YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
January 27, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, January 27, 2025, at East Granby Farms in the white house. Robert Ravens-Seger called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Members also present were Art Reardon, Sara Kleinman, Bonnie Jones, and Mia Hines. Alicia Van Neil and Becky Hayes (Program Coordinators) were also present. Evan Hanks was absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

A Van Neil received a thank you letter from Friend-to-Friend for the Halloween Party. She also received a donation request from Project Grad of East Granby.

Motion: Mia Hines made a motion do donate $500 to Project Grad of East Granby. Bonnie Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

R Ravens-Seger noted the date on the minutes should read December 16th, not 18th. A motion was made by S Kleinman and seconded by A Reardon to accept the minutes from December 16, 2024, as amended. All approved. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A./B. Programming/Prevention-

A Van Neil reported the Lunchtime Reset program at the Middle School in December was about stress management. There was a bounce house, information about wellness and moving your body, along with a wellness challenge over winter break with raffle winners. This Friday's program will be about Social Media to follow-up on Trooper White's presentation about Social Media from December. The presentation went well and will be offered to parents and maybe 4th and 5th grade students in the future. B Jones mentioned talking to Middle School students more about how to be kind on Social Media would be beneficial. S Kleinman talked about the book club that will be held for families that could find the discussion beneficial. The book that will be discussed is "Good Inside" and will be held for 5 weeks, starting on March 6th. A Van Neil noted that this will be the kickoff of a series of book clubs held jointly with the Farmington Valley Health Department (FVHD) and the East Granby Library. S Kleinman reported that Love and Logic program for parenting kids with special needs will be held for 4 weeks in May. Seymour's Hangout has started. Girls Circle is still on hold waiting for a facilitator. A Van Neil mentioned Samantha Forbes was meant to join the meeting tonight to discuss how grant money is used for prevention purposes. The grant money earmarked for prevention must be used for vaping awareness, as is the State's topic of interest for the year. S Kleinman also mentioned that Family Resource Night is coming up on

March 19th. Parks and Rec and Youth Services will have tables there. Scott Menard, our SRO, may also be there with information about how families with children with special needs can file a form to have on file at the police department.

C. **YAC Update-** J Kovaleski reported that the HS YAC did some team building exercises at their last meeting and will be making Valentine's Day cards for the elderly to be distributed by the Commission on Aging at the next meeting. The students will be planning out the spring activities: Mental Health Training for Youth Program (along with the NHS students), Community Service opportunities, Earth Day clean-up, Sports Day, and an End-of-the-year celebration. A Van Neil reported on the MS YAC. MS students will be attending QPR Training on 2/27, which is basic mental health first aid for youth- a precursor for the HS training. They will also be making Valentine's Day cards and are considering having the Veteran's Group attend a meeting as guest speakers. They may also prepare a meal for them with Nourish My Soul's assistance. A Van Neil also mentioned that the re-application process is getting organized and will begin soon.

D. **JRB Update-** A Reardon noted a quarterly meeting was held at the beginning of the month. There was full attendance, and a group round table was held at the end. A Reardon also noted that the board had a 100% success rate for cases in 2024 for family's attendance, completion, and re-integration. He also mentioned that the wording of the JRB composition needs to be reworked, per Christing Gallagher at the town hall, for appointments of new members to the board. A differentiation needs to be made between elected members (8) and members appointed due to their town positions in their official capacity. For example, if the person holding the position of the SRO changes, the newly appointed person would take over the spot on the JRB automatically. The following verbiage was presented:

"The Juvenile Review Board will be comprised of eleven total members, of which eight will be community members, and three will be employees of the town of East Granby, acting in their official capacity.

The eight community members will be appointed by the Board of Selectman, serve a six-month probationary period, followed by a biannual review with the Youth Services Supervisor. All community members will be required to complete a background check per Town of East Granby guidelines before the probationary period.

The Youth Services Supervisor shall appoint three members who are employees of the town of East Granby and are acting in their official capacity. The appointees will be a School Resource Officer, the director of social services, and a school administrator or designee. Additionally, the Youth Services Supervisor will appoint a case manager for the program."

Motion: S Kleinman made a motion to accept the verbiage as presented to regarding the members of the Juvenile Review Board. Mia Hines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. **JRB MOU-** This Memorandum of Understanding is about sharing information between the case manager of the JRB and the school without having to use a release of information form. This would allow faster communication.
B. **JRB in-person meetings-** A Reardon and B Jones discussed how a parent who was struggling with finding time for meetings had requested a virtual meeting. Virtual meetings are not ideal, so the board would like to officially define meetings to ensure they will be held in-person.

Motion: A Reardon made a motion to have all JRB hearings be held in-person for the juvenile and at least one parent/guardian before the board. S Kleinman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Needs Assessment- A Van Neil discussed the need for a Needs Assessment. Farmington Valley Health Department said the mandatory Youth Risk Behavior Survey that the state will be managing will not share the data at the town level and will not require 100% participation, so it will not work for a Needs Assessment. She will reach back out the FVHD to see if they can help perform a Needs Assessment because the last one cost $6000 and that amount is not currently in the budget. B Jones suggested using a free survey created by the CDC. She will research to see how the results could be analyzed from it.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Hayes noted she has been working on a brochure for the JRB.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by B Jones and seconded by A Reardon to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. Votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk