



## LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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10/22/2020

Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

### Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of October 21, 2020

Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse.

**Present:** Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, Peyton Walker-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative Copenhagen Central School, David Fayle and Ramsey Metzler-Student Representatives Lowville Academy, Adah Simpson-Student Representative Beaver River Central School, Emma Reid-Student Representative South Lewis, Lisa Peebles Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, Katie Zehr, John Exford and Eileen Mathys. *Others Present:* Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. *Excused:* Kallie Bauter Co-Chairperson/Student Representative South Lewis, Nathan Schmitt-Student Representative Harrisville, and Michele Ledoux. *Guest Present:* Cassie Forbus-Coordinator UP! Coalition of Lewis County and Travis Widrick-Up! Coalition.

#### Introductions and Welcome

**Minutes:** Review of September 16, 2020 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meeting minutes. Peyton Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written; David Fayle seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**Presentation:** Cassie Forbus, Coordinator-UP! Coalition of Lewis County provided a general overview of the function of the UP! Coalition who has a mission to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use in Lewis County by collaborating with our community to empower youth (12-17 years of age) and all residents to make educated decisions about living a healthy lifestyle. The coalition is made up of 12 sectors from all parts of the county who have a goal to make community level changes.

The UP! Coalition is looking for youth who want to make a difference in their community; who think drugs and alcohol are a problem in Lewis County; and to help grow the voice of youth and inspire change that matters to them. To Learn more about the UP! Coalition please go to [uplewiscounty.org](http://uplewiscounty.org) or email Cassie at [cforbus@mvpsny.org](mailto:cforbus@mvpsny.org).

#### Old Business

##### *2020 County Projects Funds*

As approved at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Youth Bureau meeting, a press release announcing the availability of up to \$800 in County Project funds was issued to the local media. The funds can be used to support existing youth programs that had a decrease in funding, were eliminated or for new youth programs. The funds **cannot be used for salaries**. The deadline to submit applications is **October 23, 2020**. At this time two proposals have been received. All proposals received will be emailed to the board prior to the November meeting. Applicants will be invited to the meeting to answer any questions the board may have pertaining to their proposal. Our goal will be to award the funding at the November meeting.

***State Withhold of 20% of 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds-Update:*** Penny reported OCFS has not yet released the 2020 OCFS YDF's allocations of funds. Typically, our annual allocation without the OCFS Add on Funds, is \$21,115.00. ● It is important to reiterate that at the September monthly OCFS conference call, Matt Newman-OCFS Youth Development Specialist with the Office of Children and Family Services, had reported that all 2020 claims and contracts will have a 20% withholding NOT reduction. It is anticipated the county would need to up front the 20% but will eventually be reimbursed by OCFS. Mr. Newman had advised youth bureaus to continue business as usual.

***9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Homeless Christmas Tree" Initiative-Update***

At our August meeting the board agreed that there was merit in continuing this annual initiative in seeking out donations of personal hygiene, kitchen, bathroom, baby items and other supplies. Supplies needed when an individual or family starts over. This year our "Homeless Tree" will again be displayed in the window at Lake Effect Tech in the Village of Lowville. ● This year, in addition to collecting personal hygiene, baby items, etc., we will be coordinating efforts with Josh Fitzgerald, Owner of Lake Effect Tech, and Scott Morgan, Financial Center Manager for Americu Credit Union to also collect socks, winter hats/gloves, and scarves for children and adults for their project called "Warmth For Your Sole." The Annual "Homeless Christmas Tree" Initiative is slated to begin November 20<sup>th</sup> through December 21, 2020. The packing up of donations will be December 28<sup>th</sup>.

***2020 Safe Harbour – Virtual Training***

At our October meeting it was reported that due to the 20% state withhold of 2020 funds and with Jefferson County deciding not to participate in the joint virtual keynote and training with Rachel Lloyd, CEO and Founder of GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services) Commissioner Jones had recommended that the Youth Bureau not move forward with the virtual training. ● Since then it was advised to move forward with a smaller scale virtual training this Fall if Rachel Lloyd accepts the invite. Invites to the virtual training would include, law enforcement, probation, prevention awareness agencies and school officials to name a few. Penny will keep the board posted.

**New Business**

***OCFS appoints Regional Representatives for all Youth Bureau Boards***

For several years now, youth bureaus have not had an OCFS Regional Representative. It was recently announced that Matthew Newman, Youth Development Specialist with the Office of Children and Family Services, will be the Region 3 representative.

***Monthly Meetings – Integration of the Youth Bureau under DSS***

Beginning October 22<sup>nd</sup> and ongoing on a monthly basis, Penny will be meeting with Commissioner Jones regarding the integration of the Youth Bureau under DSS. This will provide Commissioner Jones with a better understanding of how the Youth Bureau operates.

***Remaining 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds of \$6,615 (Suggestion/Discussion on how to utilize the funds)***

These funds are targeted towards early intervention and prevention services that are designed to curb the high priority problems affecting youth. Programs should include a component of preventative education and or drug prevention awareness.

In April 2020 the Youth Bureau allocated \$14,000 of 2020 OCFS YDF's to support the following programs:

- Lowville Police Department's Youth Aid Officer Program – requested \$6,000 and were awarded the full amount.
- Lewis County Sheriff's Office-Juvenile Aid Officer Program – requested \$5,000 and were awarded the full amount.
- Mountain View Prevention Services School Based Prevention Counseling Program at BRCS; Lowville Academy; and Harrisville Central – Requested \$14,000 and were awarded \$3,000.

Discussion was held on how the youth board would like to proceed with allocating the remaining funds in the amount of \$6,515.

**After much discussion Katie Zehr moved to allocate the remaining \$6,615 in 2020 OCFS Youth Development Funds to Mountain View Prevention Services School Based Prevention Counseling Program that encompasses Beaver River, Lowville, and Harrisville Central Schools, as well as MVPS Life Skills evidenced based program at South Lewis Central School. Peyton Walker seconded. Motion passed.** The additional allocation brings the total 2020 amount allocated to MVPS to \$9,615.00

#### **Student Representatives – School Updates**

Sports have started; some districts have advised that they will have sign ups for winter sports, however this could change; and cross country has begun at South Lewis.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 4pm at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers.**

**Adjournment:** Mike Leviker moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm, Peyton Walker seconded. **Motion carried.**

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