

Town of East Haven, CT  
Youth Services Commission Minutes  
January 20, 2010; Town of East Haven Beach House  
Cosey Beach Avenue; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Robert Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Mary Varunes

Commissioners Absent: Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: John Daviau, James Dougherty, Sharon Kupiec, Robin McNally, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the December 9, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner Mike D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the December 9, 2009 Youth Service Commission minutes. Commissioner Mary Varunes made a Motion to accept December 9, 2009 minutes as read. Second by Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item-Presentation on Underage Drinking Prevention by The Connection

Sharon Kupiec and Robin McNally are employees at The Connection, Inc. John Daviau is a consultant working with The Connection, Inc on this underage drinking grant project. The Connection is a multifaceted agency offering housing, behavioral health and community justice services to children, youth and families. Mr. Daviau explained that an additional function is to work with communities, in this case to prevent underage drinking. Mr. Daviau explained a federal grant from the State of CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to the Connection to develop strategies to prevent underage drinking. As part of

this program, Mr. Daviau and Ms. McNally would be designated to work with the Youth Service Bureau and the Youth Services Commission to create a work group to use the Strategic prevention Framework to develop strategies. The steps in the Strategic prevention Framework are:

Assessment- Profile population needs, resources, and readiness to address needs and gaps.

Capacity- Mobilize and/or build capacity to address needs.

Planning – Develop a comprehensive strategic plan & detailed action plan.

Implementation- Implement evidence-based prevention programs/activities at the environmental level.

Evaluation- Monitor & evaluate to sustain programs/activities that work and improve or replace those that don't.

Once completed funding will be available through The Connection for strategies that are created. In the past the Town was a recipient of a three year grant from the Office of Policy and Management to prevent underage drinking and the SADD program at East Haven High School is very active.

Questions from the Commissioners included “How many other towns are involved in this program”? There are 14 other towns in Connecticut that all have been asked to participate but are not on board yet. If there were any limitations to ages. The ages run from 12-24 year olds. Commissioner Camera stated he would like to see a health program in place again. Commissioner D’Amato stated at this time there is no DARE Officer or School Resource Officer. Robin McNally described a one time educational program for facts regarding underage drinking and raising awareness to students in 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Daviau distributed brochures and other materials to assist the commissioners with the understanding of what steps we would need and how it is important to think outside the box and be able to come up with creative strategies.

All Commissioners present are in favor of this program. Mr. Petrucelli will contact Mr. Daviau regarding the next steps for the Youth Service Bureau and Commission to collaborate on this program.

### Agenda Item- Teen Center Update-

Mr. Petrucelli and Commissioner Chuck Licata met with Mayor Capone Almon and Mr. Shaffer on January 19, 2010 to finalize and sign the leased space for the new teen center. Mr. Petrucelli and Commissioner Licata will be receiving keys to this new space and will be working with Public Works, the Building Department and the Mayor's Office to get us into this new facility as soon as possible. Mr. Petrucelli stated he would like to have all the commissioners take a walk through our new teen center space. Mr. Petrucelli is optimistic for an opening date of March 1, 2010. There have been several local companies that are looking to donate supplies for this new facility. The space is approximately 5,000 sq. ft. Mr. Petrucelli would like to have a press release with the East Haven Courier that we are still looking for further donations. Commissioner Camera wanted to thank the Martindale family and others for their equipment donations and patience. Mr. Dougherty would like to be included in the walk through at the new facility. Mr. Petrucelli will send out an email to Mr. Dougherty and others on the Town Council, inviting them to join us on the walk through.

### Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

None at this time.

### Agenda Item-Other

Commissioner Camera is looking for some ideas for the closing of the old teen center facility. The YSB Commission wishes to thank Tracey Saddig for all her help and wish her the best in her new position. Tracey is no longer with ETV. Mr. Dougherty attended tonight's commission meeting to learn more about our commission and pledged his support. Mr. Dougherty thanked all the commissioners for their time and enthusiasm relating to this commission.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. was made by CJ Cofrancesco, Seconded by Emily Kuzma. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly Smith* /Recording Secretary

