

Association of NYS Youth Courts  
Quarterly Meeting  
Ulster County Youth Court - Kingston, NY  
November 6, 2008

Present: Michael Alessio (Town of Greenburgh Police YC), Tom Schulze (Greenburgh Police YC), Ellis Christmas (Town of Greenburgh Police YC), Andy Placito (Albany), Katrina Charland (Bethlehem YC), Nancy Cormier (Ulster County YC), Luanne Strauser (Elmira YC), Adrienne Fayette (Jefferson County YC), Katherine Chambers (Warren County YC), Violet Colydas (Colonie YC), Jackie Sherman (Center for Courts and the Community) Conference Call: Jocelyn Sikorski (Genesee County YC), Susan Taskin (Clinton County YC)

- I. Call to Order at 10:03 am
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of Minutes Luanne Strauser made a motion to accept the August minutes. Violet Colydas seconded. Minutes approved.
- IV. Business Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report: A motion was put on the floor to invest monies into a six month CD to earn better interest. Second and all in favor – motion carried.
  - b. Membership Report: We currently have 35 active and 18 youth members. 2009 member applications will be sent out by late November to all. Would like to focus on increasing the youth as well as overall membership. Discussed incentives for youth to join association. It was suggested that other agencies be encouraged to join as associate members. Some incentives or ways to promote their participation in the statewide association would be sashes or cords at graduation, pins, develop a scholarship for graduating youth members. Ideas for the scholarship will be put on listserv for approval. Jocelyn Sikorski, Judy Wolfe & Susan Taskin have agreed to work on a scholarship committee.
  - c. Committees: Discussion took place about having all members involved in a committee to stay more active and invested in the association. A Marketing committee and a Scholarship committee were proposed.
- V. Old Business
  - a. Legislature: Deb Holland met with Senator Volker in regards to funding, etc. He suggested that we approach Criminal Justice Committee in March and reach out to the following, but not limited too: Office of Court Admin, OCFS, Law Enforcement, Magistrates Association, etc. Discussion took place regarding marketing/sustainability. Develop postcards with facts regarding YC and send them out to state and local officials that are signed by YC members. Include a fact sheet in our newsletter as well. It is important to define our goals. Need to develop a timeline and overarching goals.
- VI. New Business
  - a. Survey: There is a need to do a new survey of NYS youth courts in an effort to gather information on models that are used in NY, as well as recommended

practices & fundamentals. It was suggested that youth courts reach out to juvenile officers to find out # of cases, etc., that are referred to YC and what are their needs are. All this information will help with the fact sheet and raise awareness of program.

- b. Newsletter/website: Pictures and articles are needed by the deadline of December 15. There is a need to make the website more youth friendly. It was suggested that we add photos of youth members to the website, etc.
  - c. NYS Bar Foundation: Recently created a restricted fund to assist NYS youth courts, they are currently soliciting donations for this fund and working out the details for the application process. Once the fund is established information will be made available to NYS Youth Courts.
  - d. NAYC: They have secured a grant from OJJDP and are in the process of hiring a program administrator. There is a NAYC Meeting/Conference next week in Albuquerque, NM.
  - e. Center for Courts & the Communities: Jackie Sherman talked about developing a publication for recommended practices for youth courts. The goal is to gather information from courts throughout the state and publish recommended practices representing various models. Jackie asked for input on who should be invited to serve on an advisory committee for the project. Jackie stated that this would not be *mandatory* recommended practices but that there is a need to organize fundamental practices that are working around the state and tailor them to fit particular areas.
  - f. Meeting schedule for 2009:
    - i. February 10 in Albany (Feb 12 snow day)
    - ii. May 12 in Batavia
    - iii. August 25 in Syracuse
    - iv. November 4 in Greenburgh
- VII. Networking/Sharing Ideas: Rochester School for the Deaf is interested in creating a school based court and will be observing Syracuse's Student on November 19<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion regarding permission slips for pictures and the media for members. Some currently use an annual permission slip and renew with the members, some do it per event.
- Clinton Co – photos are shared with high schools, also are doing awards for seniors, that members vote for.
- Proclamation – copies of the 2008 proclamation from the Governor's office were distributed, still unknown who developed this year's theme.

VIII. Adjournment: 12:49pm

IX. Next meeting: February 10, 2009 in Albany hosted by the NYS Bar Association

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jocelyn Sikorski  
Co-Secretary