



LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

P.O. Box 193, 5274 Outer Stowe Street
Lowville, New York 13367
Telephone: (315) 376-5411
Fax: (315) 376-6189

To Bd
Cassandrea
9/21/2020

Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board
Minutes of September 16, 2020

Scott Mathys, Co-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:01pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse.

Present: Scott Mathys, Co-Chairperson, Kallie Bauter, Co-Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis Central, Peyton Walker-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative Copenhagen Central School, David Fayle-Student Representative Lowville Academy, Emma Reid-Student Representative South Lewis Central, Adah Simpson-Student Representative Beaver River Central, Lisa Peebles, Cinda Bush, Eileen Mathys, Brian Finn, John Exford and Michele Ledoux. *Others Present:* Randy LaChausse-Chairperson Health & Human Services Legislative Committee and Penny Moser-Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. *Excused:* Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, Katie Zehr and Ramsey Metzler.

Introductions and Welcome

Minutes: Review of August 19, 2020 Youth Bureau Advisory Board meeting minutes. Peyton Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Michele Ledoux seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Start-Up of School in this COVID environment

Emma Reid, Kallie Bauter, David Fayle, Adah Simpson, and Peyton Walker-Student Representatives provided a Report out on the Challenges, Changes, and Concerns within their school districts: All but Copenhagen school districts are utilizing the Hybrid system (Group 1 and Group 2 going to school every other day with Wednesday being their remote learning day at home). The Copenhagen Central School, Kindergarten, Middle and High School are all in the same building and are in school 5 days a week.

Emma Reid-South Lewis Central reported

- All students, have to wear masks in the hallway
- There is a lot of hand washing

Kallie Bauter-South Lewis Central reported

- What it means to be a Senior this year is much different, as there are no sports; unsure if we will have a senior trip or senior prom.
- Students can't use their lockers but rather have to carry their books around all day.
- Great lunches this year.

David Fayle-Lowville Academy Central School reported

- The remote learning does not seem to be a problem at this time as students are able to reach out to their teaches if needed. With the remote learning it seems that some students are doing better and some worse. David is glad the district is not fully remote.
- There is a lot of hand washing and social distancing.

Adah Simpson-Beaver River Central School reported

- Wednesday is remote learning with all going well so far.
- Can't eat in cafeteria but rather in the classroom.

Peyton Walker-Copenhagen Central reported

- The high, middle, and elementary are all in one building
- We are at school 5 days a week
- We have to stay 6-feet apart
- Can only go one way down hallways (a lot of congestion)
- We have to use hand sanitizers when entering and leaving classrooms
- All desks are washed and sanitized daily
- Students who live in the village, cannot ride the bus to school
- Students who do ride the bus have to have temperature checks if you don't pass you can't go to school.
- Teachers anticipate that in the Fall we will go remote again.

Old Business***2020 County Project Funds***

There is a balance of \$800 in 2020 County Project funds. These funds can be used to support youth projects that support positive youth activities/programs in Lewis County. The funding **can** be used to support existing youth programs that had a decrease in funding, were eliminated or for new youth programs however **cannot** be used to support salaries. After discussion, **Michele Ledoux moved to issue a press release announcing the availability of up to \$800 in County Project Funds; Emma Reid seconded. Motion carried.** A Press Release announcing the availability of funds will be issued to local media outlets to include the Lowville Journal & Republican, Linking Lewis County and on the Youth Bureau website. The deadline to submit proposals will be **October 23, 2020.**

2020 State withhold of 20% of 2020 State OCFS Youth Development Funds – Discussion:

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. There is talk that the state will be withholding 20% from each claim submitted. **2020 Expenditures to date and Prior to the onset of Covid Include: \$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 including but not limited to postage, advertisements and OCFS dues. ▪ In an effort to track potential funding losses to our community, County Manager Piche had called for all county agencies to keep him informed of funding withheld from the state. On behalf of the Youth Bureau a report was submitted.

Penny reported that on September 15th she participated in the monthly OCFS Bureau of Youth Development conference call. Matt Beck, Director of Child Welfare and Community Services and Matt Newman-OCFS, reported that although the budget for 2020 and 2021 OCFS Youth Development Funds were previously passed, due to the state crisis and with everything being extremely political right now, the allocations have not yet been released. Mr. Newman reported 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). Mr. Newman advised youth bureaus to continue business as usual. ▪ In an effort for clarity, Youth Bureau Directors requested Mr. Newman to put in writing clearer information regarding the 20% withhold.

New Business

Safe Harbour – Virtual Keynote and Training – Update: The 1st of 5 years of Lewis County Safe Harbour funding, is to be used to raise local outreach and awareness efforts to support youth survivors of trafficking. This included the joint planning of Lewis and Jefferson Counties Safe Harbor programs, to host a virtual keynote and training with Rachel Lloyd, CEO and Founder of GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services). With the 20% state withhold of 2020 funds, Commissioner Jones had advised Penny that Jefferson County had decided not to participate in the joint virtual conference, therefore recommended that Lewis County Safe Harbour cancel as well, which was done. Our hope is to offer the virtual training in year 2 of Safe Harbour funding.

9th Annual “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative-Discussion: This annual initiative is sponsored by the Lewis County Youth Bureau in support of Lewis County Department of Social Services as well as many other local agencies. This initiative is the collection of personal hygiene, kitchen, bathroom supplies and baby items such as diapers, items needed when an individual or family “starts over” and are provided to people who are facing economic hardships, homelessness, job loss, illness, addictions, house fires, and more. Referrals for assistance come from multiple community agencies included but not limited to LCDSS, NRCIL, Transitional Living Services, OFA, the Workplace, School Districts, and more. ■ The board agreed there was merit in continuing this annual initiative. This year the “Homeless Christmas Tree” will be displayed in the window of Lewis County Opportunities-Neighborhood Center located in the Village of Lowville at 7644 N. State Street, directly across from the Lowville Fire Department. The initiative will begin November 20th through December 21, 2020.

The pack up and sorting of donations collected date will be December 28th.

Thank You and Best Wishes: Legislator Randy LaChausse had previously announced that he will be resigning from his Legislative position due to moving closer to his family.

On behalf of the Youth Bureau, Kallie Bauter Co-Chairperson thanked Legislator LaChausse for his commitment in attending youth bureau meetings, for being a great support and advocate of the youth bureau board, and for helping student representatives to better understand how county government works.

Legislator LaChausse stated “It has been a wonderful experience being appointed as the Legislative Chairperson of the youth bureau board. I especially liked listening to the youth while they reviewed applications for funding, the discussion they had pertaining to applications received and the process in allocating funds to youth programs in our county.” He thanked the board for all they have done for their communities.”

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 4pm at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2nd Floor in the Legislative Chambers.**

Adjournment: Kallie Bauter moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15pm, David Fayle seconded. **Motion carried.**

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