

Association of NYS Youth Courts

Quarterly Meeting

Genesee County, Batavia, NY

May 12, 2009

Present: Judy Wolfe (SCSD Student Court), Steve Todisco (Livingston Co. Youth Court), David Palen (Onondaga County Youth Court), Jackie Sherman (Center for Courts and the Community), Darryl Clark (Elmira Police – Youth Court), Luanne Strauser (Elmira Youth Court), Dawn Metott (Oswego City Youth Court), Katrina Charland (Bethlehem Youth Court), Jocelyn Sikorski (Genesee County Youth Court), Violet Colydas (Colonie Youth Court), Andy Placito (member), Mike Torrillo (Amherst Youth Court).

Conference Call: Nancy Cormier (Ulster County Youth Court)

Call to order: 10:16am

Introductions

Approval of Minutes – Mike Torrillo motioned for approval of the February minutes. The motion was seconded by Violet Colydas.

Business Report –

- **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Dave Palin distributed the monthly cash flow chart. The honor cords purchase is itemized on the cash flow chart. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made by Steve Todisco and was seconded by Dawn Metott.
- **Honor Cord Sales:** So far there have been 8 invoices and a few more may be coming in. A total of 300 cords were purchased and so far about 1/3 have been sold. There are still more for sale. Anyone interested in purchasing honor cords should contact Violet Colydas.
- **Membership:** There are 35 active members as of the May 12th, 2009 meeting, which brought in a total of \$4,525. This represents a slight increase from 2008. There are 14 youth members, which brought in a total of \$170 (amount includes some additional contributions). Membership packets have been sent out. The membership packet includes a certificate, an updated directory, and a brochure. There have been two large mailings since the February meeting, totaling about \$250 in postage.

Old Business –

- **Center for Courts and the Community:** Jackie Sherman gave an update on the progress of the Youth Court research endeavor. The advisory committee has had two meetings as of May 12th. Their goal is to gather information about the successes of NYS Youth Courts for the purpose of putting together a “best practices” manual. There are three major components to the project. The first is a research component on Youth Courts in general, for which a bibliography will be compiled. The second part is a survey (an example of which was distributed) which will be used to collect data on NYS Youth Courts. Mention was made of the difficulties in response rates to surveys. The Center for Courts and the Community intends to deliver the survey in two modes, hardcopy by mail and an online version, in order to ensure a valid

response rate. The third component to this project is comprised of site visits. The protocol packet was distributed to attendees. The plan is to conduct about 7 site visits in NYS and 1-2 non-NYS site visits. They are in the process of getting IRB approval and will be gathering documentation to begin the site visit process during the summer of 2009. As of now, the plan is for this research project to be completed by the end of 2009. A discussion was held regarding which Youth Courts might be appropriate for site interviews. Some of the criteria include geographic diversity, program model diversity, as well as structural diversity. The site visits will last approximate 1-1.5 days.

New Business –

- **Positions:** Treasurer Dave Palin will be retiring in September of 2009. A new treasurer will need to be nominated at the August meeting. The treasurer's tasks include: making deposits, writing checks, completing annual taxes, and keeping records.
- **Newsletter:** Currently the newsletter is printed in Albany. Violet Colydas has Youth Court participants label and stamp the newsletters. Andy Placito mentioned using a mail service. Andy is going to have someone whom he knows in the mail service industry send a proposal to Violet. Judy Wolfe is looking for submissions for the upcoming newsletter.
- **Meetings:** Judy Wolfe brought up the idea attaching a regional training onto the quarterly meetings. The addition of a training to the quarterly meetings could help increase attendance at meetings. It also seems cost effect to provide a training along with the quarterly meetings. Discussion was made of charging a small fee of perhaps \$5 for food, but otherwise the training would be free. It was decided that we will brainstorm and come back in August with ideas.
- **Booklet on Rights for Young Adults/Teens:** A booklet on young people's legal rights is being compiled at the New York Bar Foundation. The booklet will help guide young people through the transition into adulthood by providing them with knowledge of their legal rights in all sorts of life situations. Stacey Whiteley approached Judy Wolfe about a potential business collaboration in which the ANYSYC could donate a substantial amount of money toward the endeavor in return for the use of the ANYSYC logo on the cover of the booklet. The ANYSYC would also be privy to the first batch of publications. There was discussion of what content would be included in the booklet and since no definitive answer could be found to this question, it was decided that we will wait until the August meeting to vote. We would also like to see a draft or complete version before deciding whether or not we will contribute money towards this project.
- Judy Wolfe mentioned a website that has recently been brought to her attention. Katherine Morgan [(615) 826-7773] contacted Judy regarding the website www.betterchoicesforall.com which sells online curriculums for drug and alcohol courses. This could be an option for some courts that have mandated drug and alcohol classes as part of their sentencing requirements.
- Judy also brought up the idea of purchasing ANYSYC decals (the kind that people put in their car windows). Violet volunteered to look into this further. We decided to hold a vote at our next meeting or hold an online vote.

- NAYC: There is a new office in Baltimore in the World Trade Center. They are actually saving \$1000 a month on utility/rent expenses. A new part time employee has been hired. There has been discussion of adding another part time employee to free up John Messick's time to allow for him to go out and network more. Judy Wolfe has been voted in as a trustee. There will be upcoming trainings in Salt Lake City (June 7-9), Baltimore (August), and the annual training/meeting in November in Orlando, Florida. NAYC will be conducting a national survey of Youth Courts which will go out to over 1,000 Youth Courts.
- ANYSYC Survey Results: The survey results were distributed to attendees. There was a 45% response rate. Violet will seek out some more responses.
- ANYSYC Scholarship: Discussion was held of having 2-3 \$500 scholarships to member courts. Students would need to have a 2.5 GPA or above, be a senior, and enter an essay explaining why they are deserving of the scholarship.

Adjourn: 12:30pm

Next Meeting: August 25th, Syracuse (Location TBD)

Respectfully submitted by:
Katrina Charland, Co-Secretary