

Town of East Haven, Ct Youth Services Commission Minutes

December 10, 2008; Town of East Haven Beach House,
Cosey Beach Avenue; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Robert Fucci, Emily Kuzma, Chuck Licata, Cindy Recinos and Mary Varunes.

Commissioners Absent: Mary Cofrancesco

Non-Commissioners present: Larry Doyle and Bob Petrucelli

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the November 12, 2008 Minutes

Commissioner Mary Varunes read the November 12, 2008 minutes. No additions or corrections were made. Commissioner Chuck Licata made a MOTION to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Commissioner Mary Varunes. MOTION passed unanimously.

Agenda Item- Discussion of Youth Service Bureau/Commission Mission Statement

Mr. Petrucelli distributed copies of the mission statements of the East Haven, Hamden, Madison and Meriden Youth Service Bureau for review. Commissioner Varunes brought a copy of the mission statement of the West Haven Community House for review also. Mr. Petrucelli noted that the mission statements of the Youth Service Bureau and Youth Services Commission will be the same, with the

YSB and Commission both working to accomplish the same goals. Commissioner Licata questioned if this Commission needs to provide oversight with policies and procedures or can focus on programs. The focus will be on programs and community coordination. The YSB is part of East Haven Counseling and Community Services which has its own Commission dealing with policies and procedures. Commissioners Cofrancesco, Fucci, Kuzma and Recinos volunteered to review the mission statements and have a draft ready for the January meeting. Commissioner Camera will provide oversight. Mr. Petrucelli will also be available for assistance.

Agenda Item- Discussion of Community Wide Needs Assessment

Mr. Petrucelli distributed a copy of Search Institute's 40 developmental assets. Twenty years of research has led to the identification of 40 internal and external assets that young people need to thrive. Factors such as family dynamics support from community adults, school effectiveness, peer influence, values development and social skills have been identified as contributing to a comprehensive vision of what young people need to be successful. From these assets a 6 different surveys are available. The Search Institute will tabulate the results and provide appropriate reports. Further information, including costs will be researched and reported back.

Agenda Item- Discussion with Mayor April Capone Almon

A discussion with Mayor April Capone Almon that included the following topics: A new home for the Teen Center program, interacting with the Skate Park Commission, possible uses of the old high school, fundraising opportunities, possible methods of publicizing the Youth Services Commission, new program ideas including groups aimed for girls and peer to peer programs.

All in attendance thanked the Mayor for her support and taking the time out of her busy schedule to meet with the commission.

Commissioner Chuck Licata will make initial inquires about privately owned buildings in town as potential Teen Center sites. Continued

discussion on a Guitar Hero/Battle of the Bands type event in January or February 2009 occurred.

Agenda Item-Teen Commissioners Report

Due to time constraints the Teen Commissioners report will be given at the January meeting.

Agenda Item-To consider and act upon any other matter brought before the commission

No additional items were brought before the commission.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M. was made by Mike D'Amato; seconded by CJ Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Petrucelli
Coordinator, Town of East Haven Youth Service Bureau