



LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of May 20, 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 Lowville Academy, Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative-South Lewis Central, John Exford, Katie Zehr, Lisa Rennie, Eileen Mathys, Alyssa Brower-Student Representative-Lowville Academy and Michele Ledoux. **Excused:** Mike Leviker. **Others Present:** Randy LaChausse- Chairperson-Health and Human Services Legislative Committee and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau.

Introductions and Welcome: Students who have confirmed to be appointed to the Lewis County Youth Bureau were invited and participated in today's telephone conference call as follows: Nathan Schmitt and Amy Manchester-who will be representing Harrisville Central; David Fayle and Ramsey Metzler who will be representing Lowville Academy; and Emma Reid who will represent South Lewis Central along with Kallie. Appointments begin June 30, 2020 and will end when they graduate from high school.

Minutes: Due to lack of quorum, approval of the April 22, 2020 minutes, were not acted on, therefore will be acted on at the June meeting.

Old Business

Lewis County Night Out-Discussion: At the April Youth Bureau meeting discussion was held if it was wise to hold the event due to the potential for a second wave of COVID-19 as well as the State Pause order. Consensus of the board was to monitor the ability to hold the event based upon factors such as if the Lewis County Fair were to cancel and if the State Pause Order was extended. **Update:** After further discussion, with the 2020 Lewis County Fair being officially cancelled as well as all the unknowns as it relates to COVID-19, specifically social distancing, *the general consensus of board members present is to postpone the annual Lewis County Night Out event that was scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2020 at the Lewis County Fair Grounds. The event will be held in September 2021 (date to be determined).* Penny will contact last year's vendors; cancel the use of the Fairgrounds; and will send a brief statement regarding the cancellation to post on Linking Lewis County Website, Lowville Journal & Republican and Falck Broadcasting.

Note: The Youth Bureau had previously allocated \$1,615 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds to support the 9th Annual LCNO event, however with the cancellation of the event, Penny reported that in May, she participated in the monthly Youth Bureau Central & Southern Tier Regional telephone conference call, where it was advised that due to the impact of COVID-19, youth bureaus could see a 10% to 20% or more cut in 2020 funds. Therefore, she suggested that we hold on to the \$1,615 until OCFS has officially released

the final 2020 allocations, which is anticipated to be in June. **Consensus is to hold on to the funds until OCFS officially releases the Final 2020 allocation amount.**

Reminder: The Youth Bureau had previously allocated \$5,000 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds to support Municipality Run Summer Recreation Programs. A press release announcing the availability of these funds **has not yet been issued** due to not knowing the actual 2020 allocation amount.

Request: Annually, during the Lewis County Night Out opening ceremony the LCNO Committee, made up of members from the Youth Bureau, Lewis County Opportunities, Law Enforcement, and NRCIL, recognize a notable prevention agency, or first responders, or community members. In 2019 we recognized local Police K9's, Therapy Dogs and their handlers. Although the 2020 LCNO event is cancelled, Penny suggested that the Youth Bureau somehow thank our, community as a whole, during the onset and the continuation of COVID-19.

Update: One suggestion was a recognition plaque however the question would be where would we display it for all to see? Co-Chair Mathys, provided an alternative way to recognize the community with a short concise message such as **"The Lewis County Youth Bureau Thanks the Community. Stay Safe."** This message or other messages could be displayed in the following ways:

- On display at the Lowville Town Hall Theater.
- On School Districts Digital Boards
- On Fire Department Outside Boards
- A Banner on the Fairgrounds Fence
- Message on Linking Lewis County Website
- Message(s) will also be placed on the Lewis County Youth Bureau Website.

Please contact Penny with any other message suggestions, as well as if you are willing to reach out to school districts and other places regarding utilizing their message boards.

Community Youth Board Members: Three of our current community board members to include Michele Ledoux, Ward Dailey, and Deanna Edick, term on the board was slated to end June 30, 2020. All were contacted and have confirmed that they would like to be re-appointed to another 2-year term. A Resolution has been submitted to the Lewis County Board of Legislators for approval. beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

2020 County Project Funds (\$5,000) available – Re-Cap and Update: During the 2020 budget process, the youth board requested and were allocated \$5,000 from the county to be used for youth projects that support positive youth activities/programs in Lewis County. The 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. **At the youth bureau's April meeting, the board elected to open the county project funding up to any Lewis County youth program.** A press release announcing the availability of up to \$5,000 was issued to the Journal & Republican, Linking Lewis County, and was posted on the Youth Bureau's website on April 28, 2020. The deadline to submit applications is June 1, 2020. Prior to our June meeting, Penny will email a copy of each application received along with a summary page, to the youth bureau to review and will ask that the board email her by June 10th with any questions they may have for the applicants. Penny will contact applicants for answers with the answers emailed to the full board prior to our June 17th meeting.

New Business

Election of Officers: Per the Youth Bureau's By-Laws, officers are selected by majority vote at our annual meeting in June. Officers shall be elected to a 2-year term and shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in any one office. The Officer position of Co-Chair currently held by Kirstin Moshier will be up for nomination due to her graduating from high school. **Katie Zehr, Kallie Bauter and Scott Mathys-Co-Chair volunteered to be on the nominating committee and will present a slate of candidates at the June 17, 2020 Youth Bureau Board Meeting.**

Pratt Northam Foundation Workership Program: Scott Mathys, Co-Chair reported that the Pratt Northam Foundation had previously awarded organizations in the community with Summer Workership funds. These funds are used by agencies to hire students during the summer months. Due to the COVID-19 impact, Pratt Northam Foundation has since cancelled all, of those awards, therefore all, of those position will not be made available.

2020 Seasonal Bus Run to Old Forge: Scott Mathys, Co-Chair reported that Lewis County Public Transportations, Seasonal Bus run to Old Forge was supposed to start June 6th. It has been revised to now start June 26th. It was changed because businesses such as Waterparks are not able to be open right now. It is anticipated the Waterparks fall under Phase IV. **Update:** The revised 2020 Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge schedule was forwarded to the board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 4pm.** The meeting is likely to be via telephone conference call however Legislator LaChausse advised that the Youth Bureau may be able to resume their meetings at the Lewis County Courthouse beginning in June however this is dependent on the Governor's guidelines in Phase 2 for social distancing.

June Agenda Items will Include: Awarding of 2020 County Project Funds and Celebrating and Honoring our Senior Youth Bureau Student Representatives as follows:

- Kirstin Moshier, Co-Chairperson – Student Representative Lowville Academy
- Alysa Brower – Student Representative Lowville Academy
- Justine Schmidt – Student Representative Harrisville Central School
- Chloe Benson – Student Representative Harrisville Central School
- Heather Puddington – Student Representative Beaver River Central School

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

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