



Matilde Castiel, MD
HHS Commissioner

CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Youth Opportunities

Raquel Castro-Corazzini
Director of Youth Opportunities

City Manager's Committee on Youth Agenda

Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 at 3pm

Zoom link:

<https://clarku.zoom.us/j/96715184204>

- I. **Call meeting to order - Permission to Record! - Present**
 - A. Judi Kirk, Casey Burns, Jennifer Safford-Faquharson, Bryant Cortes, Virginia Murphy, Raquel Castro-Corazzini
- II. **November minutes and notes - Motion to Approve - Judi Kirk, Seconded by Casey Burns**
- III. **Update on previous action items -**
- IV. **Updates -**
 - A. **Equity Tool and charter changes** - Met with the CM this week and he made the suggestion that we bring our committee size to 9. He asked us to set up a meeting with him and legal to go over the edits that we have talked about before. CMCOY members approve the idea of the Committee going down to 9 members. DYO will schedule a meeting with the CMCOY Chair, City Manager, DYO and law department. Anything else we would like to add to the agenda when we meet with him?
 - B. **DYO -**
 1. **Grants** - DYO continues to gradually take over the grants. SSYI CRM database is almost all the way cleaned up DYO will be meeting with WYC to go over the last contact points for clients. We also heard about Shannon and we were awarded the grant. We received less than what we asked for but more than we did last year. City Manager will be involved in the decision making of this grant.
 2. **Youth Council -**
 - a) **City Manager Proposal** - Proposal was presented to the city manager and he is in full support of this and would like for Youth Council to follow up with the schools. After a meeting with Annie Arzalozza and Thomas Toney, WPS would like to meet with the

youth council when they return at the end of January. School likes the idea, but there are logistical issues behind it. They are also open to putting out the survey through the schools with some minor changes.

C. Youth Violence Prevention - Have been working collaboratively with the other coalitions with the governance council to make sure they're aligning with their goals for the next 6 months. Have been working on the DON grant and if it gets funded it will help look at the crisis responses in Worcester. It implements the Youth Crisis Response Team, the HUB and Handle With Care. These responses are working but not well together. The grant would allow the responses to work closer together and build capacity for them.

1. **CAB** - Trying to make sure the youth recruited are representative of the city's youth. Make sure there is representation from youth all over the city and those who are underserved, as well as those who have been more prone to witness violence in the city.

2. **Governance Council** - Each of the 3 coalitions mentioned above spoke about their goals for the next 6 months. They also spoke about the data that was recently captured that spoke about the mental health issues within WPS students. There were some alarming numbers about suicidal ideation and other mental health issues.

D. Youth Agenda - DYO will meet with the ADHOC committee at the end of the month. Winnie, who is a public health nursing student will be joining the team to help move the agenda forward and manage this project. Winnie is an intern with Coalition for Health Greater Worcester.

E. School Updates - Mental Health curriculum that speaks to Suicidal Ideation is presented to all 9th graders. Is there anything that can be done to have upper grades to have a mental health curriculum?

V. Announcement -

VI. Action Items -

A. DYO will schedule a meeting with the CMCOY Chair, City Manager, DYO and law department to go over equity tool use in the charter.

B. Youth Council to meet with Annie Arzalozza and Thomas Toney at the end of January to go over their proposal.

VII. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn - Motion to adjourn - Virginia Murphy, Seconded by

Judi Kirk - Adjourned @ 3:53pm