Ithaca Times and available on the TCYSD website. It is being updated as information is received, and 75% of camps from pre-COVID have provided updated information on availability this summer.
- Park Foundation has funded grants to support summer camps with the administrative and training burdens associated with accepting subsidies from DSS. The Ithaca Youth Bureau has decided to move forward with accepting these subsidies.
- AYR data has been updated on the TCYSD's website, Youth Services Team always available to provide an overview on Achieving Youth Results and updated indicator data.
- Cradle to Career is currently deciding how to move forward, and whether AYR will be the cornerstone of their work. TCYSD will determine how best to support this Collective Impact model.
- Funding renewal applications for 2022 agency funding are being distributed this week and will be due at the end of May, after which RAC will review and present to the full Board.
- Meghan continues to be onboarded to the MYSS system and will take on all youth commissions aside from the JYC and Dryden. Regular staff meetings have been scheduled to ensure municipal youth commissions are on track to meet their identified 2021 goals.
- A list of monthly municipal youth commission meetings is provided, board members are all welcome to attend. Contact Meghan if you are interested in attending your local municipal youth commission meeting.
- Bridgette reported that she has been tapped to help coordinate rural vaccination clinics. This week there is a clinic in Newfield, and next weekend will be in Dryden. As community leaders, she will be tasking Youth Services Board members with spreading the word on upcoming clinics in their respective municipalities.

### **New/Old Business**

- The Town of Enfield Community Council will host their Country Fair in their new Community Building. Contact Lisa Monroe for more information.
- Upon request of the Chair, Bridgette introduced her son, John, to the Board. Expressed her gratitude for the very generous gift from the Board and is happy to be back at work.

Meeting adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bridgette Nugent



## **Tompkins County Youth Services Board**

**May 24, 2021 Minutes**

**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Lisa Campbell, Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean, Tamer Elshourbagy, Pat Buechel

**Excused:** Marnie Kirchgessner, Glenn Morey, Sara Watrous

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Meghan Lyons

**Guest:** N/A

Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

N/A

### **Approval of April Minutes**

N/A (No quorum)

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Funding & Village at Ithaca Application**

- Meeting with Village at Ithaca, The Learning Web, and Tompkins Community Action regarding RHY funding and community needs. The agencies presented the urgency of the issue of housing/placement of 12-17 years youth that have don't have a safe place to stay/respice.
- Conversation led to TCYSD should do something about this immediately. Ronny suggested using a check-list to assist with this complex conversation. Making licensing needs aware for conversation was also suggested to help guide the conversation.
- TCYSD will host a virtual community discussion (Think Tank) on the following items:
  - What are the current community needs?
  - Does the current program model match with the current needs?
  - How can we serve youth now?
  - What is the long-term plan?
- Kate asked the Board if they could please email her (or Patty, Ian, Khaki) any potential names/agencies to add to this conversation by Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Liddy Bargar (Coordinator of Housing Initiatives/HMIS Lead) has agreed to lead conversation on 6/8 from 10am-Noon, pending her schedule.
- Suggested agencies:
  - Learning Web
  - Family & Children's Services
  - Village at Ithaca
  - Tompkins Community Action
  - Counselors/Social workers from high schools
  - Community Foundation
  - Mental Health
  - Racker
  - BOCES (Lighthouse Program)
  - Suicide Prevention Taskforce
  - Crisis Center (Alternatives, OAR, Second Wind)
- Potential HUD Grant could assist with future planning and implementation of new programs (ie youth shelter)

- Data: Community Foundations said they would fund data sourcing. Ronny suggested Kate connect with Tompkins County Council of Governments to get data needed on rural demographics.
- American Recovery Act money could be used if this is COVID related.
- Kate will talk with Kit at DSS on purchased building

### **Director's Report**

Kate provided updates on behalf of the Department and will send out document

- Update on Summer Camps 2021 –NYS Health Department has released its 2021 Summer Camp Guidance
- Lisa Holmes, Deputy County Administrator has been named Interim to replace Jason Molino as County Administrator until the Legislature can conduct a nationwide search and fill the position by fall of 2021.
- County is discussing reopening procedures.
- Working with partners for the RHY and YDP portions of the Tompkins County Plan. Due at the end of May
- RHY Rural Youth Conference/ YHDP HUD Grant upcoming release
- Launch of the 2022 Budget search begin with a meeting on 5/21.
- Dept. Budget conversation set to happen on 7/15.
- Rec. Partnership will meet in June to set 2022 budget guidance for Liz at the IYB.
- Renewal Applications due
- Update: Big Brother Big Sister will join us for our June 2021 Meeting (less data due to COVID)
- TCYSD continues to meet with Athena and Shelley weekly
- Danby is losing their RYS Manager. OTR for 40 hour position and change position to tier II.
- Goal tracking for municipalities is going well.

### **New/Old Business**

- Retreat to happen in Fall 2021

Meeting adjourned: 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Lyons

## Tompkins County Youth Services Board

June 28, 2021 Minutes

Meeting via ZOOM.

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Magdalena Smith, Tamer Elshourbagy, Pat Buechel, Marnie Kirchgessner, Sara Watrous, Jennifer Foote-Dean,

**Excused:** Glenn Morey, Lisa Campbell,

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Theresa Albert

**Guest:** Leonardo Vargas-Mendez (*appointment in process*)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

### Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made; welcomed Leonardo Vargas-Mendez from Dryden, he is currently going through the process to be appointed as the Dryden representative.

### Approval of Minutes

Marnie moved to accept both the April and May minutes. Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

### Adjustment to Agenda

Due to a full agenda and wanting to give enough time to the Resource Allocation discussion, the presentation of the One-to-One Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program has been postponed until September.

### Resource Allocation Committee Recommendations

All board members were sent the RAC Report for review.

- ❖ In 2017 we began a new funding cycle of agency services. Our funding cycles typically last for 3 years. Due to the department experiencing some major changes and going through a period of adjustments and transition, it was decided to extend the funding cycle for two years through 2021. Then with the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided it would be best to extend current funding for one more year through 2022.
- ❖ While costs continue to rise, the budget directive, from the County Legislature, does not include increases for departments' target budgets. Our 2022 budgets represent flat target (on-going) funding, however, as part of the 2022 budget submission, we are allowed to submit over-target-requests.
- ❖ State aid – we anticipate these funds to also stay flat. We do not get final state aid figures typically until June, however, they are retroactive back to January.
- ❖ Resource Allocation Committee reviewed the three (3) general budget areas; Planning & Coordination, Agencies, and the Municipal Youth Services System (MYSS).

As Chair of the Resource Allocation Committee, Patty presented the recommendations for target and OTR requests in the 2022 budget.

### Agencies Budget

Patty moved to accept the recommendation of **\$349,448** in target funding as presented.

Marnie seconded. Motion passed.

### **MYSS Budget**

Patty moved to accept the MYSS recommendation of **\$349,498** in target funding as presented. Marnie seconded. Motion passed.

### **Department Planning & Coordination Budget**

Patty moved to accept the Planning & Coordination budget recommendation of **\$412,441** in target funding as presented.

Marnie seconded. Motion passed.

### ***OTRs recommended***

Patty presented the Over Target Requests recommended by the RAC Committee; in ranked order (full explanations can be found in the RAC Report).

#### **OTR 1: \$6,569 for Coordinator of Community Youth Services salary (asking for on-going target funding)**

This amount of \$6,569 represents the difference, in salary and fringe, of having this position increase from the hiring rate to the working rate. In the 2021 budget, we needed to reduce our target funds by 12%. We were able to achieve this cut because a long-time staff member retired, a part-time position was cut, and operating accounts were reduced to the bare bones. We are not able to cover this cost without further reducing operating accounts or to reduce staff hours.

#### **OTR 2: \$80,000 for RHY System (asking for on-going target funding)**

In late 2020, Family and Children Services of Ithaca, notified County Youth Services that the difficult decision had been made to close their Open Doors Program due to funding constraints. The Open Doors Program RHY population ages 12 to 17, providing support to Host Homes, coupled with intensive case management to reunite families. The Department is thus charged with allocating the funding to meet the needs of youth typically served by the Open Doors program. The Youth Services Department had several conversations with local nonprofits and for profit organization looking to find another agency to fill the gap left by the closing of the Open Doors Program, however, it's become apparent, the funding that we currently have available is simply not enough to operate a full program. The Tompkins County Youth Services Department is requesting \$80,000 in target funding, to be combined with the \$73,000 we already have, be earmarked to enhance and sustain the operation of a local Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program focused on youth ages 12 to 17.

#### **OTR 3: \$17,479 for increased support to the Municipal Youth Services System (RYS & Danby) (asking for on-going target funding)**

*Part 1: \$15,330* CCE was able to cover the 12% cut in the RYS Coordinator/Asst Coord 2021 budget with a small salary savings due to the Asst being new, reducing several operating expense lines, and using some one-time reserves. However, they cannot cover this cut again and continuation would require a cut in salary or hours. This request represents the 12% cut the program received in 2021.

*Part 2: \$2,149* As part of this request, we recommend additional funding to support the need in the Town of Danby to increase the hours of their program manager from 35 to 40 hours per week. The full cost of this

increase is \$4,298, we are requesting \$2,149 of County on-going target funding; the Town will provide the other \$2,149.

**OTR 4: \$10,000 for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) (asking for on-going target funding)**

Since 2015, Tompkins County has received funding from NYS Office of Family and Children's Services through its Safe Harbour program. The Safe Harbour program implements a system-level approach within existing child welfare and allied youth-serving systems to raise awareness of and create a more effective response to the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). As a Safe Harbour County, TC has an established a CSEC Critical Team that consists of key stakeholders (DSS, Probation, Advocacy Center, law enforcement, youth-serving agencies) that meet to coordinate the response to youth at risk of or confirmed victims of CSEC. Tompkins County Youth Services has coordinated the Critical Team and served as the primary point of contact with OCFS. 2021 is the final year for Safe Harbour funding for TC. This Over Target Request (OTR) seeks to utilize local funding to continue to raise awareness and provide training to key stakeholder audiences on the issue of CSEC. Allocated funds will support the training expenses and awareness campaigns, in addition to the ongoing coordination of the CSEC Critical Team as managed by Tompkins County Youth Services.

**OTR 5: \$6,000 for the MYSS event (Request to use Rollover Funding)**

We have over 50+ volunteers serving on 8 youth commissions and community councils across Tompkins County. When possible, we like to offer an event to bring all commission and council members together, as well as elected officials and program providers. This is a time to network and learn from others, see how other commissions/councils operate, learn about the different programs and services supported and get to know other volunteers. This type of event helps to inspire, motivate and empower the volunteers as they go back to their municipalities with new ideas and renewed energy. We originally planned to hold this event in Fall 2020. Due to the pandemic, all plans were put on hold and eventually cancelled altogether. We feel this networking and collaborative gathering is more important than ever.

Patty moved to accept these five OTRs, as presented, and in this ranked order. Marnie seconded. Motion passed; Khaki abstained.

**Recreation Partnership** – This funding is a pass through the Department. The Recreation Partnership has been in existence for nearly three decades and is truly a one of a kind collaboration between Tompkins County and its municipalities. 2022 flat target County funding of **\$73,353**.

**OTR : \$5,026 (asking for on-going target funding)**

The Recreation Partnership Agreement provides a commitment from the County as a keystone supporter of the Inter-municipal Recreation Partnership. The collaboration itself is based on a contract for services with the City of Ithaca Youth Bureau providing a wide array of year-round youth development and recreation programs at discounted prices. The City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca and Tompkins County each equally contribute 25% of the total municipal cost of programs that are not covered by program fees or other revenues, with the remaining 25% split among the smaller municipalities of Caroline, Danby, Enfield, Dryden, Groton, Ulysses, Newfield, and the Village of Lansing. The collaboration works on the

understanding that each partner of the Recreation Partnership maintains their contribution at the same level as the other partners. This contract for services allows local youth, particularly those from lower socioeconomic levels, accessibility to participate in Ithaca Youth Bureau programs at reduced rates. This OTR will allow the Recreation Partnership to continue to provide similar services as provided in 2021, a total increase in expenses of \$20,104 for maintenance of effort.

**Next steps:**

- The 2022 Resource Allocation Report will be updated.
- Funding and OTR recommendations will be inputted into the County's budget software.
- Budget is due to the County no later than July 2nd.
- Kate, Bridgette, and Theresa will meet with the Interim County Administrator, Lisa Holmes, on July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss our target budgets and OTRs submitted.
- Interim County Administrator will present her recommended budget to the Budget Committee in early September.
- Expanded Budget Committee meets several times during October; department will present budget to the Committee.
- Budget Committee will recommend a tentative budget by end of October; provided to the full Legislature for discussion/vote.
- Public forum held.
- Full Legislature adopts 2022 County budget early November for implementation January 1, 2022.

**Director's Report**

Kate provided updates on behalf of the Department:

- County budget due July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Youth Planning Task Force continues to meet; summer camps received NYS guidelines; planning for start dates in early July.
- Summer Youth Employment services received a private donation of \$85,000.
- County is discussing reopening procedures; looking at a date of July 6<sup>th</sup> for most employees to be back in offices full-time, buildings and offices open to the public; may look different depending on building.
- TCYSD continues to meet with Athena and Shelley weekly.
- Community Conversation on Runaway and Homeless Youth (see report in meeting packet).

**American Recovery Act funds**

- Marnie would like the board to discuss putting forth a resolution, to the Legislature, asking that youth are a priority when deciding how to allocate the ~\$20 million anticipated.
- Looking through the categories, she did not see youth mentioned specifically.
- Expanded Budget, Capital and Personnel Committee will be meeting on Wed, June 30<sup>th</sup> to make decisions.
- Khaki pointed out that the categories were set by the federal government, not locally.
- It was pointed out that a resolution is not the appropriate or best way to move forward.
- Writing a letter, from the Board to the Legislature, would be best to start.
- Ian is supportive of having the Board take such a stand, but wants us to be sure what our main goal is, what do we want to accomplish by sending this letter.

- Ronny clarified (as per Legislator Deb Dawson), the Committee will not be making decisions on Wednesday on how to use the funds, nothing will be set in stone, it will be a long process, there is no urgency for us to get a letter to them immediately.
- After discussion, it was decided that over the next few weeks, Marnie and who ever else would like to help her, will draft a letter to be sent to the Legislature. This will be put on the July agenda.
- In the meantime, members were encouraged to contact their local Legislator; receiving 10-15 individual calls may make a bigger impact than one letter.

**RHY Summary Report (*sent by email*)**

- Kate gave a brief update from the Community Conversation held on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Approximately 40 people, representing ~20 community organizations, attended.
- Broke into smaller groups for discussion; good conversations.
- Kate has reached out to the current 4 host homes. So far she has spoken to 2 of them; they are both willing to continue to be host homes sites. She will continue to try to reach the other 2.
- Lee Dillon reached out, house on S. Albany Street has become available; possible site for youth housing. Kate will tour the building later with this week with Lee and others.

Meeting adjourned: 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Albert

## **Tompkins County Youth Services Board**

**August 30, 2021 Minutes**

**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Tamer Elshourbagy, Marnie Kirchgessner, Jennifer Foote-Dean, Lisa Campbell

**Excused:** Pat Buechel

**Absent:** Sara Watrous

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent

**Guest:** Leonardo Vargas-Mendez (*appointment in process*)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

General introductions were made; Patty and Kate urged Leonardo Vargas-Mendez to submit his paperwork to Theresa Albert in order to confirm his appointment as representative from Town of Dryden.

### **Approval of Minutes**

No quorum, unable to approve June 2021 Minutes.

### **Confirmed Date of 2021 Youth Board Retreat**

Based on availability of the majority of board members and Youth Services staff, the best date for the 2021 Youth Services Board Retreat will be **Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** This will be a virtual retreat, with additional details forthcoming.

### **Director's Report**

Kate provided an overview of the August 2021 Director's Report, with additional context below:

- ❖ Youth Services Department will present their 2022 Budget to the County Legislature on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m. Hope to have information on whether the Interim County Administrator has recommended the Department's OTRs by early next week. This will inform how the Board can advocate for the OTRs via their County Legislators.
- ❖ Final 2021 NYS OCFS funding figures (state aid) were confirmed for Youth Development Programming (YDP) and Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY). RHY funding was an increase from what the department had budgeted, and was allocated to the Learning Web's Youth Outreach program.
- ❖ Kate provided an in-depth overview of the status of the RHY funding and recent developments. Of note, the Board of Family & Children's Services has voted to re-open their Open Doors host home program pending the approval of the RHY OTR in the 2022 Budget. This update generated discussion from Board members, to include the following points:
  - ❖ Will this additional funding, if approved, automatically go to Open Doors, or will we open up a larger RFP for this specific RHY funding? Is Open Doors the best option when we know other service providers have expressed an interest in serving this population? This will ultimately be a discussion and decision for the Youth Services Board, but Kate's recommendation, based on the feedback from previous host home families and conversations with Open Doors staff and



leadership, would be to fund the Open Doors program for one year and then move forward with the open RFP for the entirety of the Youth Services agency funding in 2022 (for 2023 funding) as originally planned. It is important to note, however, that the amount of funding being requested in the 2022 budget process is the amount required to run a sustainable host home program. Through the open RFP process, it might become apparent that a multi-agency approach to serving this particular population (ages 11-17) is the best approach.

- ❖ Kate summarized a recent meeting that Meghan attended on behalf of the Department with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), a group of youth selected to consult on the recent Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) application submitted by the County's Continuum of Care (CoC) to Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Feedback provided by these youth was strongly adverse to programs/partners as they currently serve the RHY population. Feelings of distrust, disappointment, and being tokenized were shared. The Village of Ithaca hosted the conversation, and all youth represented were being served by the Village. As a result, it was obvious to the Department that youth voice had not been adequately represented to date, and a real effort needed to be made to incorporate youth perspective, especially from the age group 11-17. This was a reason why the second RHY Community Conversation scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> was cancelled/postponed.
- ❖ Significant discussion was had on the benefits of the Open Doors program (not only host homes but also intensive case management and family counseling) and while it may not be the best fit for all youth in need, there is exciting possibility to complement other existing programs serving RHY and any potential funding awarded by HUD through the YDHP grant. This might include funding additional Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) sites such as those operated by the Learning Web.
- ❖ Discussion wrapped up on this topic stressing the importance of ensuring adequate representation and genuine youth voice (importance of centering DEI).
- ❖ Kate provided additional information on the recent conversation hosted by County Administration related to the employee/client safety concerns of reporting to the Human Services Building on West State Street. An overview of safety concerns was provided by Probation, DSS, and Youth Services staff, and County Administration expressed deep concern and attentiveness to the issues raised. A meeting is scheduled for next week to further discuss action items to address security concerns and may involve a number of initiatives (better incident reporting process, additional security in building, etc.). Board members expressed concern about the safety of employees reporting to building and are willing to advocate to the Legislature on this issue as well.

### **Talking Points for Board Advocacy**

- ❖ It is important that Youth Board members talk to their Legislators in support of the OTRs and issues outlined above. Discussion was held on how best to strategize this advocacy.
- ❖ It was determined that an official letter would come from the Board as a whole to the Legislature, with follow up by individual members to their representatives via email and telephone.
- ❖ Glenn reiterated the importance of members contacting their legislators and opined that the OTRs seemed very reasonable with helpful narrative.

- ❖ Kate will provide talking points

### **Board Recruitment (with a focus on Youth Representation)**

- ❖ Brief discussion was had on the importance of recruitment for all vacant Board positions (currently 6), to include having youth representation.
- ❖ Targeted recruitment needs to be done in order to fill seats. Outreach could be done to schools, youth-serving agencies, youth that applied to be on Governor's Youth Council.
- ❖ It was suggested that a sentence be added on each of the funded agencies websites with a description of the opportunity to serve on the Board.
- ❖ Board leadership will take on specific tasks to target recruitment for vacant seats.

Next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. For the foreseeable future, all meetings will continue to be virtual.

Meeting adjourned: 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bridgette Nugent

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board**  
**September 27, 2021 Minutes**  
**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, , Marnie Kirchgessner, Pat Buechel, Glen Morey, Randy Smith, Jennifer Foot-Dean, Tamer Elshourbagy, and Lisa Campbell

**Absent:** Sara Watrous

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves to Randy Brown

### **Approval of Minutes**

No quorum, unable to approve June 2021 or August 2021 Minutes.

### **2021 Youth Board Retreat**

- ❖ Patty asked if anyone had time to think about what they wanted to do at the Retreat.
- ❖ Randy introduced himself and said that he had replaced Ronny, wasn't familiar with this group, and that he looked forward to learning about the Youth Services.
- ❖ Ian added the idea that he liked the idea of shifting the Board focus to maybe more of a quarterly approach to allow us to be more flexible.
- ❖ Khaki asked Randy to help reach out to municipalities to get the recruitment and representation on the board, for us to set the new priorities.
- ❖ Khaki said she wanted to set ourselves up for success as we are having conversations over the next six months.
- ❖ Randy said it's time to reassess what is changing and how that is impacting the role that the communities will we move forward.

### **Director's Report**

Kate provided an overview of the September 2021 Director's Report, with additional context below:

- ❖ The County Admin has supported all the OTRs in our 2022 Budget.
- ❖ Khaki asked Kate to explain what the OTRs were to Randy, so Kate broke those down and explained the process to him. Followed up by asking him if he had any questions.
- ❖ Youth Services staff continues to help with vaccination clinics all over the County and in all different ways.
- ❖ Kate provided an update to the Board on the TCAT conversation and the possibility of providing free bus passes to youth who are working in the summer of 2022.
  - Marnie and Patty said that they used to do that for kids a few years ago.
- ❖ Kate reported that the YDHP grant had been awarded to Ithaca's CoC and that the amount was just under \$2 million. Kate explained the planning aspect of this grant is different, and the limitation for the youth.

- ❖ Pat said she was very excited about this grant and happy to hear that we had been awarded this money.
- ❖ Family and Children's – their Board has voted to approve the reopening of Open Doors.
- ❖ Danby has gone through the hiring process for their RYS manager and has made an offer to a new person.
- ❖ Meghan has is going to bring in a DEI training to the MYSS Commissions.
  - Khaki asked that we include youth with disabilities and access into their understanding of diversity.
- ❖ Kate said that the NYS Gov's Council is back, and we are looking for a representative for Tompkins County. Kate said they will be looking for a new person to fill that role. Pat said it was an awesome experience, she would be happy to help and encourage others to do that too.

#### New/Old Business

- ❖ No new or old business
- ❖ Marnie inquired if the retreat will be on Zoom, and the answer was yes. It will include a virtual breakfast. (joking)

Meeting adjourned: 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Shanks-Booth

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board  
November 15, 2021, Minutes  
Meeting via ZOOM.**

**\*\* We have serious technical issues during this meeting, so it is possible that part of the notes was not recorded by Zoom and thus could not be included. \*\***

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Marnie Kirchgessner, Pat Buechel, Glen Morey, Randy Smith, Leonardo Vargas, Tamer Elshourbagy, and Lisa Campbell

**Absent:** Sara Watrous

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent, Theresa Albert, and Meghan Lyons

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

### **Approval of Minutes**

- ❖ Approval of June 2021, August 2021, and September 2021 Meeting Minutes

### **Director's Report**

- ❖ Kate provided an updated on the County Budget - vote expected to pass all on November 16, 2021.
- ❖ Provided update on the RHY RFP that will go out to the public as soon as the funding is approved.
- ❖ Meghan provided JEDI DEI Youth video to the Tompkins County Leg. And we can show that next meeting.
- ❖ Theresa will start being Agency lead for our department in 2022

### **Discussion of upcoming 2023 Requests for Proposals**

- ❖ Kate covered a Power Point presentation that outlined a brief history and break down of the different parts of the TCYSD.
- ❖ Kate showed how the different funded agencies fall under each of the OFCS Touch Stones.
  - Khaki asked what was defined as an "agency" – any agency that has 501c3.
  - Khaki wanted to know if another County Department could apply for funding. Theresa said yes, they could apply, and they would be treated like another agency.
- ❖ Marnie asked Theresa if this process was about State Reimbursing? Theresa said not anymore, the per capita amounts went away year and years ago. Marnie was surprised to learn that didn't exist.
- ❖ Kate asked Pat if she was good, and Pat said yes. She said as the prior Probation Director she got local funds and state aid, but they typically looked at their own budget to fund projects. She said she that it didn't make sense for another dept to go for money from youth services, because it would be temp funding and not part the ongoing target budget for the department.
- ❖ Leonardo asked why we don't have anything in the Education Touch Stone. Kate said that there was either not an application or an application that was not funded under that Touch Stone in the last RFP round. He asked if they could apply in the upcoming round, and Kate said yes. That's the conversation we are having now, do we keep all three or narrow those down?

- ❖ Khaki asked if a school district could apply, and Theresa said last round TCT BOCES applied but their application was not funded by the Board.
- ❖ Lisa added that COFA have contracts with DSS, but they wouldn't go through RFP process because it's a subcontract, so these are set with HEAP, so those funds don't change over time. Interdepartmental fund shifts make sense in those cases.
- ❖ Kate asked Bridgette to give a brief update for the Communities that Care Survey, as she started to talk about indicators. Bridgette provides update, new vendor, and all online.
- ❖ Marnie asked if we had come up with these indicators prior to getting the proposals during the last RFP process? Kate explained that these promise, indicators, and strategies that would be employed, were created by OCFS, and all the community collaborations to reach the rest was done well in advance of the last RFP process.
- ❖ Marnie said that when we covered Education, she said that someone needs to talk about Cornell about hiring local people.
- ❖ Marnie asked if we collect data on this, and the answer was yes, we do collect data. Just no agency that does work currently under the Education Touch Stone.
- ❖ Marnie asked why we did marijuana not alcohol as the measure. Bridgette said that there is an alarming concern that youth, and their parents, do not view the use of marijuana as harmful. Unlike the use or and perception of alcohol for youth, and their parents, is seen more as dangerous and harmful. Therefore, we determined to use marijuana as the indicator.
- ❖ Randy mentioned how all towns are discussing how to allow marijuana into their communities. Marnie added that it sent a permissive attitude that is not good and says this will be very bad for kids.
- ❖ Kate asked Bridgette to pull up the website and show the board members where they can find the data around the agencies. She showed them the "Achieving Youth Results" tab, Pitch Program, and highlighted the different touch stones. She used Community as an example, to show them how to find the information.
- ❖ Marnie said that Bridgette has seen these graphs before, but she didn't understand. Patty and Bridgette walked her through a slide and showed her how to read it.
- ❖ Khaki said the display of the data is fine but asked if it significant. She asked, Is anyone doing the statistical analysis at that level? Bridgette said that she was not doing that level of analysis.
- ❖ Kate outlined that the most important thing that the Board does is provide oversight for our department's allocations, and this is the way that we track the impact of those funds over time.
- ❖ Patty started to open the conversation around the touch stone areas. She opened the floor to the whole board. Patty said that education is incredibly important to her, especially now that we don't know the impacts of Covid on youth.
- ❖ Ian asked her to come up a better definition of the outcomes that Patty was looking for in this meeting?
- ❖ Patty said that her goal was to get a feel of what people are thinking, and she is hoping that folks had a chance to look at the older RFP. She also said that there is lots of federal money out there.
- ❖ Kate suggested that maybe Khaki talk about the research she did in looking at the additional community assessments that are going on and how they overlap with AYR.
- ❖ Ian asked for more clarification and said that of all the different things that he would like to look at the needs to be the physical and emotional health of youth seem to be most important. He said that youth often don't have the words to describe the things that they are going through, and often the family life may not be able to support them.
- ❖ Pat said that she supports Ian, because if the youth doesn't have physical and emotional health how are they going to be engaged in their community or focus on education.

- ❖ Pat asked about the additional RFP that has just been released was specific to RHY and not the conversation that we were having today, and Kate said yes it was focused on RHY in 2022.
- ❖ Kate went on to encourage the Board to think not about getting rid of the things we currently fund, but maybe change the language around the requirements in the RFP and thus thinking about have a larger impact at the systems level.
- ❖ Ian mentioned Leo's comment in the chat, so the last two years of the academic challenge, and social media, we have adults that are still having issues on dealing with all this. Thus, we should not expect that kids will be less challenged. He also said that he understood what Kate was saying.
- ❖ Khaki also said that she didn't want to see us put narrower definitions of the Touch Stones, but rather determine the outcomes we want first. She said that she had looked at the social determinants of health. She couldn't share her slides, but she talked about the CHIP and the CHAW.
- ❖ Khaki asked how we identify those areas that aren't being supported in other areas of the County, so that we can determine where we want to focus those monies to have greater impact.
- ❖ Khaki said we can look at what other programs exist, and then we can determine where we are focused. Much like we did with RHY.
- ❖ Marnie said that our funds are limited, how do we do that. Khaki said that it's not a small amount. Theresa confirmed that it was about \$500k.
- ❖ Marine asked for a larger conversation way beyond the RFP. Khaki brought up that Mental Health Department is working on this. Kate brought up that Harmony and she were going to have a conversation, and we will be focusing on Mental Health in that area of focus.
- ❖ Patty asked Bridgette when we would get data back on the Communities that Care Survey, and Bridgette said it will be in a couple weeks. Bridgette said that she would provide an overview at the next meeting.
- ❖ Kate reminded everyone that we have time to talk about the items in more detail.
- ❖ Kate also did also remind everyone that while we don't have a ton of money, we do remarkable things with the amount we do have.
- ❖ Pat asked if we had ever had issues with our agencies, and Bridgette confirmed that we would bring issues to the Board.

#### New/Old Business

- ❖ December meeting topics - Talk more about the other community needs assessments. Talk about what we want to do in terms of narrowing down touch stones, and then have a list of any additional things that the staff can provide to the Board to help them make decisions.

❖

Meeting adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Shanks-Booth

**Tompkins County Youth Services Board**  
**December 13, 2021 Minutes**  
**Meeting via ZOOM.**

**Present:** Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Marnie Kirchgessner, Pat Buechel, Randy Smith, Jennifer Foot-Dean, and Tamer Elshourbagy,

**Absent:** Sara Watrous, Lisa Campbell, Glen Morey, Leonardo Vargas-Mendez

**Staff:** Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent, and Meghan Lyons

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

- JEDI Video with Tompkins County Youth – Meghan led this conversation.
  - This came about to honor the 1-year anniversary of the County’s JEDI team and then also to capture needs. She said that they used a youth production company of GA Studios.
  - Patty said that the video great, and thanked Meghan. Meghan said that the youth had access to the questions prior to the interview, and they had the option to not speak on camera.
  - Meghan said she had a lot of ideas about how to capture youth voice and was working hard to bring that into the conversations in Tompkins County.
  - Marnie – asked if Spectrum still offered the public access and wanted to know if they video could be placed there? Meghan said she would be happy to investigate that.
  - Marnie said that she was very impressed, and the public should see that video.
  - Khaki was impressed with the youth who expressed equity as everyone having equal responsibility, not just that everyone needs equal treatment. Patty said everyone had great points and asked if anyone else had comments? There were none.

### **Things to be Voted on:**

- There was not a quorum at this meeting. Thus, did not vote on the prior meeting minutes or the slate of officers for 2022.
  - This will be pushed into the 2022 January’s meeting

### **Director’s Report**

- Kate said that she mostly wanted to update people on the new RHY RFP process that was underway. She said that this has been posed through Bidnet, and it is posted in the Ithaca Journal per the TC Purchasing guidance. Kate said that this is the first time we have used the process and it changes how things go. Typically, we push the RFP out through Human Services Coalition’s Listserv and emails to community partners. However, this process now requires that the those who wish to submit a proposal must register with Bidnet, and then go through the County’s Purchasing Website to complete the RFP online. The answers that they submit will be shared with the public once they are received. At that point, the department can access the submitted RFP and share them with the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) and then begin our regular internal process. The last difference is that once we make a funding determination, those that submitted a proposal will be notified via County Purchasing, if they were awarded the grant or not.
- Theresa wanted to be sure to have Kate let the Board know that this process appears to be more formal and be more competitive, so it may impact our relationship with our funded agencies, and we need to make sure that we are aware of that, as we move forward.



- Kate said that the RHY shelter conversation have been put on hold, because the funding to purchase the building is not something that is going to happen within the next few weeks. The energies of this group will be better served in the ongoing YDHP weekly meetings. There is a thought of doing a project with our local partners and Cornell to determine how much funding (Federal, State, Local) is coming into the County, and what types of services those funds are supporting. This information would allow us to see where the gaps are in funding, and thus have a better idea of maybe how to use the YHDP funds to both support current services and create new services.
- Bridgette and Theresa have had some really good conversation with our funded agencies, to let them know that that Theresa will become the main point of contact for them at our department. There were some questions about funding through the upcoming RFP process. Theresa and Bridgette said of course no promises can be made, but they were told we would keep them updated as we went along in the process over the next few months.
- Mona Smiley from the Learning Web has taken a job with the Reimaging Public Safety Initiative. We are having conversations with them around the capacity issues.
- On January 27, 2022, we will have an anti-bullying training, in support with our local partners, that will focus on cyber bullying, and will take place in the afternoon.
- Kate asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

### **Discussion of upcoming 2023 Requests for Proposals**

- Khaki provided a very good overview of the AYR overlaps with the other community needs assessments (CHIP/CHA/Age Friendly), in terms of youth needs.
  - There is a great deal of overlap with the HHS Social Determinants of Health and the OCFs's Touch Stones.
  - She highlighted that one of the most important things to note was the huge growth in the mental health needs for youth, and physical and mental abuse. She noted that there is no indicator that those will slow down.
  - She also highlighted the need for intergenerational programming within Tompkins County.
  - Randy asked if these things she was talking about were particularly geared towards youth, and Khaki said yes, it is.
  - Patty said that these really are just the goals, and she wanted to know if there was offering funding to support them? Khaki said that there is a lot of money in other departments, from the state and federal, to do this work. Khaki said the main thing to take away from her presentation was that the youth services department does not sit alone in this, other departments are also doing work around youth issues.
  - Randy said that what he was understanding is that NYS has passed down these objectives, and Khaki said yes. Randy said that he saw an article that shocked him but keeping in mind that he is new to this type of work. He said that the article he found had been published in the LA Times, and it was Surgeon General warns of Mental Health Crisis in Youth. He was shocked by that that thought that we must have a large mental health issue in Tompkins County. He asked how to do we measure and track this? Khaki noted that the article was a great Segway because it is exactly that Bridgette was about to talk about. She also said that she would be happy to get him additional information. He as curious if the mental crisis in youth existed prior to Covid, and the answer was yes. Khaki said that the article had national data, not just specific to LA.
  - Kate wanted to remind the Board about the Collaborative Solution Network's initiative where they are working closely with the Mental Health Dept. on how to align youth services. Kate said that there will be a training in January over five consecutive weeks. In addition she

said, that she and Bridgette had a good conversation a couple weeks ago, updated Harmony on what the youth services department does, and everyone is very excited about the potential new and elevated partnership in our future. Kate said that this will allow us to really bring a focus to mental health, not just in the actual services but a holistic approach and thus helping all youth thrive.

- Bridgette provided a brief overview of the Communities that Care Survey that has just come back for analysis in 2021.
  - Bridgette started by thanking Khaki for her presentation, she said that was a great overview. She said that both she and Lisa sit on the CHIP steering committee. Bridgette said she had done a presentation on AYR for that group, and there was a lot of good questions and ideas on how we can present that data. Khaki said that the CHIP and CHA are on the Board of Health's website.
  - The Student Survey results are in, and this year they moved to an online platform that allowed them to get results much quicker. Bridgette noted that this survey has been done for the last several years, on a bi-annual process, and we use TCT BOCES to help facilitate the survey. She said that this year there were about 3,500 valid responses from grades 7 to 12 and from every district in the county.
  - She said that this the presentation she was about to do for the board was an overview and not an in-depth one. However, she pulled out things that pertain to the AYR indicators and a couple of data points around the mental health.
  - Ian had a comment about the data, he referred a story of something that happened at his employer, there was a meeting around the stress of students. He said that the preferred roles of administrators is to minimize every factor that show a youth is stressed. But Ian was curious not just about that youth are stressed, but how we can do a better job of capturing how youth feel about the tools that they have to deal with the stress? He asked for example, who do they turn to, etc.? Ian noted that the fact is that stress only get harder the older the youth get, for examples jobs don't care about your feelings, an economy that does not care. Should be focus on stress/wellbeing and are we getting them to resource they need to learn to deal with stress. Basically, the concept of building resiliency.
  - Bridgette said yes, we need to be looking at those things. We need to be helping them build their tool kit. Bridgette said that here are questions in the survey, about who youth turn to, but many youths report they go to nobody.
  - Marnie said that she is most afraid from children to those who might be reaching out to unknown persons over the internet. She asked if that was looked at here? Bridgette said that there were no questions like that on the survey that she could remember. But Marnie wants to make sure that there are safe structures in place for these youth. Bridgette did say that there was a question added this year about what caused youth the most stress this past year. The overwhelming answer was that focusing on schoolwork and getting it completed through the online platform, was the biggest stressor.
  - Jenn said that she was curious if the change in platform has changed the way the survey was delivered. She wanted to know if that increased or decreased the response rates? Bridgette said that was an increase over previous years, the school districts themselves reported it was much easier to roll out.
  - Kate said that in 2022 moving forward, we will do a community needs assessment, we can use this as a platform to gather some of the information which may not be in the survey, moving forward.

- Kate gave an overview of Workforce Development’s Boards the New Possible – with its nine recommendations. Kate said that while we don’t fund this exactly, when we look at the touchstone of Economic Security, youth employment is a big part of that. So, that will be using the lenses of this partnership as we talk about this.
  - Kate talked about WIOA and Summer Youth Employment programs, and the 14 required sections of both of those programs by the NYS Department of Labor. She stated that most of this work is done through collaboration of our Department and the Work Force Development Board’s Youth Oversight Committee (YOC).
  - She talked about the IYB Youth Employment Series (YES) and the Tompkins County’s Office of Employment and Training (OET). She then highlighted some of those program’s partnership and what they are focused on. Kate said that right now the YOC has been working to and moving to update the RFP process to be more diverse and inclusive.
  - Kate then went over the nine recommendations, and just touched base with how some of these things impact youth employment at the systems level.
  - Khaki added that the youth employment focus included both internships and paid opportunities, and that we get the youth in “good” jobs that turn into a career and not just a job.
  - Randy, asked why CMC is not included in some discussions around this, conversation about mental health? Khaki said that CMC is involved very deeply in other mental health programs, specifically the New Visions Program that trains youth and gets them involved for the work force.
- Kate went over the document that they she sent out that day about the Touchstones: Promises, Agencies, Summary of Services, and the Headline RBA Outcomes measure for each agency.
  - Patty asked Kate if the purpose of this was to help look for gaps in services? Kate said that she thought it would be helpful for the board could see if they want to narrow down the number of Touch Stones funded or to keep it open all six. In addition, Kate asked for the board to consider what they need from staff between now and January to help them make those decisions.
  - Randy asked the group if it would be helpful to have them go back and ask the trustees from the Village of Lasing to rank the importance of the Touch Stones and come back to us with that information? Kate said that it would be one way to gather the information, but also wanted to have the individual board members talk about how they think they should be ranked. Kate also asked those board members who have been around longer, what they were thinking, and could they speak to their past experiences.
  - Randy asked if Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) was still an issue of importance for the board to think. Khaki said that it is very important but pointed out that the individual RHY RFP is really transition RFP, and the ongoing RFP 2023 is where we are looking at five years plan. Kate said to keep in mind that the RFP RHY (individual) is transitional funding, but it was the first time that the department have gone to the Legislature for additional funding for a specific topic. As we think of future funding decisions, we will need to have a very specific plan for why we do what we do, if we determined that our funding is used differently, because we did see it was for RHY issues.
  - Ian said that he believes we need to focus on education and physical/emotional health. He isn’t sure we have the best way to measure these things. He says that those working for the department and those board members who had been around longer were the experts. However, he stressed that Education and Physical/Emotional Health are the two things have the cascading effects on every youth.

- Kate said that she really enjoyed what Ian said, that she wanted to remind the Board that both the MYSS and the RP are also important things to keep in mind as we look at the services that we provide to the community.
- Patty said she isn't sure what outcomes she is looking for, but she wants to support students in education, especially the very young students. She also highlighted the family component.
- She also said that she has been involved with the agencies for a long time and she want to fund them all, and because of that she would love to know what the new folks think.
- Pat said thought back to her days in probation, and it always seemed like the focus was always on the kid and it should be on the family dynamics. She said that she would love to see us help parents to be better parents, and whole resiliency training was about how parents are the role models to their kids. She wants to do that, and make sure that's important.
- Kate said that it does fall within our mission. Pat said that she wanted to develop a family resource guide, she never got the chance. Marnie said the "Orange Juice" was developed with the drug grant that the community got, but it was a good resource.
- Jenn added education has been missing, but just like Pat was talking about. She lives in Groton but works in an agency in Ithaca, and there is a huge difference in the resources that are available and how they are implemented in the different districts. She wasn't sure if they didn't know about the resources, or if they just didn't care.
- Marnie said for her, hard numbers of how many kids we are reaching and how many kids are there that needs to be reached. Kate said that we have those numbers in the report cards online, and they can see what percentage of the Headline Outcome they are looking at to determine who they are they will fund.
- Patty asked if they have a waiting list, and Kate said that is something that we can get. She said she has been around a long time but not recent enough, but she wants to fund all the programs.
- Kate said that yes, this is the personal experience, but really encouraged the board members to the Youth Commission/Community Council to dig in deeper.
- Lisa asked, if there was a reason was education was not chosen or filled at the time? There were no proposals sent in to be funded. She said that it's important to remember that things are still happening, this isn't he past issues, we are still dealing with those. She didn't know who would pick it up or who would do that work.
- Randy said he had to go to another meeting, but the group must be flexible and not always funding the same programs. Things are changing all the time; a great example is the education. It came up because of COVID, and now we need to be able to pivot to deal with it. Why isn't' the state education dept dealing with them? Khaki said that there are grassroots organizations taking this one, but in the last RFP process there wasn't an agency that applied under education.
- Marnie said that the goals are so vague, and that any one of the agencies could rewrite their programs to meet this requirement. It's the language that we need to address, and she asked Khaki fit hat was right? Kate said that it doesn't have to be a new agency, but the outcome conversation is very important to make change at the systems level. Even if we don't have an agency who wants to work under the Education Touchstone.
- Kate also said to remember the letter of intent is a good way to determine if an agency is doing the work that you want to do. Marnie said that education Touch Strone really focuses on high school, and that younger youth are just as important in that conversation.

- Patty said that mentoring is very important, in terms of the education piece and even those programs for parents. Kate mentioned mentoring in Big Brother and Big Sister.
- Khaki said that preparing students to leave school prepared starts at a young age, so that is important to remember.
- Marnie said that seven or eight school districts, how do you support them differently. Like Jennifer said in Groton it's very different that what is done in the Ithaca City School District.
- Patty said it's important to keep in mind the RYS managers, and the programs we do in the rural areas. Khaki also said that we are only talking about \$500,000.

### **New/Old Business**

- The next Meeting will be on January 13<sup>th</sup>, and maybe there can be an email chain started between board members, said Patty. We are going to have make decision and get this out at the next meeting.
- Marnie said that she really wanted to know what the RAC things, because they have the best idea on the perspective. Marnie said she would find this very helpful.

Adjourn at 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kate Shanks-Booth