YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
March 24, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, March 24, 2025, at East Granby Farms in the white house. Robert Ravens-Seger called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Members also present were Art Reardon, Mia Hines, and Sara Kleinman, and Bonnie Jones. Alicia Van Neil (Program Coordinator) was also present. Evan Hanks was absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

B Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting. A Reardon seconded them. All in favor. Motion carried. Voting on the minutes from the February 24th meeting was tabled to next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A./B. Programming/Prevention-

S Kleinman talked about the book club that she is leading in place of Love and Logic. The book is titled: "Good Inside: A Guide to Becoming the Parent You Want to Be". There are five parents attending. There was a Family Resource Night where Youth Services had a table. Love and Logic will be held in May for parents with children who have special needs. A Van Neil is also running a one-night book discussion with Farmington Valley Health Department with a book titled: "Glow Kids" on April 10th. There are at least 12 families attending, and the meeting will be hybrid. The Hang Out session is going well. Boys Council will be held in May. Alisa Ruggerio is training to be able to hold Girls Circle. The Middle School check-in session is scheduled for this week, and a care package will be sent in place of attending due to visits with the 7th and 8th grade health classes. A Van Neil will be meeting with 7th and 8th grade classes separately to discuss substance prevention and how to make good choices as they gain independence in High School. Each student will be receiving a vaping prevention kit. A Van Neil will be talking to Mr. Ziff, the Middle School Health Teacher, about setting up meetings with classes quarterly next year. R Ravens-Seger asked M Hines if the Middle School programs were effective. M Hines said it gets people thinking about the actions people are taking and about substance abuse more than they would otherwise. B Jones mentioned kids who try substances in Middle School statistically keep using in High School. Therefore, creating an awareness at an early age is beneficial. A Van Neil mentioned she and SRO Menard scheduled Jason Tardy, the Juggler who talks about bullying, to come to the Middle School in September. They are also arranging the social media

presentation for the fifth grade students as they move up to Middle School, and then to their parents at parent orientation. A Van Neil also mentioned that building the Resilience Grows Here section at the library with Farmington Valley Health Department is underway.

C. YAC Update- A Van Neil shared the timeline for reapplying/applying for next year. Both groups have been having mid-year evaluations. Middle School YAC has a dinner with the Veterans tomorrow night where each group will talk about what they do. The Great Skate is on Saturday. The group will be meeting with Nourish My Soul in April where they will learn about nutrition and cook a meal. The group will be taking a field trip to the Food Pantry and the Thrift Store in April. On April 22nd, the group will be holding an Earth Day Celebration/Clean-up at Granbrook Park. There will be a scavenger hunt, DEEP will be releasing trout, snacks, crafts, and a clean-up of the park. The High School YAC will be attending a Mental Health First Aid Training on April 5th. Five students with the facilitator will be going to Loaves and Fishes on Monday to serve a meal to those with food insecurities. The group may be holding a movie night and they are working on putting together a Sports Day at the elementary schools in the beginning of May. Both groups are deciding on an end-of-year celebration.

D. JRB Update- A Reardon reported the JRB will be holding a quarterly meeting next week. They are working on some administrative work. B Jones mentioned there is currently one active case. A Van Neil said the MOU is still being processed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Members- M Hines is graduating in June, so there will be an open position. Members were encouraged to consider nominating other students to join the board.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A Reardon and seconded by S Kleinman to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk