

Youth Services Network Meeting

September 9, 2024 9:15-10:30am

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County

NOTES

- 1) Introductions/Welcome
- 2) Review May 13, 2024 minutes, no suggestions for changes
- 3) Guest presenters – NCPPC Family Opportunity Center, Taylor Cunningham – emailed that they were unable to attend
- 4) Program updates –

NYSPEP, Kevin Chamberlin shared that this is a statewide parenting project that provides professional development opportunities both in-person and virtually. If you go to nyspep.org you can join for free and will receive information for all the professional development opportunities.

CAPC, Head Start and Pre-K, Trish Gay shared that enrollment is almost full for 3- and 4-year-olds. There is a home-based portion where they can serve youth in their homes once a week.

My Brother's Keeper, Watertown City School District, Betsy Hennessey, Family Engagement Specialist shared there is an Art Show at the Lincoln Loft on 9/26, starting at 5:30pm. Bianca Ellis coordinates Juneteenth celebrations and activities and would be a good presenter for this group. Emmanuel Congregation continues with community dinners. In the summer it is on Monday and Wednesdays. As cooler weather approaches it will be Monday – Friday. Typically, 50 people attend.

Joe Wargo shared information about the Watertown City School District Cyclone Academy from 2:30-5:30pm afterschool with supper served targeting students at risk of dropping out.

Ericka Vachon, NRCIL shared they serve individuals from birth to death. She shared there is a SPARK program for 15–20-year-olds and a WACK program for 8-12 year olds.

Melissa Shova shared that the SoZo Teen Center is returning to Monday – Friday 2:30pm-7:30pm for students in grades 7 – 12. The Family Permanency Program is a 5-year grant targeting youth who are adopted/kinship situations. CHJC is partnering with CCE for a new TOP evidence-based program – more to follow soon.

Cassandra Fichthorn, House of Good Shepard said they are experiencing some of the highest numbers they have ever served. Mainly their focus is foster care and those involved must have Medicaid insurance.

Kylie Schell shared Encompass Recreation has three part-time staff now and they serve youth ages 2 through high school who have higher support needs. Programs that are happening include – two sensory trails at Baker Wood in Natural Bridge and Redwood Preserve,; indoor soccer at the YMCA, track at IRCSD, dance with Rhonda Foote, Sound Quest, open POs at The Most Museum in Syracuse and Zoo NY, Move Watertown – first event is 9/14/24 at the Rotary Pavilion at Thompson Park, Teen Plus life club and Tanker Club for younger youth with a STEM focus. They are available for accessibility consultations.

Chelsea Suarez is the Crisis Intervention Specialist, CHJC working with the school district in Jefferson County.

Emily Massa, Planned Parenthood provides peer education for 13–20-year-olds for Jefferson and Lewis Counties. She also coordinates the CAPP program and provides the evidence based Be Proud Be Responsible program.

Anita Seefried-Brown, Youth Alliance, Pivot shared that they are working on expanding the youth coalitions in the 11 school districts they work with. The emphasis is placed on students struggling in school. Anita shared that they have the Good Neighbor Partnership with smoke shops and dispensaries.

Access VR serves all schools in Jefferson County with free pre-employment services and partners with others to get the work completed. She directly works with up to 22 students daily, serving 65 students at WCSD. Youth need to have an IEP and/or 504 plan to be eligible. There is another program Potentially Eligible that can expand who they are reaching with their services.

Tara Alteri, JCYB Director shared that funding starts 10/1/24 and letters have gone out to those who are approved for funding. There are recreation scholarships for up to \$400 per youth.

Samantha Hamilton, Watertown Family YMCA is partnering with WCSD for Family Nights and looking for other partners to help. They have been awarded the Department of Labor Pathway funds for 14–21-year-olds to shadow people at work for mentoring and job skill development.

Emily Adair is a Zoo NY educator, and she shared that they are focusing on home schoolers 4-12 year olds and will soon be expanding to 13-18 year olds. They do and they will offer school break programming. Zoo NY is open seven days a week from 10am-5pm. Leann Frazy is a volunteer, and she shared that they have Boo @ the Zoo 10/19, 10/20, 10/26 and 10/27. There is a Tie Dye event on 9/21, fee for the t-shirt. Membership fees were discussed and reviewed.

4-H Camp Wabasso has their 2nd Annual Camp Spooktacular on 10/12 from 1-4pm. \$7 per child is registered in advance. \$10 at the door.

- 5) Other –
- 6) 2024 meeting dates, West Room at CCE

November 4, 2024 – Jason Stowell, Office of New American and Cori Leshner, Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project, Rebranding, CAPC are confirmed

January – NCPPC Family Opportunity Center, House of Good Shepard
(kurtw@hgsutica.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Graf