



COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Erie County Youth Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8th, 2024, 4:30pm via WebEx

Members Present: Nichelle Brown, Jamien Eutsey, Benjamin Fox, Melissa Jones, Charity Lulas, Maria Marinucci, Brian Rochford, John Romanowski

Members Absent: Liza Acanfora, Angelina Bolognese, David Caywood, La Shawn Davis, David Smaszniak

Members on Leave of Absence: Sue Lumadue

Staff Present: Wanda Hillman, John Kordrupel, Paul Kubala

Welcome/Introductions:

- Melissa started the meeting at 4:34pm, and expressed finding the Needs Assessment inspiring; asked folks present to share their why for joining the Board, and what they were looking for. Members shared wanting to see positive impact of tax dollars, wanting to make a difference in the lives of young people, ensuring resources for youth with disabilities and those with connection to the criminal justice system were being provided, learning more about how to empower agencies to help youth, and generally connecting with county services.
- Asked folks to keep reasoning in mind when discussing Needs Assessment.

Director's Report:

- Needs Assessment: several things stuck out to Paul, namely the suggestions to fund fewer agencies at a higher level to potentially have a greater impact, increasing publicization of RFPs and funding cycles, and increasing funding for transportation and mental health needs. Encouraged everyone to read report in depth.
- RFP for Youth Detention: RFP for after-hours activities in detention closed on December 29, 2023; four agencies applied and panel to score is set. Programs fill in gaps in structured day between school and bedtime and are aimed at positive development, specifically anti-violence, sports, arts and crafts, and multimedia, with a focus on trauma-informed care and positive life skills development.
- RFP for Team Sports: panel may be conducting interviews to supplement RFP submissions. Paul will check in with Deputy to determine whether interviews will happen. Panel members shared it was a reasonable time commitment, but a bit challenging to only have three options for scores (felt a bit limited). New raters expressed interest in working with veterans to better understand what would qualify a proposal for each rating. Melissa explained RFP Committee is looking into scoring and providing guidance on scoring sheet; John K. expressed it may be worth including Carrie and Judy from



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Compliance Department on RFP Committee meeting to discuss scoring sheet (Melissa confirmed they were present at past meetings and stated there was a sufficient explanation of ratings).

Chair's/Vice Chair's Report:

- Site Visits Discussion: no visits since last meeting.
- Needs Assessment Discussion: Consultant recommendations include reducing number of agencies being funded, reducing reporting requirements (Youth Board has no control over this), publicizing resources (shouldn't be too hard to increase this), and requesting agencies increase data collection on youth being served (which seems like a lot of work). Youth cited slightly different needs, including transportation, trauma-informed care (seems to be a priority in RFPs, but agencies often do not really know what it entails, while some are bringing on social workers and trying to provide training), LGBTQIA+ informed training, tutoring, life skills, free or reduced cost programs, and help with scholarships/transitional assistance. Other needs/concerns include reducing gun violence and domestic violence.
 - What and How to Incorporate into RFPs:
 - Board Member thoughts and feedback:
 - How can we encourage agencies to partner with one another to support protective factors or meet needs (e.g., can GLYS connect with Youth Sports agencies to discuss how to make sports more inclusive and affirmative for trans and non-binary youth; can there be resources be shared to reduce gun violence, etc.). Perhaps something that can be explored, and that the Board can suggest potential collaborations.
 - John K. noted there needs to be more than just the Youth Board at the table for this; perhaps a working group to bring folks together would be beneficial.
 - May be good to continue talking about this as a large group (especially once everyone reads report) and then move it to smaller groups to determine how to best incorporate the feedback.
 - Cannot make change for Primetime RFP, but perhaps for YDP RFP in March. Please all read Needs Assessment and send Melissa ideas for incorporation.

Committee Updates

- Governance/Executive: no updates
- RFP/Review: Vice Char, David Caywood—no further meeting was held
- Site Visit Committee: no updates



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Other

- For the time being, meetings will remain virtual as it is impossible for some folks to attend in person, and illnesses are at a high rate.

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm. Next meeting is February 12th.