

## Youth Services Network Meeting

May 10, 2021 9:15am-10:32am

### Zoom meeting

#### AGENDA

1) Introductions/Welcome

We did not do introductions due to the challenges with this via zoom. There were 22 participants. Captured who was on as best as possible – Cori Leshner, Bianca Britton, Kate Hawn, Kathy Joyce, Morgan Greenwood, Megan Badour, Matt Richmond, Melissa Shova, Chris Yarnall, Rudy Salisbury, Karen Marcum, Stephanie Graf, Kathryn Ripstein, Sabrina DeRue, Lisa Vaughn, Joe Wargo, Michelle Martin, Tammie Miller, Trish Gay, Diane Zikowitz, Andrea Holbrooke and Steve Karon.

2) Review March 8, 2021 minutes

No changes were suggested to the March 8, 2021 minutes.

3) Guest presenters –

**Kathryn Ripstein – Community Energy Engagement Program**

This is a statewide NYSERDA program. The goals are to provide locally based energy awareness and education services to underserved communities, to connect residents and small businesses to NYSERDA programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy, help residents access low interest financing for clean energy projects, help connect residents to other community services as needed and access renewable heating and cooling, and solar options for their homes. The programs are divided into three categories– energy efficiency, clean heating and cooling and solar PV. Most of the programs are income based. However, the residential energy audit program is available to all New York State residents. There is no cost for this audit. It was suggested to think of this as a “physical” for your home. Empower NY – provides up to \$10,000 in assistance for energy efficiency measures through NYSERDA, covers insulation, air sealing, electric reduction measures for low-income families. The Weatherization Assistance Program and Empower NY can work together to help families. There is a similar program for moderate income families called Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. The cost is 50/50 shared between NYSERDA and homeowner. Renewable heating and cooling – air source and ground source heat pump installation and replacement of old pellet or wood stoves. Solar PV – community solar education, rebates and incentives, and financing help. Contact Kathryn at [ker99@cornell.edu](mailto:ker99@cornell.edu) for additional information.

**Kate Hawn – Home Foster Program**

This is one of thirty programs offered by the Children’s Home of Jefferson County. The Home Foster program is temporary protective care provided for families and the goal is to work towards reunification. The program serves youth 0-18; 18-21. Kate shared some statistics with us – daily 400,000 youth are in foster care, in 2018 690,000 youth were in foster care and the average stay is 1-2 years, but 9% are over 3 years. 30,000 annually age out of the program and

25% become homeless due to not being connected to a resource. Less than 10% graduate from college. The Children's Home is always looking for therapeutic foster homes. CHJC provides trainings and supports. Foster parents must be 21 years of age or older, may be single, must complete background checks, must complete 30+ hours of courses, must be physically and mentally capable as determined by a physical, home must pass a home study. CHJC works hard to match families mindfully. The next foster parent information night is 7/6/21. By September 2021 50% of foster homes must be kinship homes.

#### 4) Program updates

Karen Marcum shared that there are still recreation scholarships available through the Youth Bureau. She also updated the group on the 2021 Annual Youth Recognition Awards that will take place on May 14, 2021 and the presentations will be posted on the Youth Bureau website. Lastly, the 2020 Annual Report is finished and on the website. [co.jefferson.ny.us](http://co.jefferson.ny.us)

Tammie Miller shared that Pivot is holding focus groups with youth at three different schools to access community needs. The results will be shared in the future once completed.

Sabrina DeRue, 4-H Camp Wabasso Director shared that 4-H Camp Wabasso is close to capacity at this time, with the exception of the military camp opportunities. The military camp for youth of deployed parents has changed some of the eligibility requirements. Youth may be between the ages of 8-16. The parent/guardian may be in the deployment cycle between July 2020-July 2022. Trainings and TDYs during this period that add up to 6 months may also attend this camp opportunity.

The new SPOA Coordinator is Bianca Britton. At this time she is accepting referrals.

Chris Yarnall shared that 4-H is offering programs on the installation from May – September 2021.

Access VR right now is focusing on work experience over the summer and is looking for appropriate workplaces as well.

The Sci-Tech shared that the telescopic astronomy program is taking place at 9:30pm on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 9pm on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the TI park.

Melissa Shova from the Teen Center shared that they are working on a mobile teen center to reach youth outside of Watertown.

Trish Gay said the selection process for Head Start for the next school year is under way. She wanted to share that they can use assistance in promoting the home Head Start program for 3-4 year olds.

Kathryn Ripstein shared the Cornell Career Explorations program is virtual this year and there is a grant for up to 20 youth to attend from the following schools at no cost – Watertown, LaFargeville, Gouvernor, Alex Bay and Indian River. The cost is \$50 per youth and registration must go through Kathryn.

5) Other

**Community forum discussion – Karen Marcum**

Karen explained that she recently participated in a community forum due to an increase in teen suicides and cyber security risks. She would like the Youth Services Network to consider what we could do as a community to address this. Tammie Miller shared that there are a few organizations starting to meet to discuss. It was decided that an invitation would be sent out via the YSN to see who might be interested in joining a discussion.

6) 2021 Meeting date remaining –

September 13,2021

November 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Graf