



## LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny L. Demo, Director

### Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of March 21, 2018

Jacob Hartle-Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Court House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers.

**Present:** John Exford-Co-Chairperson, Jacob Hartle Co-Chair and Student Representative Harrisville Central, Madeline Lehman-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative Lowville Academy; Scott Mathys, Kirstin Moshier-Student Representatives-Lowville Academy, Tara Martin and Victoria Boliver-Student Representatives Beaver River Central, Libby McGuire-Student Representative South Lewis; Ward Dailey, Mike Leviker Rhonda Vanucchi, Officer Luke Monnat; and Deanna Edick.

**Others Present:** John Lehman, Chairperson Legislative Committee, Randy LaChausse and Thomas Osborne-Legislators and Penny Demo, Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. **Excused:** Journee Allen-Student Representative Harrisville Central, Kimmy Dolan and Annabelle Atnip-Student Representatives Copenhagen Central, and Michele Ledoux. **Guests Present:** Sgt. Eric Schmitt-Lewis County Sheriff's Office; Heather Collins-Double Play Community Center-B.A.T.S. Program and Lizzi Widrick-Mountain View Prevention Services.

#### **Introductions and Welcome:**

Welcome to Thomas Osborne, who has been appointed as part of the Legislative Committee on the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board.

**Minutes:** Review of the **February 21, 2018** board meeting minutes. **Madeline Lehman moved to accept the minutes as written; Scott Mathys seconded; Passed.**

#### **Old Business:**

**2018 OCFS Youth Development Funds (Up to \$14,000 available) – Review of applications received and awarding of funds:** As directed by the Lewis County Youth Bureau at their February 21, 2018 meeting, a press release announcing the availability of up to \$14,000 in 2018 OCFS-Youth Development Funds was published in the Lowville Journal & Republican and posted on Linking Lewis County Website. The funding was open to applicants interested in offering program opportunities for youth under the age of 21 designed to prevent juvenile delinquency through positive youth development and early intervention and prevention services that are designed to curb the high priority problems affecting youth. Deadline for submitting applications was March 16, 2018. A total of four (4) applications were received. On March 19, 2018 an email with the following attachments were provided to board members, and the board was asked to review each application and come to the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting prepared to ask questions of applicants. 1. Agenda; 2. Summary of Applications Received; and a copy of each application. Applicants were invited to today's meeting to answer any questions pertaining to their application that the youth bureau board may have. **Reminder: Per the**

**Youth Bureau By-Laws, inability to provide a verbal presentation will not exclude applicants from consideration.** The voting process for awarding 2018 OCFS YDF is a simple majority of the membership present. The following applicants were at the meeting to answer questions pertaining to their application:

**4:05pm Officer Luke Monnat-Lowville Village Police Department-Youth Aid Officer Program:** Officer Luke Monnat advised that the New York State certified Youth Aid Officer interacts with youth that have interaction with police departments thereby providing guidance in the appropriate manner to youth coming in contact with law enforcement. The Village Police' Youth Aid Officer and Chief also conduct or supervise the administration of issuing free Safe Child Identification Cards through the "Safe Child" system at public functions and upon request of individual youth groups. The Village Police Department would utilize funds requested to send the Youth Aid Officer to a week-long Basic NYS Certified Youth Aid Officer Course (training and wages = \$2,500). Additionally, new this year and due to state wide school threats, Lowville Village Police Officers will have a stronger presence at Lowville Academy School District which will entail Officers being on-site at the school on a regular basis interacting with students (Exact cost to have presence of two officers at Lowville Academy for approximately 1-2 hours per day per officer is estimated at \$500 per week). Vice-Chairperson Madeline Lehman advised that having the presence of officers at the district would be good. **The Lowville Village Police Department has requested \$6,000 in 2018 OCFS Youth Development Funds to support Youth Aid Officer-Basic Training/wages and wages for two Officers on site 1- 2 hours per day at Lowville Academy.**

**4:10pm Sgt. Eric Schmitt-Lewis County Sheriff's Office-Juvenile Aid Officer Program:** Sgt Eric Schmitt, School Resource Officer at South Lewis Central advised that the Juvenile Aid Officer Program is designed to educate children about safety and drug use. Children are instructed about the harmful effects and consequences of using drugs and are instructed on how to stay safe as well as the importance of making good decisions. Libby McGuire asked Sgt. Schmitt if he believes School Resource Officers should be in all school districts. Sgt. Schmitt replied yes. Being the Resource Officer at South Lewis Sgt. Schmitt has built and continues to build positive relationships with the students. **The Lewis County Sheriff's Office-Juvenile Aid Officer Program has requested \$3,000 to support the Juvenile Aid Officer Program.**

**4:15pm Heather Collins and Dan Myers-Double Play Community Center-B.A.T.S. (Building Across The Street):** The target population for the B.A.T.S. program is 10-18 years of age. This program is in the South Lewis Central School district. Youth services are middle to low income status backgrounds and are lacking outside of school, and safe and healthy engagement. Following an excessive drug number of overdoses in 2016 and 2017, a group of community leaders organized a community action group called *It's Real It's Local* with a goal to provide drug awareness to the area while also letting people know that neighbors care about their neighbors' lives. One of the key elements developed from this organization was to create some valuable after school programs for adolescents that would instill a sense of self-worth and positive peer action outside of the school setting. The idea of B.A.T.S. was born. B.A.T.S. averaged over 50 participants weekly. This is a Free program for local youth. **Double Play Community Sports Center is requesting \$2,400 to**

purchase Food/Drink/Related food supplies (cups, plates, and silverware) \$1,800 and \$600 for program supplies (art and recreation and youth athletic equipment).

**4:20pm Lizzi Widrick-Mountain View Prevention Services – Youth Advocate Program:** Lizzi Youth Advocates work with students in Lewis County Schools from Kindergarten through grade 12. The program provides counseling for youth dealing with problems at home; separated or divorced parent issues, academic struggles, peer problems, dating relationship troubles, grief issues or communication difficulties. Children benefitting from this program may present behavioral problems or they may simply be feeling stressed/overwhelmed with something in their life and have a need to talk to someone who can help in sorting things out. The Youth Advocate meets with students individually or in groups depending on the need or issue to be resolved. **Mountain View Prevention Services is requesting \$10,000 to support cost of Youth Advocate.**

After much discussion Madeline Lehman moved to award the 2018 OCFS Youth Development Funds (total of \$14,000 available) to the following applicants: Lowville Village Police Department-Youth Aid Officer Program=**\$4,600**; Lewis County Sheriff's Office-Juvenile Aid Officer Program=**\$3,000**; Mountain View Prevention Services-Youth Advocate Program=**\$5,000**; and Double Play Community Sports Center-B.A.T.S. Program=**\$1,400 to purchase youth athletic equipment and art and recreation supplies. The awarded funds may also be used for food supplies, with the added stipulation that students will not be charged for the food items purchased through these grant revenues.** Kirstin Moshier seconded. **Passed.** Abstained, Officer Luke Monnat and Mike Leviker.

**2018 OCFS Youth and Young Adult Section of the 2018-2023 County Plan:** Penny reported that she had been notified by OCFS that the Youth Bureau component of the Plan-The Youth and Young Adult Section, had been approved.

**Remaining \$7,115 in 2018 OCFS YDF – Recap and Update:** At the February 21, 2018 Youth Bureau Meeting, the board approved to allocate \$600 to support the Youth Bureau's 2018 Administrative Expenses and that the remaining \$6,515 to support Lewis County Municipality Run Recreational Programs through a competitive application process. On February 22, 2018, letters announcing the availability of up to \$6,515 in 2018 YDF to support 2018 municipality run recreational programs, were sent to Lewis County Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. **Deadline to submit applications is April 13, 2018.** At the Youth Bureaus April meeting we will review applications and award the funding.

**2018 County Project Funds (\$5,000) available Recap/Discussion:** During the 2018 budget process, the Youth Bureau requested and were approved for \$5,000 from the county to be used for youth projects that support positive youth activities/programs in Lewis County. This funding can be used to support existing youth programs that had a decrease of funding, were eliminated or for new youth programs. County Project funds cannot be used to support salaries. The Youth Board can either designate the funds to a specific type of youth program, or open the funding up to any youth program through a competitive application process. **Madeline Lehman-Vice Chairperson, moved to open the 2018 County Project Funds up to any Lewis County Youth Program. Seconded**

by Scott Mathys. **Passed.** Penny will issue a press release announcing the availability of up to \$5,000 in 2018 County Project Funds. The deadline for submitting applications is May 4, 2018.

#### **New Business**

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Don Boshart, Senior Community Development Manager-American Cancer Society is reaching out to see if any youth bureau members would be interested in helping to promote Lewis County Relay for Life Events or even be on the Planning Committee. Madeline Lehman expressed interest. If anyone else is interested, please see Penny.

**Promotion of Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge for youth and adult job opportunities:** The County's Planning Department has asked Youth Bureau student representatives to assistance in promoting the seasonal bus runs to Old Forge by posting throughout their school districts two separate posters: Ride with Us! Summer Job Opportunities at the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari and other Businesses in Old Forge and the Old Forge Summer Bus Route Schedule. Please see Penny for the posters. **Update: On April 12<sup>th</sup> Annabelle Atnip and Tara Martin-Student Representatives will be recording a radio spot with Casandra Buell from the Lewis County Planning Department, regarding the seasonal bus runs to Old Forge. The radio spot will be recording on Moose Radio.**

The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 18, 2018,** at 4pm at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers.

**Adjournment:** Libby McGuire moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:52pm. Kirstin Moser seconded. **Motion carried.**

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