



LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

P.O. Box 193, 5274 Outer Stowe Street
Lowville, New York 13367
Telephone: (315) 376-5411
Fax: (315) 376-6189

Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of April 22, 2020

Scott Mathys, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. The meeting was held via Telephone Conference Call.

Present: Kirstin Moshier-Co-Chair and Student Representative from Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis, Alyssa Brower-Student Representative-Lowville Academy, Heather Puddington-Student Representative-Beaver River, Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, John Exford, Katie Zehr, Lisa Rennie, Eileen Mathys and Michelle Ledoux. **Excused:** Rhonda Vanucchi. **Others Present:** Randy LaChausse- Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee, Richard Chartrand Legislator and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. **Guest:** Miriam Watkins-Student BRCS District.

Introductions and Welcome:

Minutes: Review of the February 26, 2020 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meeting minutes: **Katie Zehr made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson seconded. Motion Carried.**

Old Business

Lewis County Safe Harbour-Update: Penny reiterated that the Youth Bureau has contracted with the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County who are the oversight agency for the local Child Advocacy Center, to coordinate the 1st year efforts to raise local outreach and awareness, in an effort to support youth survivors of trafficking. Kiley Hilyer-is the Lead Advocate for Lewis County Safe Harbor. She is working with Linking Lewis County and Lewis County Public Transportation on the awareness piece as well as scheduling several awareness trainings in Lewis County. The majority of the first year Safe Harbour funding for Lewis County will be used for a professional 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 Counties Safe Harbour programs. The 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. The conference is pending due to the COVID-19.

Old Business:

Youth Bureau/DSS Merger-Update: The merger document was submitted to the NYS Office of Children and Family Services a few months ago for review and approval. Once approval is granted the document will then go to the Lewis County Board of Legislators for final approval.

Lewis County Night Out-Discussion: The Youth Board recently allocated \$1,615 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development funds to support the 9th annual LCNO event scheduled for September 11, 2020 at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. Discussion was held regarding if it is wise to hold the event due to the potential for a

second wave of COVID-19 in the fall which is the emphasis of Public Health. **After much discussion, consensus of the board is we will monitor the ability to hold the event based upon a few factors including the cancelling of the Lewis County Fair; and the State Pause Order extension. Final determination could be done through a small Ad Hoc group of the Youth Board that could be called upon prior to the Youth Boards May meeting. If the topic remains unclear, the Youth Board will revisit it at our May Youth board meeting and will be ready to make a commitment one way or another.**

Senior-Student Representatives- Recruitment Efforts: Our Senior Student Representatives term on the board are slated to end June 30, 2020. Our seniors have begun recruitment efforts to replace themselves on the board. Per our By Laws we can have up to 2 students from each public, school district on the board. ■ Heather introduced Miriam Watkins who has expressed interest in being appointed to the youth board. Kirstin advised that she has connected to her school guidance counselor to assist in recruitment efforts. Alyssa advised that she may have, a potential replacement. ■ Student representatives who do not have a replacement in mind, please let Penny or Scott know as soon as possible as we want to make sure we have at least one representative from each school district appointed to the youth board.

NYS Governor's Youth Council – Update: The New York State Governor's Youth Council provides an effective way to engage youth in state government and creates a platform for their voices to be heard by policymakers. Members of the NYS Governor's Youth Council will offer their solutions to key issues facing young people in NYS to the Governor and other policymakers, including how to have better outreach and communication strategies to young people. The application deadline was December 23, 2019. Announcements were made March 2nd. A Lewis County Student applied and was appointed to the NYS Governor's Youth Council...more to come on the student.

2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds (Up to \$14,000)-Review of applications and awarding of funds: On April 13, 2020 the Youth Board received via email the following: The April 22nd agenda along with today's telephone conference call in number; Summary of applications received; and a copy of each application. The board was asked to review the applications and email Penny by April 17th with any questions they may have for the applicant. Penny contacted the applicant for answers to the questions asked. * Answers to the questions were emailed to the board on April 17, 2020. A total of five (5) applications were received as follows:

1. **Lowville Police Department – Youth Aid Officer & Safe Child ID Program:** The New York State certified Youth Aid Officer will interact with youth that have interactions with the police department and provide guidance for troubled youth. Youth Aid Officer will conduct and/or provide guidance in the appropriate manner to interact with youth, coming in contact with law enforcement from interviews through arrest. Department Youth Aid Officer and Chief will also conduct or supervise the administration of issuing free identification cards through the "Safe Child" identification system at public functions and upon request of individual youth groups. The police department will be spending funds to send an officer to the week-long Basic NYS Certified Youth Aid Officer Course. Projected total program enrollment = 1,100 with a projected daily attendance of 15. This program runs January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. **Total Cost for this program is \$40,000 – \$48,000. Requested \$6,000.**
2. **Lewis County Sheriff's Office- Juvenile Aid Program:** The Lewis County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Aid Officer Program is available throughout the whole county and includes 2 School

Resource Officer's at South Lewis Central and Harrisville Central School Districts. The program is designed to educate youth throughout the county about drug education and making good decisions. The program includes children from lower, middle, and upper, class families. Officer's in the program focus on building relationships with the children so it is easier for the children to approach the officer with questions and problems. Projected total program enrollment = 2,000 with a projected daily attendance of 600. This program runs January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. **Total Program Amount is \$90,000. Requested \$5,000.**

3. **Double Play Community Center – Adolescent Enrichment Program:** The Adolescent Enrichment Program is for youth between the ages 13-18 and will provide 4 categories for enrollment and socialization development. Classes will include Photography, Guitar, Art, and Youth Rec/Socialization time. The activities will provide excellent sources of enrichment and learning in areas not afforded to youth in academic settings. This program will also develop social awareness skills in an alternative setting to that of general school program. Projected total program enrollment = 30 with a projected daily attendance of 30. This program will begin June 2020 through November 2020. **Total Program Amount \$6,080. Requested: \$3,000. It was noted that the application has merit, however, does not match the description of Juvenile delinquency prevention summary as well as other applications.**
4. **Resolution Center of Jefferson and Lewis Counties – Community and Youth Restorative Practices Program:** The Community and Youth Restorative Practices Program (CYRPP) formerly known as Youth Court, has evolved from punitive youth diversion programming in 1997 to a holistic community, family and youth restorative model in 2016. This project is the first of its kind in the tri-county region to integrate peer mediation into vetted Lewis County schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Groups of middle school students will be fully trained to mediate and help resolve peer disputes. Under the guidance of the CYRPP, the awarded schools will offer a program that best fits their climate and student population needs. Projected total program enrollment = 2 schools: Estimate of 117 youth: 45 trainees, and 72 respondents with a projected daily attendance of 1 session per week for each of 2 schools with an average of 5 people involved per session = 2 people average per day. This program will begin April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 (note: CYRPP actually runs, through 3/31/2021). **Total Program Amount \$50,000. Requested: \$5,000.**
5. **Mountain View Prevention Services - School Based Prevention Counseling Program:** This School based Prevention Counseling Program serves students in Lewis County schools from K-grade 12. The program provides counseling for youth dealing with problems such as substance use, gambling, family use/family management issues, academic issues, peer problems, and behavioral issues. It supports the student in decreasing risk factors while increasing protective factors to assist with making better decisions while enhancing bonding to the school and community. The student meets with the Prevention Counselor Educator individually or in a group setting to address any identified concerns. The program will also serve as an information and referral source in instances that are identified as additional need for students. Projected total program enrollment = 174 with the Projected daily attendance of 21. This program began January 2020 and ends December 2020. **Total Program Amount \$122,435.00. Requested: \$14,000.**

After discussion Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson moved to award the 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds in the total amount of \$14,000 as follows: Lowville Police Department-Youth Aid Officer Program/Safe Child ID Cards-\$6,000; Lewis County Sheriff's Office – Juvenile Aid Officer Program-

\$5,000; Mountain View Prevention Services – School Based Prevention Counseling Program: \$3,000. Katie Zehr seconded. Motion Passed. Abstained: Mike Leviker.

Recipients of funding will be notified via a telephone call and a formal letter indicating the amount of funding allocated to their program and will be advised that the funding is pending final approval of the Youth Board's 2020 Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Youth Development Funds Allocation.

2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds -Municipality Run Recreation Program – Allocated \$5,000 – Update: Penny advised that although the Youth Bureau previously approved of allocating \$5,000 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds to support Municipality Run Recreational Programs through a competitive application process, due to COVID-19, specifically the Governors' Pause Order, at this time it is unknown if municipalities will be able to offer summer recreational programs this year. Therefore, a press release announcing the availability of funds has not yet been released.

New Business

2020 County Project Funds (\$5,000) available: During the 2020 budget process, the youth board requested and were approved for \$5,000 from the county to be used for youth projects that support positive youth activities/programs in Lewis County. This funding **can** be used to support existing youth programs that had a decrease in funding, were eliminated or for new youth programs. County Projects funds, however, **cannot be used to support salaries.** The Youth Board can either designate the funds to a specific type of youth program or open the funding up to any youth program/event through a competitive application process. **In 2019 the Youth Board opened the county project funds up to any Lewis County youth program. Programs funded in 2019 included:** Up! Community Coalition – Choices and Consequences Inflatable MEGA Brain that was displayed at the Lewis County Fair-\$500; Double Play Community Center – Teen Enrichment Program – Video and Photography Program-\$1,250; Village of Castorland-Play Ground Equipment-\$2,000; and Lowville Pop Warner-new Football Jerseys for the youth football teams-\$1,250.

After discussion, consensus of the youth board membership is to open the 2020 County Project Funds (Up to \$5,000) to any Lewis County Youth Program. Penny will issue a press release announcing the availability of funds. The deadline to submit applications will be June 1, 2020.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 4pm.** The meeting is most likely to be via Telephone Conference Call.

Adjournment: Mike Leviker moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:06pm, Heather Puddington seconded. **Motion carried.**

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

