



COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Erie County Youth Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12th, 2024, 4:30pm via WebEx

Members Present: La Shawn Davis, Jamien Eutsey, Melissa Jones, Charity Lulas, Sue Lumadue, Maria Marinucci, Brian Rochford, John Romanowski

Members Absent: Liza Acanfora, Angelina Bolognese, Nichelle Brown, Benjamin Fox

Members on Leave of Absence: David Smaszniak

Staff Present: Wanda Hillman, John Kordrupel

Welcome/Introductions:

- Melissa started the meeting at 4:34pm.

Director's Report:

- Paul is off today.

Chair's/Vice Chair's Report:

- Site Visits Discussion: Maria and Melissa did a visit at the PAL STAR program on 2/7, and noticed limited supplies and very few youth. A Corrective Action Plan was submitted and follow-up will be required within 30 days.
 - John will be leaving his role in March, so Youth Board site visits will be even more crucial. Wanda will be reaching out to ask for more support, as this is an expectation of Youth Board members.
 - John R. noted he is away at college and wondered if there are opportunities for virtual site visits. Wanda said this may be possible and she would follow up.
- Resignation/Open Position: David Caywood has resigned from the Board, so the Vice Chair position is vacant—please submit your name to Melissa if willing and interested.
- Needs Assessment Discussion: Reflections include the repeated notes about serving LGBTQIA+ youth and the increased risk for self-harm or homelessness; could attending to these needs be included in RFPs? Perhaps partnering with agencies that have an expertise in serving targeted youth to help enhance services through training or other ideas could be a consideration. Would hope that things are added to both the RFPs and to the scoring processes.



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- How do we do this in a way that meets the needs of the most kids? Smaller agencies may not be able to do even more and partner with agencies.
- May be helpful to have everyone involved in RFPs (staff, Youth Board, compliance) read the Needs Assessment and discuss changes.
- Folks felt a struggle with trying to figure out a plan via Zoom—we need to hear everyone's perspectives and then get on the same page before going to partners with feedback.
- Maybe site visits also need to be rated to include these things expectations and improvements as well, and a comparison to the proposal submitted (i.e., youth served, supplies provided, etc.).
- Transportation issues were also a major focus. Maybe a transportation RFP?
- Youth Board used to do trainings for agencies, and perhaps this is something that could come back, especially on trauma-informed care.
- Whose responsibility is it to determine the funding allocation? John K. noted that staff probably needs to figure that out, though time is limited as the review process is starting soon. John R. suggested an RFP pre-scoring meeting. Also need to figure out how to incorporate suggestion from the Needs Assessment to fund fewer agencies, as well as balancing the equity issue between large and small agencies, and incorporating into the scoring process things like fully meeting eligibility requirements and past performance.
- YDP RFP: maximum amount is being increased.
- Primetime RFP: review panels should be coming out later this week. Will need reviewers. Suggestion from YTS is to establish the linkage between scoring and funding prior to reviewing proposals to limit bias.
 - Also discussed separating out municipalities/local youth bureaus and those who have received funding in the past.
 - Need volunteers to do interviews for the new agencies: Sue Lumadue and La Shawn Davis (backups: Melissa Jones, Brian Rochford)

Committee Updates

- Governance/Executive: no updates
- RFP/Review: no updates

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm. Next meeting is March 11th and exploring in person option, but may also be a scoring meeting.