



Regional Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 5:30PM
United Way Office - 24 Idlewood Blvd
Staunton, VA 24401

Call to Order - 5:33PM

- The first order of business was the introduction of the new Office on Youth Office Manager, Jay Holly. Chairperson, Taylor Rose asked Jay to introduce himself.
- Chairperson, Taylor Rose motioned the approval for the November minutes. All attending members approved the minutes for the meeting held Wednesday, November 16, 2022.
- Ginny Newman, Office on Youth Director introduced Guest Speaker Chris Lassiter by reading his autobiography.

Presentation: This is Home - Chris Lassiter, Director of Community Engagement CFCBR

- Chris starts the presentation off by first receiving questions from the Youth Commission Members about Housing Insecurity.
- More than 30% of a person's income paid to housing is considered "Housing Insecurity" (Housing Problem)
- Taylor's concerns that are seen in schools are that Landlords make individuals feel that they have no rights. The Landlord would say "sorry we haven't been paying the mortgage. You have to leave and you have to get out". Another situation is that the Landlord isn't keeping up with the utilities and the house is falling apart, so the families are trying to pay for things like mold and kids getting sick. They end up getting behind on rent, because they had to pay for these things that shouldn't be their responsibility and they end up evicted and can't find housing anywhere in the area. Chris states that this is a Civic's Court Matter and goes in and explains how the system works.
- Angela Babb asked if Chris' department help separate from where Medicaid would give assistance, for people that don't qualify for Medicaid; because they own their own home or have a car they don't qualify. Chris stated that he will touch on all the different forms he's seen.
- Chris talks about his journey from the Staunton-Augusta YMCA to Community Foundation to assist and explore the housing insecurity issues in our community.
- Chris wanted to share people's stories (Not on social media) to housing solutions, but wanted to make sure the people were not identifiable.
- The Community Foundation is celebrating 30 years and wants to celebrate 30 educators. The CEO of the Community Foundation wanted to take the celebration and point it toward an issue that we care about and highlight it.

- Chris recommended listening to a MPR podcast that is a 10 part series. Each episode is 10 minutes each. It is a short podcast about how the housing crisis invaded Las Vegas. Chris suggested to the CEO of the Community Foundation that they could do something like this in our community, but instead of a podcast, bring in a photographer and capture each moment.
- Ginny Newman asked about Tent City and if there are areas other than Waynesboro, because that is the most popular one.
- Sam Weed said that there is a national crisis on homelessness with LGBTQ youth and she wondered if Chris had encountered that. Chris stated this is something that doesn't have gender identity. Life can throw you some curveballs. Debra Freeman-Belle jumped and stated that there is a youth grant and priority is the LGBTQ Community. That was established in 2021 and our community didn't have funding before then. The LGBTQ Center partners with Valley Homeless Connection and that is community money that should grow and this is the reason there is a waiting list. Our community is under resource, but our community, like most things is behind the times. Valley Homeless Connection started in 2018-19 under W.A.R.M and Valley Community Service Board. The funding to our community came as a result of the pandemic, otherwise there wasn't money here; so all of this is new. So the stories Chris is talking about, 5 years ago there wouldn't even be solutions that we have now and there are not enough solutions.
- Debra Freeman-Belle suggested please don't walk into Tent City uninvited and unannounced. That is their home and they take pride in that area and don't trust everyone. There are different code systems and honor systems that you have to go by.
- Ginny Newman stated that there is money out there for the LGBTQ homeless as well and are federal funds. Ginny had talked with them and we just missed the cycle, but some of that money had been there for 10 years; so we're hoping that money will come out again and they are established now.
- People have to go to their jobs and tell them that they have to go part-time to qualify for housing, which is not sustainable. People see these things as beating the system, but people are doing the math. Debra Freeman-Belle stated that the system is broken.
- Chris said if you want more information, google Community Foundation "This is Home" and 10 pictures will come up. If you click on each picture a 10 minute episode will come up.

Office on Youth Updates by OYO Director, Ginny Newman

FY24 Budget Submissions: handout expense and revenue as presented to Staunton and Augusta – Waynesboro may be slightly different as finance finalizes actual benefits associated with individual staff.

Additional Funding Request:

Staunton: Total request \$172,892. Increase over FY23 of \$10,492 or 6.459%

Augusta: Total Request: \$169,218. Increase over FY 23 \$13,338 over last year or 8.55%

Waynesboro – in FY 23 already gave an additional \$15,000 to combine 2 part-time positions into a full-time position. This person has dedicated time to Waynesboro-only projects.

Total Request: \$194,677. Increase over FY 23 \$ 11,808 over last year or 6.457%

The full-time position has a piece dedicated to “All Things Waynesboro” and the position is Program Assistant, Sam Weed. Sam focuses on a couple things that are just Waynesboro only and that’s how we received some of that money to try some stuff.

Part of the reason for the increase, which Ginny let all three localities know:

- Waynesboro completed their comp study in 2019. Waynesboro was unable to start with phase 1, because of the pandemic. They did implement Phase 1 December 2022 so this affected our full-time employees and our full-time employees received a 5% raise on top of the comp study changes, which has been fantastic; but we are still behind.
- Staunton just completed a comp study for their employees
- Augusta County is going to do another comp study.

Once Staunton and Augusta County finish their comp studies we will really see where we are.

This has caused an increase in our budget of \$44,300 immediately. That is the reason for the larger requests this year to maintain the staff that we have and to get everyone including our part-time staff some sort of an increase going into the next fiscal year.

Breakdown is 32/32/36% - without the extra \$15,00 dedicated time to W’boro 32/33/34%

- 32% Staunton City
- 33% Augusta County
- 34% Waynesboro City

The rest of our budget comes from grants, donations, and fees.

Budget Meetings:

- Staunton City – February 1, 2023
- Augusta County - February 8, 2023
- Waynesboro - February 14, 2023

Over 85% of our budget is in personnel. What we do is mostly hands-on in the schools and community.

There is a grant that is going away that has helped to expand our truancy program.

We have received a grant from Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. We should receive about \$30,000 for the next 3 years. This will not be Waynesboro specific, but Waynesboro starting for the first year to continue our Safe Routes to school program and starting some expansion into the Staunton City School this year as well.

Numbers served update:

Check and Connect holding at 52 students. We have 2 workers that go out into the Middle Schools and High Schools - Two students from Staunton High School completed the GED program and successfully completed the C&C program. We helped them with jobs, work skills, and licensures of things they are interested in doing. 3 students moved out of the area and will be removed from the C&C program. One student made the wrestling team at High School. Some kids have interest in sports, so if they are bringing their attendance and grades up and they can make the team, we are going to help and support them in any way we can.

Maintaining around 18 youth in detention alternative programs that includes an average 8 on Home Electronic Monitoring. The GPS system has just been upgraded. As our phones improve, so does the ankle monitoring.

Family Life Education

- Shelburne Middle School 241 students served
- 108 AR Ware Elementary School 4th and 5th grade students served
- 111 Westwood Elementary School 4th and 5th grade students served
- 115 Waynesboro High School 10th grade students served

Ginny recognized Angela Babb as our new Family Life coordinator. Angela has reached out to our Augusta County Schools to see if we can start a meeting again and the answer was “No”. Their response was that they have their own curriculum.

A discussion began about ideas to improve the TPP/Family Life and how to get into Augusta County schools.

- Augusta County wouldn't discuss or let the Office on Youth see the curriculum presented to youth. The P.E. Teachers do a video-based curriculum for Family Life.
 - Susan Mace encouraged talking to the Augusta County School Board.
 - Angela said the person that is in charge of Family Life is new and since she's new, she wanted to meet face to face and have discussion; like what they didn't like about the program. She is all for letting them approve the format and letting us be a resource.
 - Ginny stated that each School Board approves their own individual curriculum in the State of Virginia
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- Jay stated that Augusta County has always been difficult to get into and that's with any program because of liability.
 - They may be picking and choosing what they want to teach the kids. There may not be a comfortable level of students being about to ask questions.
 - CPS does a play for 4th and 5th grade called “Hugs and Kisses”. It was in all 3 school districts in prior years.
 - A lot of the guidance counselors and school nurses have taken over the 4th and 5th grade family life.
 - Angela stated that she thinks they don't understand that the TPP is more than just sex, contraception, and STI's. We discuss internet safety, trafficking, etc.

- Debra asked if we are required to call the program Teen Pregnancy Prevention. Ginny answered and said that we are not required to call it that. It goes back to the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition that was started in Waynesboro about 25 years ago. It was a carryover. Ginny has tried to rename our Parenting Division to Family Services, because it is more what we do and Family Support and the name unfortunately just doesn't stick. When someone hears they are being referred to the Parenting Program it makes them feel like they are a bad parent.
- Debra suggested looking at a focus study or community survey and maybe look at how things are branded. It would feel new if it was rebranded.
- Angela stated when parents hear TPP or Family Life, they are scared that we are going to teach their kids about things that they don't want them to know and pass out condoms. That is not what we are there for.
- Debra stated that right now there has been a thing about "Parental Rights" and they are on the defense. She also asked if we could do our program at Valley Academy, an alternative school program. Maybe do it as a test pilot. Debra is on the Governing Board at Valley Academy. Valley Academy is not getting any curriculum like TPP. Ginny stated that we used to go into the Genesis and Phoenix alternative schools.
- Summer Wallace, Staunton Youth Representative said that it is important to tell these kids this type of stuff.
- Augusta County has more schools than Staunton and Waynesboro combined.
- Angela & Sam's goal is for Family Life to be more community focused. They want to be community resources and build trust with the students. They want to be able to go into the schools at least once a month. Ginny that we used to be in the school every other week.
- Ginny said that there was discussion between OOOY, The Health Department, and Augusta Health to get these classes into the schools.
- Susan stated that when she was in the Augusta County Schools, one thing that parents were upset about was the graphic nature of the STI's. Angela said that a lot of kids don't really remember anything, but they do remember the STI pictures. If they remember, then we are doing our job. Ginny stated that we have an optional presentation that doesn't have a picture in it. Sometimes it's more effective not using pictures. We have classes where they can get into small groups and they are assigned STI/STDs and do presentations and peer to peer work. Jay stated that even when the schools approve the programs, parents still have the options to opt their child out. Ginny stated that that information is required to go out to the parents beforehand. According to state code, parents are supposed to go to the school and review the curriculum prior to opting their child out. 99% of the time that does not happen.

Ginny talked about Jay in his position and how he has taken so much off her plate and appreciates it. He has updated the OOOY brochures, he reformatted the strategic plan that members agreed upon and finalized at the last meeting, and he also took over the web page and social media. He has made a difference on the OOOY facebook. Debra stated that she loves how OOOY is able to use his different skills. Jay has every opportunity to go out and shadow staff, work with mentors and go into the classrooms. He will be doing a little bit of everything.

The Community in Motion website is ready to launch. It is Waynesboro specific, but we are looking at some things that we may be able to partner in possibly in Staunton.

The members had previously voted for the Annual Meeting to be on March 15, 2023. Besides voting for Chair and Vice Chair, Ginny would like Youth Commissioners to decide what we see.

The members would like to do a meet and greet with the OOH staff and have each staff do talking points at United Way. They also still would like Ginny to invite community leaders from each locality and give them the opportunity to hear the OOH staff presenting on some of our programs. Invite city officials and members from the school board.

For Public Comments or Questions, there were no questions.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:02PM

Attendance Roster:

Augusta County:

- Stephen Greppes
- Michelle Nadeem
- Summer Wallace (Youth Representative)

City of Staunton:

- Susan Mace
- Taylor Rose
- Mark Robertson

City of Waynesboro:

- Kristi Williams (Participated through zoom - left meeting at 6:35PM due to meeting room computer issues)
- Debra Freeman-Belle

Office on Youth Staff

- Ginny Newman, Director
- Jay Holly, Office Manager
- Sam Weed, Program Assistant
- Angela Babb, Family Life Program Coordinator

Excused Members:

- Jeff Fife