

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022

Location: Rosenwald Community Center, Waynesboro, VA

Commissioners Present: Michelle Nadeem, Amber Martino, Erika Bischof, Susan Mace, Jeff Fife, and Kristi Williams. **Joining via zoom:** Stephen Greppes and Natasia Reinhart.

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Taylor Rose, Mark Robinson-Staunton City Council Liaison.

Others in Attendance: Ginny Newman, Director, Nancy Tyree, Office Manager.

Director Newman called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Announcements/Reports and Updates:

- Director Newman provided a copy of the By-Laws for everyone to view. A new Youth Commission Chair needs to be appointed. At present Taylor Rose is the stand-in Chair.
- Section 4 of the By-Laws states the duties of Youth Commission Officers, the Director of the Office on Youth meets with the appointed Chair a week or 2 before a scheduled meeting.
- Director Newman asked for a motion to nominate a Chair or for someone to volunteer. If Taylor Rose is able to continue with the Chair position Susan Mace has volunteered to be Vice-Chair. Erika Bischof has volunteered to fill in for Taylor Rose if she would need to step down. The motion was made by Kristi Williams and seconded by Stephen Greppes.
- Director Newman presented the 2023 Office on Youth Budget, which she will send out to all members to view.
The budget includes a Safe Routes to School part-time position through July 2023. The purchase of bikes to use at elementary schools in Waynesboro and safety information books, etc. Staunton has also shown interest in this grant if it becomes available again. Augusta County possibly in some areas.
Bike Box has 100 bikes ready to work with.
- Kristi Williams asked what kind of incentives have we given in the past for youth doing well? Director Newman responded with, Zeus movie tickets, YMCA membership, Ciro's.
- Jeff Fife asked about Youth Employment, questioning is there any way to get this program back up and running? The balance that was left in the program was used for Truant youth. Director Newman explained what Youth Corps was. The Office on Youth Program Coordinator would find a job for the youth, a cash incentive was given, program coordinator did weekly check-ins on the youth at their job sites.
- Director Newman announced that the office had filled 2 part-time positions in November. One had to resign because of their husband being transferred to another state, the other one resigned for a full-time position.
- Director Newman has requested an additional position. Was informed she cannot do full-time. She made a different approach giving the City of Waynesboro a dedicated number of hours for collaboration.
- Amber Martino asked why Staunton was giving more? Director Newman stated that they are working to get staff up to competitive wages. Director Newman also stated that since her position as Director she has tried to get all three localities even with giving. This has improved and continues to improve. She also included that Staunton and Waynesboro give us office space, vehicles and insurance.

- Jeff Fife questioned what percentage Waynesboro pays into retirement for employees and inquired about the 2 positions lost, and what happened to those funds. Director Newman explained that the Office on Youth has a fund balance carry forward. We have reserves for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Virginia Juvenile Crime Control, and Drug-Free Communities. These funds could hold us for 6-9 months if needed.
- Kristi Williams questioned if we have to give back any funds not used. Director Newman stated that Virginia Juvenile Crime Control would be the only one but we spend it down.

Grants and Staffing

TRUANCY

- Truancy has a \$127,000 state grant running from January 2022 – to June 2024.
- This grant will include a full-time and part-time position.
- A Truancy board will be established, this will be who the youth sees instead of going before a Judge and before being referred to FAPT.
- Augusta County has a pilot program for Elementary and Middle school we will do Middle and High School.
- Susan Mace asked for clarification, Director Newman explained when a CHINS is filed it will come to us instead of heading to court. The board will decide if our staff will follow through, if no progress is made the student will go before the Judge.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention had 2 staff to complete 50 hours of training through Answer/Healthy Teen Network.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Director Newman spoke about Senate Bill 485, which is waiting on the Governor's signature to step ahead with other Office on Youth in Virginia. Adding law enforcement and faith-based. For information on additional funding see SB 485.
- Director Newman will send out the strategic plan again.
Erika Bischof spoke about the Special Needs Population. The CDC released a report in 2018 giving the number of 1 in 44 children have Autism. Erika said they are looking for groups to train on how to deal with Autism.
Jeff Fife asked how to nominate a Waynesboro member. Director Newman, they need to live in Waynesboro and fill out an application. This is the same for adults and youth. Each locality is listed on their website, click on Boards and Committees

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 6:37pm by Amber Martino and seconded by Kristi Williams.

Next meeting date: May 18, 2022

upcoming meetings: July 20th, September 21st and November 16th.