



LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board
Minutes of August 19, 2020

Scott Mathys, Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse.

Present: Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, Peyton Walker-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative Copenhagen Central School, Emma Reid-Student Representative South Lewis Central, Adah Simpson-Student Representative Beaver River Central, Lisa Peebles, Cinda Bush, Mike Leviker, Katie Zehr, and Michele Ledoux. *Others Present:* Randy LaChausse-Chairperson Health & Human Services Committee, Richard Chartrand-Legislator and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. *Excused:* Kallie Bauter-Co-Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis Central, Deanna Edick, David Fayle-Student Representative Lowville Academy, Eileen Mathys and Ward Dailey. *Guest's Present:* Jennifer Jones, Commissioner Lewis County Department of Social Services and Kiley Hilyer-Lead Advocate for Lewis County Safe Harbour.

Introductions and Welcome

Co-Chairperson Mathys introduced Jennifer Jones, Commissioner of Lewis County Department of Social Services. Commissioner Jones reiterated that effective July 21, 2020 the Office of Children and Family Services approved the merging of the Youth Bureau with DSS. She reported that Penny will continue to be the Director but with merger it will enable additional DSS staff like the fiscal unit to assist by entering youth bureau claims into the county's accounting system with Penny continuing to approve the claims. Other DSS staff will also be able to assist with youth bureau special events/projects. With the 1st of 5 years of Safe Harbour funding being funneled through the youth bureau with a safety focus on local Outreach and Awareness efforts to support youth survivors of trafficking, the next 4 years of funding, the work shifts to DSS to form a "Critical Team." The "Critical Team" will develop an effective county-level response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking that will jointly address system challenges.

Penny reported that the transition of the merger is going well. She met with Larry Noftsier-DSS Fiscal Manager and Bernadette DeSantis-Senior Account Clerk regarding Youth Bureau claims/process and provided them with a DRAFT of the 2021 Youth Bureau proposed budget that Mr. Noftsier will be presenting to the County Manager.

Minutes: Review of July 15, 2020 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meeting minutes. Emma Reid made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Cinda Bush seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Old Business:

Safe Harbour: With the first year of Safe Harbour funding being dedicated to raise local outreach and awareness efforts to support youth survivors of trafficking, Kiley Hilyer from the Child Advocacy Center and Lead Advocate for Lewis County Safe Harbour showed the "I am Little Red" Film. The film was created by kids that have been through something tough; is based on real stories and depicts cartoon characters being in unsafe situations. The film also provided information on how to get help by calling the National Human Trafficking

Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or the local Child Advocacy Center at 315-788-8520. Kiley also provided a PowerPoint presentation that she created to go along with the "I am Little Red" DVD, which creates a dialog about on-line child sex trafficking. Kiley stated that she is willing to provide FREE presentations to agencies including schools.

2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds – Update: To date the Office of Children and Family Services have not yet released the 2020 allocation of Youth Development funds allocated to counties engaged in comprehensive planning for youth services. The Association of NYS Youth Bureaus Administration has been clear that without sufficient federal funding, the Governor will have no choice but to impose budget cuts in which 2020 OCFS Youth Development funds may be affected with an estimated decrease of 19% to 31% or more. Prior to the onset of Covid-19 the Youth Bureau had allocated funds in the total amount of **\$14,500** for programs that target early intervention and prevention services to include the Lowville Police Department; Sheriff's Office; Mountain View Prevention Services and to support Administrative costs to include, but not limited to postage, and OCFS dues. Included in the recipients award letters, was notification that should the 2020 Final allocation be severely decreased their award amount may be reduced accordingly. ■ If the youth bureaus allocation of funds is decreased, we have not yet expended **\$6,615** of the projected \$21,115, therefore that amount should be more than enough to support the deficit. ■ County Manager Piche had called for all county agencies to keep him informed of funding withheld from the state as he is tracking potential funding losses to our community. Penny provided a report to the County Manager containing the youth bureau 2020 OCFS YDF's potential funding losses.

2020 County Project Funds- Reminder: The Youth Bureau has a balance of \$800 in 2020 County Project funds. We did talk about reissuing a request for proposals that support direct services for youth in the amount of \$800, however Penny suggested that we hold off and revisit at the September meeting. **All in attendance agreed.**

New Business

2020 OCFS Youth Bureau Administrative Summary: Penny reported that per regulations, counties receiving OCFS YDF's are required to submit an Annual Administrative Summary. The document is much like our Annual Report that we provide to the county annually, however, is a little more in depth. each year but a little more in-depth. On January 3, 2020 the completed document was submitted to Matthew Newman, OCFS Youth Development Specialist; then again on August 5, 2020. On August 13, 2020 the 2020 Administrative Summary Approval Memo was received.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 4pm at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2nd Floor in the Legislative Chambers.**

Adjournment: Peyton Walker-Vice Chairperson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm, Mike Leviker seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Penny L. Moser, Director
Lewis County Youth Bureau