



County of Westchester

Youth Board

Minutes

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

6:00 PM

Virtual (WebEx)

Call to Order

Dr. Alexandria Connally moved to open the meeting.
Lisa Perry seconded the motion.
The meeting was opened at 6:07 pm.

Attendance

Present:

Dr. Alexandria Connally (Chair)
Jack Kelly (Co-Chair)
Matthew Evans (first meeting)
Safiya Grant
Isabella Jabbour
Tiffany Lattimer
Sophie Miller
Lisa Perry
Bonnie Reyna
Jermain Smith
Ingraham Taylor
Terry Williams

Absent:

Lucrisha Addison-Harris (excused)
Nathan Campozano
Jenna Ferris
Timothy McKnight
Dr. Bhagwati Mistry (excused)
Rev. Romall F. Smalls (excused)

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Dr. Alexandria Connally moved to accept

Lisa Perry seconded
May meeting minutes approved

Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandria Connally welcomed new Youth Board member Matthew Evans, who introduced himself to the other members. Mr. Evans is a former school board member in Elmsford, and is now the Community School Director at P.S. 171Q in Queens.

Dr. Connally acknowledged and thanked the graduating high school seniors on the board for their service. Jack Kelly graduated from Harrison High School and will be attending Harvard College in the fall, and Safiya Grant graduated from The Ursuline School, and will be attending Emory University in the fall.

Director's Report

Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden stated that the Youth Bureau is working on a plan to acknowledge the youth on the Youth Board and on the Youth Empowerment Council for Change (YECC) with either a press release and/or an outdoor event. She asked the high school seniors to send the Youth Bureau's summer intern a brief bio and head shot.

Dr. Harris-Madden informed the board that the Youth Bureau had approximately 70 applications for the Administrative Aide/Grants Manager position, and is close to filling the position. The Youth Bureau soon will begin the search for a Spanish-speaking Staff Assistant, to be culturally responsive and reflect the community. This staff member will do community outreach and have office responsibilities. If board members know of any candidates, they should let the Youth Bureau know.

Youth Board members are responsible to participate in the Request For Proposals (RFP) process by reviewing proposals. Dr. Harris-Madden explained the RFP process, including that an RFP is an application that allows nonprofits and youth bureaus to apply for funding for Positive Youth Development programs, and outcomes must be demonstrated. The Youth Bureau seeks to improve communities by funding programs that address mental health (no clinical services), economic, and educational issues, among many other areas. The Invest in Kids (IIK) RFP prioritizes 11 communities, but there have been demographic and population shifts as shown by the U.S. Census. Dr. Harris-Madden explained that clinical services cannot be used for these RFPs because they cannot be observed, and the Youth Bureau monitors and observes our programs. The IIK RFP is very robust in the many issues it addresses, and Dr. Harris-Madden will provide training for the reviewers. Indeed, the Youth Bureau will have a presentation on the website so that reviewers and proposers can access it. There is additional funding from New York State for physical health and well-being. The RFPs will be released in the next week or so, and the return date will be in September. The review process will likely take place in October.

Dr. Harris-Madden informed the board that a Children's Cabinet has been created by the Youth Bureau, and the Departments of Community Mental Health and Social Services with grant funding, and information will be shared through it.

Dr. Harris-Madden announced that New York State had selected the Westchester County youth, who resides in Yonkers, to be part of the New York State Governor's Youth Council, and she thanked the board members who were involved in the process.

Ad Hoc Items for Discussion

Dr. Connally shared that Dr. Harris-Madden was honored last month by Westchester County Medical Center for her work at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Connally stated that the Youth Board has a lot of work ahead, and said she will be reaching out to the board to fill the positions of Secretary (responsible for board communications and a Google calendar) and of Vice Chair (because Jack Kelly will be leaving for college), and to set up working committees. She noted that the board has a great deal of talent which should be utilized.

Dr. Connally emphasized the importance of all members being involved in the work, including the RFP reviews. She added that members should be out in the community and visiting Youth Bureau programs. She asked the members to follow the Youth Bureau on social media, and to share information and posts.

Youth Board Vice Chair Jack Kelly asked members if they had any issues to raise at the meeting. Ingraham Taylor stated that she agreed with Dr. Connally that scheduling should start early with a calendar. Mr. Kelly emphasized the importance of board members being visible in the community, and amplifying the Youth Bureau's and Youth Board's work on social media.

Safiya Grant asked about a celebration for the high school graduates with Playland season passes, and Dr. Harris-Madden responded that the Youth Bureau is working on it, starting with a press release. Dr. Harris-Madden further explained that since the county no longer controls Playland's operations, the Youth Bureau is unable to get season passes. Furthermore, since this board is not a fundraising board, there are no funds that can be used for a big event. The Youth Bureau is holding Ridge Road Park for a possible event in July.

Dr. Harris-Madden stated that the county's Youth Poet Laureate graduated high school last year and has not been replaced. She will ask the board to make the selection.

Bonnie Reyna asked if the needs assessment has been completed, and Dr. Harris-Madden answered that the process has just started and that staff member Susan Weisman is the point person for this project. Dr. Harris-Madden stated that Metis was hired as the consultant to conduct the needs assessment, and that the needs assessment includes some

focus groups and stakeholder interviews. The Youth Bureau is working with two local organizations that are also conducting focus groups to be incorporated into the needs assessment.

Ms. Reyna stated that youth voice is very important and appreciates Dr. Harris-Madden's advocacy in adding youth voice to the work. Dr. Harris-Madden acknowledged the importance of youth voice, and discussed making sure that all groups are engaged, including those who may not feel connected.

Mr. Kelly said he is available to support the board while he transitions to leave for college, and Dr. Harris-Madden said she appreciates his offer, and understands that he will need to focus on school. Mr. Kelly suggested that the July meeting agenda should include a discussion of the vacant board positions. Ms. Reyna thanked Mr. Kelly for his leadership.

Adjournment

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.