

Wethersfield Youth Advisory Board Meeting December 1, 2005

Members in Attendance: Maria Calleri, Jim Collin, Matthew Daskal, Sharon DiGioia-Daskal, Debra Hammer, Natalie Kotkin, Barbara Ruhe, Laurie Slade, Nancy Stilwell, Kristin Zeller, Heather A. Zottola.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

[The minutes from the November meeting](#) were reviewed and accepted.

Department of Youth Services Update

- DYS may move into their new space in January 2006.
- ROPE is lined up and ready to go.
- Highcrest had a food drive that produced so much food that Stuff-A-Bus will not be necessary this year. Distribution of food for Thanksgiving went well.
- Counseling services have been busy.
- CREC Summer Youth Employment Learning Program may not be funded this year.

Youth in Government

- November 7th, Rick Garrey, Steve Kotchko and Doug Maine came to speak to students about government and politics.
- Natalie Kotkin spoke to Dr. Proctor and his is looking into having youth representation on the Board of Education.
- Barbara Ruhe suggested that youth attend town meetings.

Underage Drinking Task Force

- Ken Friedenber from Youth Services in Newington agreed to work with Wethersfield on any project.
- Jim Collin, principal of Silas Deane Middle School, would like to get "Looking in Theater" to come to his school to address the issues of drugs, alcohol and peer pressure.
- Debra Hammer emailed Mike Fisher, juvenile officer, and Dave Gove about how students would prefer a DARE officer to teach in high school rather than a health teacher.
- Nancy Stilwell would like to get clergy involved in youth issues.

Future Projects

- Youth Volunteer Recognition Night- tentatively scheduled for April 6th, 2006. Nancy Stilwell will call the community center.
- Red Cross will train volunteers to man emergency shelters if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.