

Youth Advisory Board – 2nd Qtr. Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 8th, 2025
5:30 pm, Human Services Building, Canton

Call to order: 5:34 PM

Attendance:

- **Present:** Kat Manierre, Adam Simmons, Alexa Backus Chase, Kenneth Taylor
- **Absent:** Hon. Nicole Terminelli, Anant Bansal, Cynthia Mosier, Teena Pelkey, Joanne Sevvick, Tricia Snyder, Alaina Goodrich, Karli Thompson, Casey Canell, Danielle Lennox, Michael Hammond, Patricia Robbins (guest).

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from Q1 meeting will need to be approved at the September meeting as quorum was not met.

Youth Bureau Staffing Update:

- No changes at this time.
- Summer Intern Vacancies were approved by Board of Legislators.

Monthly BYD (Bureau of Youth Development)

- Upcoming BYD meeting April 15th, 2025.
- Alexa has scheduled an informational meeting with OCFS, on Thursday April 10th, to discuss the potential for St. Lawrence County to receive RHY (Runaway Homeless Youth) funding.
- NYS budget update: As of now there is no approved budget. If no agreement is reached by April 9th, it will likely be delayed until the end of April, or beginning of May due to the two-week recess for Passover and Easter.

Youth Committee

- Last Meeting: March 9th, 2025 via Zoom.
- Next youth committee meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 2:30 in person.
- The Teen Ambassadors are scheduled to work on a wrap-up for their Teen Safe Driving Initiative.
- Alexa plans to encourage them to create a PSA about safe driving and to make a wrap-up video for this initiative.
- **Five Hour Free Friday**
 - Friday March 7th from 4:00 – 9:00pm.
 - 114 pledge forms completed; 63 post-initiative surveys completed.
 - 81% stayed off of social media for the full five hours.
 - Many reported feeling more connected to family and friends, and feeling more relaxed after the five hours.
- **Youth as Solutions-NYLC**
 - \$1,000 grant for Teen Safe Driving/Teen-led Service Project.
 - 537 teens completed survey about distracted driving in St. Lawrence County. Summary report was completed.
 - Teen Safe Driving infographic cards, flyers, and posters were distributed to Teen Ambassadors and Leaders.
 - Participation varies across schools with Teen Ambassadors and Leaders.

- 208 pledges collected so far, with a goal of 500.
 - Alexa and Ken will be visiting Edwards-Knox and Hammond to talk about the pledge and promote safe driving habits. At Edwards-Knox, they'll speak with the Driver's Education class, and at Hammond, they'll meet with the 10th and 11th grade classes.
- **National Youth Leadership Conference in St. Paul MN. March 26-28th.**
 - The Youth Bureau received \$3,167 to attend.
 - Anya Bansal and Kaitlyn Holmes attended with Alexa to present the Teen Safe Driving Initiative.
 - Both did a great job leading their icebreaker and activity – the conference was a success.
- **Youth Committee Recruitment for 2025-2026 School Year**
 - Nine Teen Ambassadors will be graduating in June.
 - A “Senior Spotlight” feature will be included in the newsletter.
 - 13 new teens (7 from Gouverneur, 4 from Morristown) have expressed interest in joining.
 - Alexa is preparing to launch a new **Code of Conduct and Responsibilities** for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Draft was reviewed with minor additions.
 - Alexa also created a new **Teen Ambassador Recruitment Flyer**, featured in the latest newsletter.
- **County Government Month – April**
 - Several departments are collaborating to host an Open House on April 24, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.
 - Flyer included in the April Newsletter.
 - Featured guests include K-9 Knowlton with Deputy Lent, and the Mobile Command Unit from Emergency Services.
 - Event will be held primarily indoors at the Human Services Center.
 - Teen Ambassadors may serve as greeters.
- **Law Enforcement Day**
 - Thursday May 1st 9:00am – 2:00pm. Classrooms must register in order to attend.
- **2025 5th Annual Trash Dash**
 - Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 3rd and 4th.
 - Sites to include: Gouverneur, Potsdam, Massena, Ogdensburg, and Rensselaer Falls.
 - Registrations are Open.
 - Adam will share the flyer at Boy Scouts Event and encourage family participation.
 - Please promote.
- **Adjournment: 6:42 PM.**