Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board (YAFAB)
Room 110-Birdseye Municipal Complex
Minutes-April 8, 2013

In attendance: Shelly Bheer, Lucretia Duwel for Barbara Blosveren, Greta Roberts-Broneill for Andrea Boissevain, Josephine Burrano, Kristen Doerr, Winnie Etienne, Clarence Gaskins, Aamir Kadeem, Sean Kennedy, Peggy Pancak, Dudley Orr, Jesse Peña, Suds Range, Taisha Rivera, Giovanni-Marie Roper, Becky Simon, Frank Eannotti for Orlando Soto, Mark Wright

Absent: Cheyenne Ahmad, Olivia Mastroluca, Pat Patusky, Lou Perno, Ed Rawls, Ty Sims, Tegh Terrill

Guests: Denique Weidema-Lewis, RYASAP; Kate Venison and Julianna Ward, Community Services; Collette Fearon and Rose Okai, Stratford Academy

Staff: Tammy Trojanowski

Call to Order
Co-Chair Jesse Peña called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Discussion and Presentation

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) For Suicide Prevention, Maureen Lasko, LCSW

QPR consists of three life-saving skills:
1. Question…a person about suicide.
2. Persuade…the person to get help.
3. Refer…the person to the appropriate resource.

QPR is not intended to be a form of counseling or treatment. It is intended to offer hope through positive action. QPR teaches the warning signs, clues and suicidal communications of people in trouble and how to act to prevent a possible tragedy. Much like CPR, the fundamentals are easily learned and the application may save a life.

QPR is one of the evidence-based models identified by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which can be funded by a $2,500 mini-grant from RYASAP. Board members expressed enthusiastic support of implementation of QPR in community settings and in the schools for teachers and middle/high school students. They agreed that the training was very valuable. Board members also completed a survey about QPR. The Town of Stratford Community Services will submit the application on behalf of the YAFAB.

Report from Co-Chairs

The Executive Committee met on March 27, 2013, which resulted in the following outcomes:

- Approval of $250 contribution to Stratford Recreation Department toward their youth volunteer training and recognition and $250 contribution to Sterling House Community Center toward their Character and Leadership Development Day. Remaining Local Prevention Council grant funds will offset Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony expenses.
- Thirty people attended, Connect, suicide prevention training sponsored by the YAFAB on February 28, 2013. YAFAB members in attendance included Kristen Doerr (Stratford Public Schools), Bob Wargo (Sterling House Community Center), Lucretia Duwel
(Stratford Library Association), Mary Tiernan (Stratford Recreation Department), Greta Roberts Broneill (Stratford Health Department), Frank Eannotti (Stratford Police Department), Ty Sims (South End Community Center) and Tammy Trojanowski (Stratford Community Services). Completing Connect is one of the requirements needed to submit a mini-grant application.

- The Stratford Police Department conducted a second tobacco compliance check on March 19, 2013. Frank Eannotti reported that four out of the 22 outlets checks sold to the underage operative.

- State Representative Laura Hoydick contacted Tammy and Lou Perno to explore the idea of offering Mental Health First Aid USA. It would cost approximately $2,000 for the two-day training, including materials and the trainer’s fee. Funding is being sought with plans for the training to be conducted in September/October 2013.

- The area health departments, hospitals and health clinics continue to develop a regional Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The YAFAB was one of the community focus groups that provided data. Greta Roberts Broneill reported that one of the top focus areas for the CHIP is substance abuse and mental health. Tammy Trojanowski and Kate Venison are part of the work group developing goals and strategies to address substance abuse and mental health. The CHIP will be presented at the September 2013 meeting; however, if any Board member is interested in the data now, they can contact Greta.

- The application for a five-year Drug Free Communities Grant was submitted. If awarded, the YAFAB will be responsible for guiding the project activities aimed at reducing youth alcohol and marijuana use by implementing environmental prevention strategies. The amount of the award is estimated at $125,000 annually, which will bring tremendous resources to YAFAB prevention work.

Approval of January 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Mark Wright made a motion to approve the January 14, 2013 Board meeting minutes. Taisha Rivera seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. There is one correction. Peggy Pancak was in attendance.

Youth Committee Report
Youth Committee co-chair Taisha Rivera announced that nominations for Making Extraordinary Differences And Leading Stratford (MEDALS) awards are being distributed. The deadline for submission is April 19, 2013. Awards will be presented at the May 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in Town Hall. Members of the Youth Committee are also attending a youth leadership conference on April 13, 2013 at Housatonic Community College sponsored by the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

Community Assets Team
Asset promotional materials from the Haddam-Killingworth Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition are being considered.

Partnerships For Success (PFS) Coalition
Sean Kennedy reported that the Coalition has approved a parent questionnaire that is being implemented through June 2013. It will guide the messaging to parents in the final, upcoming PFS year. They are also planning for the Stratford YMCA Healthy Kids Day on April 27, 2013 and Main Street Festival on June 1, 2013.

Community Up-dates & Announcements
Lucretia Duwel reported that Rising Stars @ SLA will be May 18, 2013, showcasing visual and performance art and written works by local youth.
Peggy Pancak announced that the Stratford High School Craft Fair is April 13, 2013. Becky Simon added that the Stratford High School production of *Brigadoon*, held the first weekend in April, was a success. Giovanni-Marie Roper said that the Bunnell STAGE production of *Fame* is the last weekend in April.

Dudley Orr informed Board members that Stratford High School is currently in the process of accreditation.

**Adjournment**
Peggy Pancak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Winnie Etienne seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Trojanowski