



LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of June 17, 2020

Scott Mathys, Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2nd Floor in the Legislative Chambers.

Present: Kirstin Moshier-Co-Chair and Student Representative from Lowville Academy, Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis, Alyssa Brower-Student Representative-Lowville Academy, Heather Puddington-Student Representative-Beaver River, Peyton Walker-Student Representative Copenhagen Central, Ward Dailey, Rhonda Vanucchi, Mike Leviker, Brian Finn, Katie Zehr, Michelle Ledoux, Eileen Mathys and Lisa Rennie. **Others Present:** Randy LaChausse-Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee, Richard Chartrand Legislator, and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. **Excused:** Deanna Edick, John Exford, and Justine Schmidt and Chloe Benson-Student Representatives Harrisville Central. **Guest Present:** Adah Simpson-potential Student Representative from Beaver River Central and Nick Palczak, President of North Country White Out Youth Basketball Program.

Introductions and Welcome: We welcomed our newest student representatives to include David Fayle and Ramsey Metzler-Student Representatives-Lowville Academy, Amy Manchester and Nathan Schmitt-Student Representatives from Harrisville Central and Emma Reid-Student Representative South Lewis Central.

Minutes: Due to lack of quorum, at our May meeting the April 22, 2020 minutes were not acted on. **After review of the April minutes Peyton Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Heather Puddington. Motion Carried.**

Review of May 2020 meeting minutes. **After review of the May 2020 minutes Kallie Bauter made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Katie Zehr. Motion Carried.**

Old Business

Awarding of 2020 County Project Funds (Up to \$5,000) available: County Project funds must be used to support direct services to and for youth (direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a, particular final cost objective i.e., an award, project, event or other direct costs such as supplies for an activity of an organization). County Project funds cannot be used for salaries.

A total of 3 applications were received. The combined total of funds requested = \$3,695.00. On June 3, 2020, board members were emailed and mailed a summary page of applications received as well as a copy of each application to review prior to today's meeting. Applicants were invited to the meeting to answer any questions the youth bureau may have pertaining to their application. **Note:** *Per the Youth Bureau By-Laws, the inability to provide a presentation will not exclude the applicant from consideration.*

Applications Received

Lake Effect Tech-Restart Program: Josh Fitzgerald, Owner of Lake Effect Tech was unable to attend the meeting. The mission of the Restart program is to enrich, empower, and educate area youth/families through

technology and outreach. Funding would be used to secure bags needed for the Backpack Drive (up to 300 students) as well as make improvements to Lake Effect Tech's Internet Lounge including free access at any given time for up to 10 area students. Additionally, Lake Effect would add their Backpack Drive and Smart Device Refurbishing initiative by securing Chromebooks and give to underprivileged youth to aid in furthering their educational progression. **Amount of Funding Requested: \$1,000.** Backpack allocation (150 units) = \$375; Chromebook allocation (5 units) = \$525; and Internet Lounge Subscriber Fees (10 students/year) = \$100.

Recreational/Educational Youth Safety Classes (Karabiner's): On behalf of Sherriff Carpinelli, Mike Leviker provided a brief overview of the Sheriff's Office Recreational/Educational Youth Safety Class offerings and fielded questions pertaining to the request for funds. Throughout the year, the Sheriff's Office conducts recreational education safety classes for youth in grades 5th and 6th (and youth ages 10 -17). Deputies instruct safety fundamentals of recreation for All Terrain/Off Highway Vehicle, Marine, and Snowmobile certified classroom instruction. The program annually serves approximately 735 youth for the combined course offerings. As a token for youth attending and completing the class, Sheriff Carpinelli is requesting funds to purchase karabiner's embossed with the Sheriff's Office name, a safety slogan and dial 911 that would be given to each youth in the classes. The hope is that the youth will carry the karabiner with them and remember the importance of safety that they were taught in the safety classes). **Amount of funding requested: \$995** to purchase Karabiners).

North Country White Out Youth Basketball League: Nick Palczak, North Country White Out President fielded questions pertaining to the White Out Youth Basketball League request for funds. This youth basketball program is for youth in grades 3 – 6 who attend Adirondack and South Lewis School Districts. Approximately 30 to 40% of participating youth are from South Lewis Central with another 10-15% of youth going to Adirondack Central but living in Lewis County. The program serves over 100 players during the winter months. The program promotes wellness along with teaching proper sportsmanship and dedication to a team all while having fun. **Amount of Funding Requested: \$1,700 to purchase Jerseys for participating youth and for equipment such as basketballs.**

After much discussion, Kallie Bauter moved to allocate the 2020 County Project funds as follows:

\$1,000 to Lake Effect Tech's Restart Program

\$1,000 vs. \$995 as indicated in the application to the Sheriff's Office to purchase Karabiners

\$2,000 to the North Country White Out Youth Basketball Program to purchase youth jersey's, equipment (basketballs or score board) and scholarships for youth to participate in the program who would otherwise not be able to.

And to hold on to the remaining \$1,000 in 2020 County Project Funds and reissue a request for proposals later this fall. Peyton Walker seconded. Heather Puddington opposed.

After further discussion, Heather Puddington made a motion to amend the previous motion as follows:

\$1,000 to Lake Effect Tech Restart Program

\$1,000 to the Sheriff's Office to purchase Karabiners

\$2,200 to the North Country White Out Youth Basketball Program to purchase youth jersey's, equipment (basketballs, scoreboard, etc.) and scholarships for youth to participate in the program who would otherwise not be able to.

And to hold the remaining \$800 in 2020 County Project Funds and reissue a request for proposals later this fall. **David Faye, seconded, Motion carried. Abstained: Mike Leviker.**

Elections of Officers: Per the Lewis County Youth Bureau By-Laws, officers are selected by majority vote at our annual meeting in June. Officers shall be elected to a 2-year term and shall not serve more than two (2)

consecutive terms in any one office. The Officer position of Co-Chairperson, currently held by Kirstin Moshier, is up for nomination due to Kirstin graduating this year from High School.

The Nominating Committee made up of Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, Kallie Bauter, and Katie Zehr were charged with the responsibility of providing a slate of nominations for the officer position. Katie Zehr presented the following slate of nominations: **Kallie Bauter for Co-Chairperson**. Co-Chairperson Mathys asked if there were any other nominations from the floor or if anyone else was interested in being nominated to the Co-Chairperson officer position. No other nominations were received. **Heather Puddington made a motion to appoint Kallie Bauter to the Co-Chairperson position; seconded by Kirstin Moshier. All in favor with 0 opposed. Motion Carried.**

With Kallie being appointed to the Co-Chairperson position, that leaves her Vice-Chairperson officer position open. Katie Zehr reported that **Peyton Walker was interested in the Vice-Chairperson position**. Co-Chairperson Mathys asked if there were any other nominations from the floor or if anyone else was interested in being nominated to the Vice-Chairperson officer position. No other nominations were received. **Kallie Bauter made a motion to appoint Peyton Walker to the Vice-Chairperson position; seconded by Katie Zehr. All in favor with 0 opposed. Motion Carried.**

2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds: Penny had previously reported that the final 2020 Office of Children and Family Services-Youth Development fund amount for Lewis County had not yet been released and due to COVID-19 the state had advised that youth bureaus 2020 allocation could be cut 10 to 20% or more than what we have historically received. **Penny provided the following update from a June 16th OCFS conference call.** Due to the State's 2020-2021 budget deficit and the increased deficit due to COVID-19 pandemic, all youth development allocations from the State to the County Youth Bureau's have still, not yet been released. 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 and youth development funding may be affected. **Penny sent reminder letters to 2020 recipients of OCFS YDF's, advising that should the final allocation be severely decreased, their award amounts may be reduced accordingly this includes Mountain View Prevention Services-School Based Prevention Counseling Program; Lowville Police Departments-Youth Aid Officer Program and the Lewis County Sheriff's Office-Juvenile Aid Officer Program.

Lewis County Safe Harbour-Seed Funding-Update: As part of the NYS Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act of 2008 that protects commercially sexually exploited children by recognizing them as victims and paves the way for better outcomes. The Youth Bureau contracted with the Victims Assistance Center who are an oversight agency for the local Child Advocacy Center, to coordinate our 1st year efforts to raise local outreach and awareness in an effort to support youth survivors of trafficking. Penny will invite Kiley Hilyer, Lead Advocate for Lewis County Safe Harbour to provide an update on the outreach and awareness efforts she is working on for Lewis County.

Celebration of Our Senior Student Representatives: Per the Youth Bureau By-Laws, student representative terms on the board, shall end when they graduate from high school or cease to be a full-time student of the district they represent. Having youth on the board is essential as they provide our community with a youth perspective on what kinds of youth programs are needed in our county. Student Representatives engage in discussion, conduct program monitoring, review applications for funding and ultimately make recommendation to fund quality youth programs. The following student representatives have fulfilled their term on the board, and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Kirstin Moshier-Student Representative Lowville Academy, who served on the board from June 6, 2017 – June 30, 2020. was appointed to the board on June 6, 2017 – June 30, 2020 representing Lowville Academy. In September of 2019, Kirstin was voted in as Co-Chairperson and currently continues to serve in this officer position.

Alyssa Brower-Student Representative Lowville Academy, who served on the board from June 30, 2019-June 30, 2020.

Justine Schmidt-Student Representative-Harrisville Central, who served on the board from June 30, 2018 – June 30, 2020.

Chloe Benson-Student Representative-Harrisville Central, who served on the board from June 20, 2018 – June 30, 2020.

Heather Puddington-Student Representative-Beaver River Central, who served on the board from June 30, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

Our senior student representatives were presented with recognition certificates, and were recognized for their diligence in attending meetings, engaging in discussion and for their commitment and dedication in serving on the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 4pm at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2nd Floor in the Legislative Chambers.**

Adjournment: Peyton Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm, Kristin Moshier-Co-Chairperson seconded. **Motion carried.**

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