



## LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny (Demo) Moser, Director

### Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of September 19, 2018

Elizabeth (Libby) McGuire-Co-Chair/Student Representative from South Lewis, 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:** Libby McGuire-Co-Chair, Madeline Lehman-Vice-Chairperson and Student Representative-Lowville Academy, Scott Mathys, Justine Schmidt and Chloe Benson-Student Representatives from Harrisville Central. **Others Present:** John Lehman-Chairperson Youth Bureau Legislative Committee and Penny Moser, Director Lewis County Youth Bureau. **Excused:** Legislator's Thomas Osborne and Randy LaChausse, Deanna Edick; Kirstin Moshier-Student Representative Lowville; Michele Ledoux, John Exford-Co-Chair; Kimmy Dolan and Annabelle Atnip-Student Representatives Copenhagen Central, Tara Martin and Victoria Boliver-Student Representatives Beaver River Central, Ward Dailey, Officer Luke Monnat, and Rhonda Vanucchi.

#### Introductions and Welcome

**Minutes:** Review of the August 15, 2018 board meeting. Due to lack of quorum, approval of the minutes, were not acted on. The minutes will be on the October 17<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Presentation:** Scott Mathys, CEO of Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., presented a synopsis of agency services offered at Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. LCOI was incorporated in 1965 during America's War on Poverty and is a not for profit agency. **LCOI Board of Directors:** The Board is made up of twelve Tripartite board members. With 1/3 of the representation being Public (elected officials that speak for consumers); 1/3 being Private Citizens (could be business people, etc.); and 1/3 of the board are low-income residents or victims of crime. All program funds are either state or federal funds; LCOI has 34 employees; and many volunteers. Some program offerings include **Housing Assistance:** The Housing program assists income-eligible families throughout Jefferson and Lewis Counties to obtain decent, safe, and affordable housing through a variety of program services including Rental Subsidies, and Home Ownership. **Family Services:** Car Seat; Financial Empowerment; and a Representative Payee Program where the Social Security Administration finds that a person is unable to handle their funds, LCOI is able to make sure the funds are budgeted to meet the consumer's needs. **Opportunities Knocks Thrift Store:** In October 2011 the thrift store opened. Many generous people donate items to the Store. The items are marked at very affordable prices. Volunteers are always welcomed and needed to assist in in a variety of ways including pricing/marketing donated items and to stock shelves. Proceeds from the store help support current and future services to meet the needs of low income residents in Lewis County. **Victims Services**

**Program:** This program offers counseling services; has a 24/7 Safe Dwelling; and a 24/7 Hotline (376HELP)

### **Old Business**

**Annual “Lewis County Night Out” event – Update:** Penny reported that there were 35 prevention awareness agencies at the September 7<sup>th</sup> event as well as several Law Enforcement agencies including: Lowville Police Department (who processed 25 Safe Child ID Cards at the event); Lewis County Sheriff’s Office; NYS Police; DEC; Forest Rangers and Emergency Management. During the Opening Ceremony Boy Scout Troop 162 of Lowville lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Kendra Virkler sang the National Anthem. We recognized and honored 15 local Fire Departments and 3 surrounding Fire Departments that serve Lewis County. Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board of Legislators read the names of each Fire Department with a representative from each department receiving a local Certificate of Appreciation presented to them by Legislator Bryan Moser and a State Certificate of Appreciation present to them by Legislator Jim Nabywaniec on behalf of Assemblyman Blankenbush. Due to an allocation of OCFS Youth Development funds, the event was totally free, even the food including LaMont’s Food Fair who served 432 hotdogs; 343 bags of chips; 408 drinks to include water, soda, lemonade and ice tea. ■ The event was a reunion for three of our former Student Representatives including: Reegan Domagla-who is the Lewis County Dairy Princess and who served up Stewarts Ice Cream; Noah Ramer who made balloon animals for kids at the event; and Anna Platz-who represented Lewis County Public Health by having an informational table at the event. ■ A thank you and a request was sent to all participants asking for their feedback/suggestions as to what we could have done better. A lot of positive feedback was received. Several agencies suggested a better sound system as they were unable to hear the opening ceremony. Penny thanked Libby McGuire, Kirstin Moshier, Madeline Lehman, Mike Leviker, Officer Luke Monnat, Brian Finn, and Scott Mathys who all assisted with the event. Libby reported that she learned how to make Maple Floss Cotton Candy and Madeline worked with Kirstin at the door prize table. Penny advised that Mike Leviker already has ideas for next year’s LCNO event including the feasibility of inviting the NYS Police Horse Color Guards to participate in the event.

**Monitoring of 2018 OCFS and Youth Bureau Funded Programs-Reminder:** Penny reported that all 2018 Municipality Run Summer Recreational program, monitoring tools have been completed and turned in. Those who elected to monitor programs that run year to year such as Mountain View Prevention Services-Youth Advocate program, are not due until December 31, 2018. Completed monitoring tools are kept in the Youth Bureau office.

**Mountain View Prevention Services-Youth Advocate Quarterly Report (April -June 2018):** Libby McGuire passed out the quarterly report. The total number of youth served during this quarter was 64. Activities completed: Behavior Modification Plans, Self-Esteem, Anger Management, Coping Skills, Family/Peer relationship/dating education, pregnancy education, defining long/short term goals (College, jobs out of high school, etc.) and transitioning students from Elementary to Middle School to High School. **Success Story:** MVPS Youth Advocate had a 100% graduation rate of seniors that they met with; and a female student went from failing the first two years of high school to successfully graduating this year. **Concerns:** Lack of therapy without having a waiting list. **Penny will**

follow up with Korin Scheible, Director of MVPS which Lewis County School Districts have Youth Advocates in their school.

**New Business:**

**Resolution to Appoint a Student Representative to the Youth Bureau Board:** Co-Chairperson McGuire advised that a Resolution to appoint Kallie Bauter, a student at South Lewis Central School District to the Lewis County Youth Bureau Board, is slated to go before the Lewis County Board of Legislators for approval at their October 2, 2018 board meeting. She advised that Kallie is hard working and will do a great job on the board.

**Annual “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative:** At our June meeting, we approved of moving forward with the annual “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative, and in addition of requesting donations of personal hygiene, kitchen, and bath supplies, we will incorporate requests for donations of baby items for the “Loved Twice” Baby Boy and Baby Girl boxes. Additionally, we also had recognized the importance of helping our senior citizens, therefore we will be requesting donations of gift cards (Kinney’s and Walmart) during the initiative. At the end of the initiative, the gift cards will all be given to Lewis County Office for the Aging to use at their discretion. This initiative will begin **November 19, 2018 through December 21, 2018.**

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Lewis County Youth Bureau has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 4pm and at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers.**

**Adjournment:** Madeline Lehman-Vice-Chairperson, moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:26pm. Scott Mathys seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny L. Moser, Director  
Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board