



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 February 17, 2021

Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Officers: Co-Chairs: Scott Mathys and Kallie Bauter Student Representative South Lewis Central and Vice-Chairperson Peyton Walker Student Representative Copenhagen Central. **Student Representatives:** David Fayle-Lowville Academy and Adah Simpson-Beaver River Central. **Community Members:** Deanna Edick, Lisa Rennie, Katie Zehr, Michele Ledoux, Eileen Mathys, Ward Dailey, and John Exford. **Guest Present:** Jennifer Jones, Commissioner. **Legislator Present:** Legislator Lisa Virkler. **Guest Present:** Jennifer Jones, Commissioner. **Excused:** Mike Leviker, Cinda Bush and Brian Finn.

Introductions and Welcome

Minutes Review of January 20, 2021 Youth Bureau meeting minutes. **Peyton Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Michele Ledoux seconded. Motion Carried.**

Old Business

Governor's Youth Council-Update: At the Governor's State of the State address in the spring of 2019, he had announced a new initiative that would include obtaining youth voice from around the state. The formation of the youth council is intended to provide an effective way to engage youth in state government and creates a platform for their voices to be heard by policymakers. Members of the Youth Council will offer their solutions to key issues facing young people in NYS to the Governor and other policymakers. The Youth Council has been meeting regularly via zoom under the leadership of Brian Chetney, Oswego County Youth Bureau and Matt Newman-OCFS. Unfortunately, permission to announce the name of the Lewis County Youth that was selected has not yet been granted by OCFS. Penny has provided the name to Commissioner Jones.

Transition Plans-Updates

Commissioner Jones reported that with Penny's retirement announcement transition plans are being made. A resolution to appoint Deanna Edick, current Youth Bureau Community Member and Director of Services at Lewis County Department of Social Services to the Director's position and Ramona Carpenter, Senior Keyboard Specialist at Lewis County DSS to the Youth Bureau Assistant position. Both requests have been sent to the Board of Legislators for approval at their March 2, 2021 board meeting.

(Transition Plan Updates-Continued)

Co-Chairperson Mathys advised that he would be open to setting up an Ad Hoc committee to assist Deanna with additional questions she may have pertaining to her new role of Youth Bureau Director as it relates to the history of the youth bureau as well as the flow of the monthly meetings.

Co-Chairs Scott Mathys and Kallie Bauter along with other members of the youth bureau board along with Commissioner Jones, thanked Penny for her 19 years of services on the board.

2020 OCFS Youth Development and Safe Harbour – Claims

Claims for both 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds and Safe Harbour Funds will be provided to Deanna Edick to send to the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for reimbursement to the County.

Penny reported that she met with Deanna Edick to go over OCFS claims and all other Youth Bureau functions. She will also be meeting with Larry Noftsier, Fiscal Director at DSS who will be handling the YB fiscal piece.

2021 (2nd Year of Lewis County Safe Harbour) Workplan

Commissioner Jones reported that the 2021 Safe Harbour Plan has been submitted and approved by OCFS. The top needs identified in Lewis County include outreach, education and presentations. The major challenge at this, time is the Pandemic and the use of virtual instead of in person training opportunities.

Deanna reported that she is working on the protocol for sex trafficking.

A core team will be developed by adding to our existing Child Advocacy Center team members.”

Lewis County Safe Harbour will be building a response process for identified youth while increasing training opportunities for those people in the response process. The budget also includes funding for 8 hours per week for a skilled Safe Harbour Coordinator. The Safe Harbour Coordinator will continue to offer training to local professionals, including law enforcement, schools and community groups. Flexible Funds: The use of Flexible Funds start with the intake of the youth. The Safe Harbour Coordinator will refer to the local Lewis County designated advocate at Lewis County Opportunities. The Safe Harbour Coordinator will provide the 2-part training to LCOI advocate staff.

New Business

2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds “Final” Allocation

On January 21st Penny contacted Matthew Newman our Region 3 OCFS representative for clarification on the use of the additional funds. Mr. Newman advised that youth bureaus are unable to rollover the funds to 2021 but an amendment can be made to add the additional funds to the 2020 program year. ■ Penny consulted with Co-Chairperson Scott Mathys who agreed that an amendment will be processed to increase our 2020 OCFS YDF amount to \$23,399. Kallie Bauter-Co Chairperson and Peyton Walker-Vice Chairperson were also made aware of this change. The \$2,284 will be included in the 2020 Youth Bureau Administration Account dedicated for postage, OCFS dues and to offset the director’s stipend.

Association of NY State Youth Bureau's 2021-2022 Executive Budget

ANYSYB has announced the 2021-2022 Youth Development Budget priorities to include: Restore Proposed 5% cut to Youth Development programs. The 2021 -2022 Executive Budget imposed a 5% reduction for Youth Development programs, from 14.12 million to 13.4 million. This will have a direct impact on afterschool services provided to over 1.3 million youth statewide through county, city, town and village youth bureaus.

Penny thanked the Board for being the exceptional board that they are. She explained that 19 years ago she was the Assistant to Jim Davis, former Commissioner at Lewis County DSS. Commissioner Davis was appointed as the Youth Bureau Director, and she was appointed as the Youth Bureau Assistant as "all other duties as assigned." Penny stated that she was so thankful that she was appointed on the board as she has absolutely loved working with our community members and youth from each school districts in Lewis County. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the capacity of both the Youth Board Director and Assistant.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 4pm via zoom.**

- Cassie Forbus, UP! Community Coalition Coordinator will present on the 2020 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Youth Survey.

Adjournment: Kallie Bauter-Co Chairperson moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm, Katie Zehr seconded. **Motion carried.**

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