

## **Medfield Youth Outreach Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Zoom meeting**

*In attendance:* Kathleen Cahill, Parent; Molly Frankel, Parent; Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, MYO Outreach Worker; Michelle Manganello, School Resource Officer; Kathy McDonald, Youth Outreach Director; Liz Sandeman, Parent; Kathleen Thompson, Nurse Leader for the Medfield Public Schools

### **COVID-19 Collaboration**

Kathy McDonald updated the Advisory Board about the work the Youth Outreach department has been engaged in since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The department has collaborated with the Medfield Foundation in administering a relief fund for Medfield families who have been financially impacted by the coronavirus. The MFi is raising funds, and the Youth Outreach department is helping to vet requests for assistance. The United Church of Christ is acting as the fiscal agent of the funds, as is done with the Angel Run Fund, and is able to hold the money and issue checks. We have put policies and procedures in place to vet requests and document all funds given out. We want donors to feel good about how their donations are being used and are collecting statistics and testimonials to help donors feel validated and to raise additional funds. The policies and the new application form we have put in place closely mirror those of the food cupboard, including eligibility requirements. The application will allow us to gather more data. There is flexibility in eligibility requirements but also a robust policy in place to fall back on. Board members at the meeting agreed that implementing sound policies are best practice. Collecting data and statistics can be helpful in securing future funding and grants. In administering funds, we are aiming for a slow drip, as it is expected that this will last a long time. People will likely be expected to pay their bills once the moratorium is over, so requests for funding assistance will likely increase even after the moratorium.

### **Medfield Cares About Prevention**

The Drug-Free Communities Continuation Application for year 2 of funding was submitted on April 10. The application was due on April 14th. We contracted with Amanda Decker from Bright Solutions to help us with the application, as it is very labor intensive. Oversight of the grant is being transferred from SAMHSA to the CDC, which is complicating things. The hiring process for the Prevention Coordinator has been postponed due to COVID-19. We are waiting for the May 4th quarantine end to evaluate the situation. If the quarantine is extended, Kathy McDonald will inquire about hiring virtually. The position was posted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we were preparing to set up in-person interviews right before we were required to work from home. There were six solid candidates we were planning to interview and six more that were possibilities.

### **Medfield Coalition for Suicide Prevention**

The book discussion groups and mental health awareness walk that were being planned have been postponed until a later date, likely in the fall.

### **Looking forward- plans for the MYO department**

There is uncertainty about the status of the advisory board and whether or not we are a formal, appointed committee. We may be moving towards a “friends of” board, which would be more informal. The library and Council on Aging both have a “friends of” group, and Kathy has a phone call scheduled with Roberta Lynch to discuss these options. Kathy Thompson shared that we are not currently a formal board because the board members have not been sworn in for this current year. The Board of Selectmen had asked the department to adopt a formal advisory board but that decision now seems to have reversed. Molly Frankel asked what we would give up if we become less formal and if we lose clout if we do. It might be helpful to reach out to the Selectmen for some guidance on this.

The current mission statement of the Youth Outreach department is: “The mission of the Medfield Youth Outreach office is to serve youth ages 0 -18 and their families with a host of social services.” Board members were asked for feedback in updating the mission statement as we look to the future. We want to keep it general and open so that the scope of services provided isn’t limited. After some discussion, the board endorsed an updated mission statement: “The mission of Medfield Youth Outreach is to serve Medfield residents with a host of social services.” In looking forward at the scope of services the department will provide, meeting members discussed options for possible fee-for-service with a sliding scale for clinical counseling. This could bring in some revenue to the town for those who can afford it. In Kathy McDonald’s experience, billing MassHealth can be cumbersome, while billing commercial insurance is much easier.

The name of the youth outreach department was also discussed, as it no longer accurately captures the scope of services provided and can mislead community members into thinking we only serve youth. Some ideas for new names include “Medfield Outreach” and “Medfield Youth and Family Services.” Board members were tasked with thinking of additional names that will be shared at the next advisory board meeting. The next meeting will also include a discussion of a department logo.

### **Next Meeting**

The next MYO Advisory Board meeting is TBD.