

## **Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program of Weston Minutes from March 28, 2009 Board meeting**

**Attendance:** Tiffany Davidson, Susan Earle, Kristen Ferrara, Robin Fortin, Carl Filsinger, Barry Goldberg, Jamie Katz, Celeste McGeehan, Andrea Silver, Karen Sitney

### **President's Report: Celeste McGeehan**

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Celeste thanked Barry Goldberg for planning an April presentation for funding to Kiwanis. Celeste thanked Karen for completing the WWL grant.

There will be a Discussion of Teen Dating Abuse, sponsored by the New Canaan Domestic Violence Task Force, on April 1 at 8:30 A.M. at the Lapham Community Center in New Canaan.

There will be a forum for fathers on April 2 from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. at the Trackside Teen Center in Wilton. This forum (A Father's Influence with John Hamilton) is co-sponsored by Wilton Youth Services, the Wilton Public Schools and the Wilton Youth Council.

There will be a Parent Forum, co-sponsored by Weston Youth Services and ADAP on Monday, April 27 at 7:00 P.M. in the Weston Library (see WYS report below). We have booked Dr. Michael Fowlin for our pre-prom program on Tuesday, May 26. He is a psychologist and actor who does provocative one-man performances to raise awareness of teen issues, including substance abuse. He will do two assemblies to accommodate all WHS students, on at 9:20 A.M. and the other at 12:10 P.M.

Marcia Segelstein is drafting a letter to be sent to all WHS and WMS parents along with the invitation to the parent forum on 4/27. This letter is meant to raise parent awareness about ADAP and about underage drinking in Weston.

### **Weston Police: Carl Filsinger**

Detective Filsinger commented on many alcohol-related incidents that have occurred in Weston and neighboring towns in recent years. Neither he nor Kristen Ferrara was aware of any civil suit resulting from these incidents that had been settled for under \$2M. He also discussed safety on college campuses as an issue that many college freshman don't consider when choosing a college. He stated that campus crime statistics are available from all colleges and can be used in the selection process. He also is willing to be a resource for students who are uncertain how to deal with safety issues on their campus.

### **Secretaries' Report and Grant Writing: Karen Sitney**

The minutes of both the February and the March meetings will be presented for approval at the April meeting. The Mid-Fairfield SAC grant for \$2400 was funded. Grants to County Assemblies (requested amount \$2000) and to the

Weston Women's League (requested amount \$1500) are pending. Karen will submit a request for \$500 to WHS for funding for the pre-prom program.

**Fundraising: Barry Goldberg**

Barry will make a presentation to Kiwanis in April, and will request the full amount of the budget shortfall (about \$4000).

**Treasurer's Report: Jamie Katz (for Debra Eldon)**

A detailed Treasurer's report was submitted by Debra and reviewed by the Board. The cash balance as of the end of February is \$13,081.63. We received fundraising checks this month in the amount of \$585, bringing the total for the year to \$2811. We also received the grant check from Human Services (Mid-Fairfield SAC) in the amount of \$2400. We received a donation, thanks to Celeste's hard work, of \$500 from United Methodist Church. YLC expenditures for the month were \$2310, and \$42 was spent on postage.

**Weston Youth Services: Kristen Ferrara**

Kristen will be holding a program for parents on Internet Safety on Tuesday, May 12. The audience will be WIS and WMS parents, and the program will focus on issues geared to these younger students (cyber bullying, the power of the internet). Sgt. Matt Brodacki (Weston PD computer forensics specialist) and a therapist from Child and Family Services will participate. Kristen will also present on this topic at an upcoming YLC meeting.

Possible topics for the parent forum on 4/27 were discussed. Kristen plans to have a police officer, an attorney and an EMT or ER doctor participate on the panel, as well as John McGeehan and YLC members. Internet safety and transition to college were thought to be good potential topics that would attract the interest of many parents. It was also thought that this would be a good opportunity to make parents aware that they can be held both civilly and criminally liable for allowing minors to have alcohol in their homes, whether or not the parent is aware that the kids have alcohol.

WYS will contribute an unspecified amount toward the pre-prom program.

**Youth Leadership Council (YLC) Student Report: Susan Earle**

A YLC alumna spoke at the last YLC meeting about her experiences with the recent transition from high school to college. She felt that what she had learned through YLC has helped her deal with some of the problems she has encountered (e.g. roommate's drug use). Her visit was very well received, and other YLC graduates have expressed an interest in visiting a YLC meeting while home on spring break.

YLC members will have the opportunity to visit the Mountainside Treatment Center in Canaan CT on April 24 with John McGeehan. This is a treatment facility for patients 18-30 years old. YLC members will also attend an alcoholics anonymous meeting. Parent chaperones/drivers are needed.

**Mt. Laurel Dance: Celeste (for Olga Kunevsky)**

The dance will be held May 9 at Temple Israel. Parent chaperones are needed. The contract will be available on the ADAP website (Karen and Susan to update contract).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Sitney and Lisa Foster, Secretaries