

Williston Community Justice Center Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2019

Present: Cristalee McSweeney (Director), Lillian Colasurdo (Vice Chair), Brant Dinkin, Laura Wainer, Beckett Pintair, Diane Kinnon, Shari Carr, Hannahlei McSweeney, Mia Marinovich, Liz Merrill, Mary Reynolds-Wahl-Greer, Katie Titterton, Cathy Kelley, Adina Panitch

Absent: Marty DelNevo (Chair), Greta D'Agostino, Marion Cushner, Bree Kolibas, Tim Moran, Ali Wainer, Anne Thompson, Amanda Payne, Lorayne Lapin, Jon LaBrie, Bill Pellechia, Catherine Kimball

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- a) Minutes from the Mar. 4th meeting were distributed. One correction made:
 - 1. Bree Kolibas was marked absent and changed to present as she was in attendance for that meeting.
- b) Motion to approve minutes with noted correction: Liz Merrill.
Motion seconded: Adina Panitch.
Minutes approved.

II. Presentation

- a) This evening a client of the WCJC came to the meeting to share her yoga, meditation, and sound healing practice with the Board. This is a large part of her life and journey toward repairing herself and the harm caused to her community.
- b) Session included 45 minutes of seated chair yoga, breathwork, and gong meditation.
- c) Cristalee shared that breathwork and yoga is becoming a larger part of law enforcement and corrections work and she thought the presentation tonight was a great way to expose people to this kind of healing practice.

III. Williston Police Department Updates

- a) The Board was introduced to and welcomed the WPD's newest member: Officer Sarah Bell. Sarah came into law enforcement after work in the mental health field. Previously, she worked in crisis intervention and with adjudicated youth at Woodside. She looks forward to bringing her training to the Williston Community.

IV. Office Updates

- a) The Town, WPD, and WCJC will be interviewing potential candidates for the two part-time positions open with the Center next Thursday, April 11th. Cristalee needs a board member to volunteer to participate in the interviews that day. Beckett will be participating to represent the Youth Panel. The interview team will also include Cristalee, Sergeant Graham, Erik Wells, and a representative from Two Roads Academy.
- b) Cristalee would also like a few board members to help draft questions for the interview panel on Monday, April 8th in the afternoon. Potential questions can also be emailed to Cristalee if you can't come to that meeting.
- c) The earliest we can expect a new employee to begin is in June so Cristalee asked that everyone be patient about the backlog until then.
- d) Cristalee also wanted to publicly thank and acknowledge Mia, Beckett, and Jon for their help with the trainings we've been hosting for new CJC members. They have been invaluable in putting together packets, greeting participants at the door, and setting up / tearing down food.
- e) There will be no Wednesday hearing nights this month while Cristalee teaches the parenting class.
- f) We have been inundated with youth cases lately and several other CJs are reaching out looking to have Cristalee come provide training on the model developed in Williston. The WPD and the town are still discussing ways in which we may be of assistance without burdening our CJC and Cristalee.
- g) Steve is still on staff for 1 hr in April and 1 hr in May so that he can complete the DOC statistics we need to report. Cristalee and any new staff will be trained by DOC at the end of May.

V. Upcoming Trainings

- a) The Creative Contracts training will be on April 25th from 6-8 pm. It will include Cristalee, a mindfulness professional, and a creative commission professional.
- b) There is not date scheduled yet for the ACEs training.

VI. Miscellaneous

- a) Reminder: The WCJC will be participating in the Williston Central School Substance Use Forum. The school has asked at the CJC have a large presence at the forum, particularly for the breakout sessions/groups. So far, nine board

members have committed. The event requires advance registration. The Forum will be on April 10th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, with the option for dinner at 6:00.

- b) No one has responded to last month's inquiry from the Peace and Justice Center about starting a social justice book group. If you are interested, you must let Cristalee know right away so she can get back to the Center.
- c) There are a couple of unique cases coming up and Cristalee would like volunteers to come forward instead of assigning them to pre-scheduled weeks:
 - i) Youth created a substantial amount of harm in community and this is being coordinated with the Essex CJC, Colchester Police, WPD, and the State's Attorney's Office. This would be a 6-9 month commitment and would require meeting at least 2x a month. This case will be structured differently from other cases but volunteers will be provided with everything they need.
 - ii) Another youth case. Cristalee is looking for 3 volunteers for the 8th.
- d) We are still moving forward with holding one night of hearings per month in Richmond.

VII. Adjournment

- a) Motion to adjourn: Shari Carr
Motion seconded: Diane Kinnon
- b) Lillian Colasurdo, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Lillian Colasurdo, Vice Chair