

Raymond Coalition For Youth ~ Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022 ~ 9:00 – 10:30 am
In Person and Zoom at Raymond Baptist Church Basement



Present: 19

School	Fiona Coomey - Raymond School District Kera Clements - LRES PTO
Health Care	Jessica Caron - Raymond School District Carli Hughes - Lamprey Health Care Heather Sweet - Seacoast Mental Health Nadine Lamontagne - Unite Us
Substance Misuse Prevention Treatment Services	Julie Day - Waypoint Abbi Hoff - Waypoint Intern Kim Coronis - Breathe NH Elizabeth Graziano - Upper Room Samantha Areson - Seacoast PH Network Kim Gordon - Wellsense
Town Government Youth Serving	Alyssa White - Asst Librarian, Town of Raymond Pamela Turcotte - RCFY Finance Coordinator Celeste Clark - RCFY Executive Director Pam Baker - RCFY Program Coordinator
Volunteer/Community Member	Lynne Towle - Resident - Volunteer Paula Frenette - Resident
State/Federal	Eliza Zarka - Governors Office

Welcomes, Introductions, Announcements were made.

RCFY Executive Director Celeste opened the meeting by introducing Liz Graziano of the Upper Room in Derry, NH. They service approximately ½ of Rockingham County. The balance is service from the Seacoast Area.

Liz spoke about the Diversion Program. A program that empowers youth to make responsible decisions by offering an alternative to court intervention while holding them accountable for their actions.

Intake: The police department makes a referral to the Diversion Program. The youth then must attend a meeting (with a parent) with the Diversion Coordinator. Background information will be gathered and the youth will discuss the incident to make a final determination of eligibility. The Diversion Coordinator will go over the responsibilities as a participant in the program with the youth.

The Contract Hearing: Once a youth is accepted into the Diversion Program they must attend a Community Team Meeting with a parent or guardian. The meeting consists of a panel of community members who determine an appropriate plan of accountability. A "contract" is presented to the youth at this time. The youth will be asked to commit themselves to fulfilling this contract in the amount of time given by the Diversion Coordinator.

The Review Hearing: Participants in the Diversion Program will meet with the team of community members at the end of the contract period. The case will be reviewed and if the youth successfully completes the contract on time, the referring police department will be notified that the case brought against the youth is formally closed.

A contract can include:

Restitution

Referrals to appropriate programs such as Challenge, Take Control, or Yes

Community service

An educational one on one workshop addressing issues with the incident at hand.

A research paper or project concentrating on the issues surrounding the incident.

A personal development project, such as a life goals timeline.

A formal apology to parents, family members or victims.

Eligibility:

Youth is under age 18

It is a chargeable offense: the facts of the case would lead to a court hearing.

The facts of the police report are not contested.

The youth is willing to take full responsibility for their actions.

Cases with serious or physically aggressive offenses are excluded.

They also look at other issues affecting teens, mental health, school, lagging skills, anger management. Programs are created around need. Less punitive - more supportive. They provide mental health counseling tutoring, community service opportunities as well as some parent programs.

Cost depends on the program and some scholarships are available. Transportation is provided by an inexpensive program out of Manchester called CART.

For additional information and programs available please visit their website at <https://www.urteachers.org>.

Twenty years of RCFY - something to celebrate:

Why is being a part of RCFY important to you?

- Vital to Students
- Turn perception around
- Growth and more positive community
- Student empowerment
- Community - Duct tape for kids.
- Strengthen community
- Change perceptions - being active in the community
- Student involvement
- Resource, connections, networking, gatekeepers
- Children knowing adults that care, increasing resiliency and hope.
- Creating healthy adults
- "I have never seen anyone, (not counting a school with mandatory attendance) reach kids so successfully."
- "As a parent I want to be involved in the community that supports our youth. I feel this is such an important piece in the schools and outside to give our youth and families support and education."

What would you like to see covered at the future RCFY meetings?

- Getting Youth Action members to the table
- Juvenile Justice/Diversion information -
- How do kids and families know how to navigate the court system? This could be prevention
- Consequences to incarceration
- Parents need a program similar to My Choice to know laws before they are broken.
- Marijuana laws and awareness education

- Mental Health First Aide
- Elementary education programs for youth and parents as a proactive measure, but also to gain reconciliation for RCFY at younger age in community
- A "night out" event
- Communication and information sharing through the school and town about the resources available.
- Clean up efforts

Meeting ended at 10:30 AM

Thank you for joining us today, being an RCFY advocate, passing along the information learned today, and encouraging others to learn more and get involved.

Next Meeting April 14, May 12 and June 9

Mission Statement:

The Raymond Coalition For Youth empowers the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk.

Promoting Positive Healthy Choices for our Youth!

www.rcfy.org

