



## LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

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Penny L. Demo, Director

### Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Minutes of March 21, 2017 meeting

Scott Mathys-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:01pm. The meeting was held at the Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Legislative Chambers.

**Present:** Scott Mathys-Chairperson, Grace Metzler-Student Representative Lowville Academy, Noah Ramer and Dustin Snyder-Student Representatives Copenhagen Central, Ward Dailey, Mike Leviker, and Reegan Domagala-Student Representative South Lewis **Others Present:** Roscoe Fawcett Jr., Chairperson Youth Bureau Legislative Committee, Greg Kulzer-Legislator, and Penny Demo, Director. **Guest Present:** Alexis Payne-Student at South Lewis Central School observed the meeting. **Excused:** Madeline Lehman-Vice Chairperson and Student Representative-Lowville Academy; Rhonda Vanucchi, Michele Ledoux, Officer Brandi Groman, John Exford and Mary Martin.

#### *Introductions and Welcome*

**Correspondence:** On February 23, 2017, Penny received a letter in response to the Youth Bureau's press release, announcing the availability of up to \$5,000 in Youth Project funds. The writer made suggestions for youth programs including: help cemeteries that have been desecrated; and Nursing Home/Adult Home Youth Visitation Program. The writer had good intentions and ideas, however did not leave their name or address on the document or on the envelope.

**Minutes:** Review of the February 15, 2017 board meeting minutes. Noah Ramer moved to accept the minutes as written; Reegan Domagala seconded. Passed.

#### Old Business

**2017 County Project Funds (Up to \$5,000) available:** At the February 15, 2017 board meeting, the board approved of opening the 2017 County Project Funds up to any youth program to apply for, through a competitive application process. A press release announcing the availability of funds was issued to the local media. Proposals must include a description of the activities to be funded, budget, number, of youth to be served, and expected outcomes of the program. Deadline for submitting proposals is **April 7, 2017**. Prior to the April meeting, Penny will forward copies of all applications as well as a brief summary of each, for board members to review prior to the meeting. Applicants will be invited to the April 19, 2017 board meeting to answer any questions the board may have regarding their application.

**Request for Additional County Funds -** On November 30, 2016, on behalf of the Youth Bureau, a letter was sent to the County's Ways & Means Committee, requesting consideration of additional unused 2016 revenues. The letter was two-fold, on behalf of the Lowville Village Police Department-3-years supply of card stock and ink cartridges for the Safe Child ID Card program, and \$6,000 to be divided up between Municipalities that apply for 2017 Youth Development Funds- for Recreational Programs. Notification was received that the Board of Legislators unanimously approved of the request for \$3,000 for the Lowville Village Police Departments-Safe Child ID supplies, however **did not** approve of funds requested for Municipality run

recreational programs. On behalf of the Youth Bureau, Penny thanked the Youth Bureau's Legislative Committee: Legislators Fawcett, Kulzer and Moroughan for their support in requesting the additional funds and the full Board of Legislators for approving the additional funds.

### ***New Business***

**Recruitment of Student Representative:** The Youth Bureau has several Student Representatives whose term of office are slated to end June 30, 2017. Per the Lewis County Youth Bureau By-Laws – Article III-Membership, “the membership of the Youth board shall reflect a balance between government, and non-government representatives who are directly concerned with the well-being of youth, including “up to a maximum’ of two (2) students from each Public School District in the County. The student member’s terms shall end when they graduate from High School, or cease to be a full time student of the district they represent.” Therefore our senior representatives have been asked to identify at least one student from their district, who may be interested in replacing them on the board and invite the student(s) to the Youth Bureau’s March, April and or May meeting(s) to observe. Observing meeting(s) enables potential youth representatives the opportunity to make a better decision if they want to be on the board; the importance of their role on the board; and if they have adequate time to dedicate to being appointed to the board. Chairperson Mathys will contact Superintendent Green to seek out board replacements for Beaver River. Welcome Alexis Payne who is a student at South Lewis Central School and who is observing today’s meeting as a potential replacement for Reegan. • **Community Board Members:** The following Youth Bureau-Community Board Members term of office are slated to end June 30, 2017, therefore were contacted and have elected to be re-appointed for another 2-year term beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019: Chairperson Mathys, John Exford, Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, Brian Finn, and Rhonda Vanucchi. Mary Martin is the only Community Board Member whose term is slated to expire 6/30/2017 and who will not be seeking re-appointment on the board. At this time we will not be seeking out a Community Member to replace Mary.

**Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge:** Board members were asked to post two informational posters (both pertaining to the Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge for summer job opportunities for youth age 14 and older as well as adults) in sub/pizza shops, businesses, bowling alleys, convenient stores and anywhere else in their community where youth may hang out. Penny will send posters to Lewis County School Districts and Libraries in April to post. Lewis County residents can utilize this seasonal offering for leisure as well). Cost is \$2 roundtrip if utilizing the Public Transportation System to get to and from Old Forge. Penny will contact Frank Pace, Director-Lewis County Department of Planning regarding marketing of the seasonal offering, via radio and TV spots. Noah, Dustin, Grace, and Reegan volunteered to work with the Planning Department to do a radio script and TV spot, that market the Seasonal offering, if Director Pace would like them to.

**“Lewis County Night Out”:** The 2017 “Lewis County Night Out” event has been scheduled for **Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Lewis County Fairgrounds in the LeRoy Nichols Building from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

**Lyons Falls Farmer’s Market – Invitation:** Mary Fawcett, representative of the Lyons Falls Farmers Market, has invited the Youth Bureau to have an information table at the Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, or Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> market days. The market time runs from 12:00 noon to 5pm each day and invitees do not have to stay they entire time (a couple hours is sufficient). If anyone is interested in representing the Lewis County Youth Bureau at the event, please see Penny and she will put together informational handouts as well as additional information regarding Youth Bureau programs. **Reegan volunteered to represent the Youth Bureau at the Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> Lyons Falls Farmer’s Market.** Thank you Reegan.

**Noah Ramer-Presentation on “Project Selfie:”** Mission Statement: Project Self-ie is a program designed to help decrease homelessness and intergenerational disparity in Lewis County youth by increasing adolescents’

self-esteem. Objective: Create a network of individuals who can help youth who are in need of emotional, physical, and mental assistance; Increase the confidence and self-sufficiency of Lewis County youth, which in turn, will lower the amount of intergenerational poverty in the county; and reduce the number of cases of minors being without a home in the community. Programs will include – Elementary (Grades K-5): Good News Club. This program will primarily focus on self-worth and being more than who your parents are. Workers will build a rapport with children and learn of sensitive situations. These individuals will then be able to help directly or in collaboration with other groups. The program will be in the Lowville and Copenhagen School Districts once a week as a test run (6-week test run). Secondary (Grades 9-12): Class Presentations will be held. The presentations will be created that are relevant to people in grades 9-12. Use hashtags, Instagram, Snapshot, etc., to get the information out. The program will encourage students to engage with the presenters and be more willing to comprehend the message. Youth representatives would talk during these presentations – some may talk about relevant life experiences; discuss self-worth and how everyone can break the chain of your ancestors. At end of presentation, students are tasked to “take a selfie” of who they see when they look in the mirror. Noah reported that he plans on requesting \$400 in 2017 Youth Project Funds to purchase snacks, stickers, candy and prizes for students attending the presentations. Additionally the amount includes travel, expenses for students to drive to districts to do the presentation. Penny explained that the application needs to be in by April 7<sup>th</sup> and the applicant noted on the application must be Copenhagen Central School District, therefore Noah will have to get the districts blessing in supporting “Project Selfie.” After much discussion, Grace, Reegan, and Dustin are willing to assist Noah with this important project.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 19, 2017** at **4:00pm**. The meeting will be held at the **Lewis County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Legislative Chambers**.

**Adjournment:** Noah Ramer moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50pm. Grace Metzler seconded. **Motion carried.**

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