



## LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

### Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of February 26, 2020

Kirstin Moshier-Co-Chairperson and Student Representative-Lowville Academy, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers.

**Present:** Scott Mathys-Co-Chair, Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis, Mike Leviker, Alyssa Brower-Student Representative-Lowville Academy, Deanna Edick, John Exford, Ward Dailey, Katie Zehr and Peyton Walker-Student Representative-Copenhagen Central School. **Excused:** Rhonda Vanucchi, Michele Ledoux and Cinda Bush. **Others Present:** Randy LaChausse- Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. **Guests Present:** Kiley Hilyer-Child Advocacy Center of NNY and Lead Advocate/Lewis County Safe Harbour, Eileen Mathys and Lisa Peebles.

**Introductions and Welcome:** The board welcomed Eileen Mathys and Lisa Peebles who will be appointed to serve on the Youth Board, by the Lewis County Board of Legislators for a 2-year appointment beginning March 3, 2020 to March 3, 2022.

**Minutes:** Review of the January 15, 2020 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meeting minutes: Peyton Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Kallie Bauter seconded. **Motion Carried.**

#### **Correspondence:**

A Thank you note from the Lowville Raiders Pop Warner Football and Cheer program was received. In 2019 the Youth Board allocated a portion of their 2019 County Projects Funds to purchase new football Jerseys for the team.

**Lewis County Safe Harbour-Seed Funding:** As part of the NYS Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act of 2008 that protects commercially sexually exploited children by recognizing them as victims and paves the way for better outcomes, Lewis County is one of the last seven counties to receive Safe Harbour-Seed Funding. The Youth Board has contracted with the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County who are an oversight agency for the local Child Advocacy Center, to coordinate our 1<sup>st</sup> year efforts to raise local outreach and awareness, in an effort to support youth survivors of trafficking. **Victims Assistance Center's-Lewis County Safe Harbour Contract-Breakdown:** Personnel Services = \$10,638 (8-hours per week average – VAC; Public Awareness Campaign = \$3,462; Printing Program Materials = \$1,000; Wrap around funds/client assistance (food, clothing, hygiene products, transportation, phones, fee-for-service care, etc.) = \$2,000; Staff Training and Development = \$400; Travel: \$1,500; and Public-Raise Awareness Campaign/Other: \$11,000.

Kiley Hilyer-Lead Advocate for Lewis County Safe Harbour provided a power point that included the following: What is Human Trafficking; New York State Safe Harbour Law; Recruitment (how easily children are recruited into human trafficking); Where does recruitment happen; The Stats; Who are the Traffickers; Red Flags; Risk Tolerance; Why Is it Difficult to Leave; Behavioral Indicators of Trauma Bonds; Effective

Interaction; Safety Planning; Safety Toolkit; Where Lewis County-Safe Harbour Is At; and Training Programs Available. Kiley repeatedly, noted how important it is that we have community buy-in when presenting outreach and awareness on the topic of human trafficking. Kiley, stated “It has been a struggle getting into Jefferson County School Districts.” Scott advised that the Lewis County Youth Board makeup includes student representatives from each, public school district in Lewis County, therefore maybe the students could assist in getting the outreach and awareness messages to their school districts.

Plans for Lewis County Safe Harbour-Seed Funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> year will be outreach and public awareness and will include:

- Public Training at Libraries
- Training for Professionals
- Conference at the Boondocks in Lyons Falls, with a tentative date of November 17, 2020. This will be a coordinated effort between Lewis and Jefferson County Safe Harbour. Our plan is to secure Keynote Speaker, Rachel Lloyd-Founder and CEO of GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services). Invitees to the conference will include health & human services agencies, educators, law enforcement, and the general public.
- At the request of the Youth Board, there will be a concentrated effort to use local media outlets for ongoing distribution of awareness and educational materials. Kiley reported that she is working with Nick Altmire from Linking Lewis County to have monthly awareness posters/articles on Linking Lewis County Website
- As requested, Kiley has also reached out to Lewis County Public Transportation to possibly advertise awareness information via a bus wrap on Lewis County Public Transportation Buses as well as in Lewis County Bus Shelters.

#### **Old Business:**

**Youth Bureau/DSS Merger:** Scott reported that in January a telephone conference call was held regarding the merger process. On the call was Penny, Scott, Jennifer Jones-Commissioner, Ryan Piche-County Manager, Randy LaChausse-Legislator, Matt Newman-NYS OCFS Youth Development Specialist and Matt Beck, Director-NYS OCFS Bureau of Youth Development. Once the merger is in place, it is important to note that it will not change the structure of the youth board. The only significant change is that the Department of Social Services Fiscal unit will assist with the Youth Boards, fiscal/claims piece. The merger document has been submitted to NYS OCFS for review and approval. Once approval is granted the document will then be forwarded to the Lewis County Board of Legislators for approval.

#### **New Business:**

**2020 Resource Allocation Plan:** The Office of Children and Family Services have not yet officially released the 2020 allocation of Youth Development funds allocated to counties engaged in comprehensive planning for youth services, however it is anticipated the amount will be the same as prior years of \$21,115.00, without the “Legislative Add On” funds that we typically receive in May or June of each year. Penny has submitted a resolution to the Board of Legislators to approve the 2020 Resource Allocation Plan based on last year’s amount of \$21,115.00. This allows the youth board to activate the process to begin requesting proposals (specifically for program proposals that run year to year). If we do receive an additional OCFS allocation later this year, the Resource Allocation Plan will be amended to reflect the amount.

**After Discussion: Kallie Bauter moved to allocate \$14,000.00 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development funds to support Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Early Intervention programs. Peyton Walker seconded. Motion Carried.**

A Press Release **announcing the availability of up to \$14,000.00 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds will be issued as follows:** The Lewis County Youth Board is seeking applicants interested in offering program opportunities for youth under the age of 21 that are designed to prevent juvenile delinquency through positive youth development. These funds target early intervention and prevention services that are designed to curb the high priority problems facing youth. Programs should include a component of preventive education and or drug prevention awareness. The funds are intended to be used for youth most likely to become involved in the criminal justice system and to expand community services. **The deadline for submission of applications will be April 3, 2020.** Applicants will be invited to the April 15<sup>th</sup> Youth Board meeting where the youth board can ask questions to the applicant pertaining to their application. It is anticipated funding awards will be made at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was also requested that that the board approve of **allocating \$500 in 2020 YDF to cover the Youth Board Administrative** costs to include postage, OCFS dues (\$40), miscellaneous supplies (certificates of appreciation, etc.). Any unused funds would be used to support a portion of the director's stipend. (this request is \$100 less than requested last year). **After discussion Peyton Walker moved to allocated \$500 to cover the 2020 Youth Board Administrative costs. Alyssa Brower seconded. Motion Carried.**

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at the Lewis County Courthouse at 4pm in the Legislative Chambers.**

**Adjournment:** Ward Dailey moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55pm. Mike Leviker seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny L. Moser, Director  
Lewis County Youth Bureau