

Community Supports for Young People Workgroup

May 15, 2024, 1:30-2:30

Zoom link _ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82979388408>

Link to share this document -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L-t79pqB5mLJ0qlrO0ffiXI_sbjZcoCGIHtt1jSb9M/edit?usp=sharing

Participants: Ricia, Megan, Lydia David, Ezzy, Rachel Bowles, Karen Carmona, Jayson, Francesca Passiglia, Louise, Isabella Rolandini, Hannah - Brick House, Gabrielle Field, Obsidian Opal, Jada Jones, Jenna Weld, Beatriz Cazho; Vega Johnson-Bouchard

- **Welcome & Icebreaker -**

Ice breaker: Names/Pronouns/Organization

“What are you looking forward to most for the summer?”

Activity & Discussion - Small groups to discuss summer programs:

Opt 1 what summer programming have you done in the past and how did you do recruitment?

Opt 2 would you like an opportunity to ask for feedback and/or collaboration?

Large group: what does your organization have anything going on this summer for youth?

Recruitment and planning efforts:

tailoring programming to what youth like

brick house has slower summer than school year; having structure and flexibility when planning summer activities; challenge of summer is vacations are sporadic whereas school year vacations are scheduled ahead of time

-community action had different programs pre-covid

-Megan did a summer program called “you go girl” with rock climbing, ropes course. Her mom saw a flier at a local restaurant about the summer program.

-GPL is always trying to get the word out about the library. There are a lot of youth/teen programs; facebook parent groups; take home fliers in backpacks; word of mouth and visual

flier; limited options for summer programming unless you're in downtown Greenfield;
Transportation is an issue

Ideas: a safe space to go to; space to exist; more we can do with our skateparks; art activities; community outreach to adults that frequent skatepark; some supervision is good; a program that would go to apartment complex - the group would do gardening together, a hangout space in the community, Teaching kids some just hobbies like skating, bike riding, art activities, some hobbies that can be used as self care by the kids; any programming with snacks/meals; food and games. Collaboration between organizations - resource scavenger hunt and youth learn about FRTA bus routes.

Comm Action - regularly scheduled programming; youth leadership academy at Easthampton High School - stipend opportunity in July 15-18 & 22-25; YAB - meets weekly, participants get paid to help work on projects surrounding homelessness; shoutout and youth council are pausing for the summer

Brick house - summer meal site - mon-thurs 12:30-4:30; every monday in June there will be pride events

CHCFC Sexual/reproductive health free STI testing; and provides safe sex supplies

Greenfield Public Library Summer Programming:

Summer reading - you read and earn prizes; free ice cream cone for every 10 days you read

Greenfield movie theater Summer Movie Camp

June Meeting is canceled

- **Announcements/Updates - Add yours here!**

Save the date - CTC Coalition meeting May 30 at Camp Apex in the afternoon!

Mark your calendar now! - CSYP will meet on the third Wednesday of the month 1:30-2:30PM this school year.

The CSYP webpage: <https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/> has links to meeting notes and handouts for most of our recent meetings.

Please let me know if you have updates, events, or requests you'd like to share with the group so we can include them in the notes for this meeting!

Community Supports for Young People Workgroup

April 17, 2024, 1:30-2:30

Zoom link _ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82979388408>

Link to share this document -  CSYP Notes

Participants: Ricia, Megan, Hannah Bertrand, Rachel Bowles, Vega Johnson-Bouchard, Lydia Davis, Savannah Baldwin, Ezzy, Cathay Zatyрка, Obsidian, Amanda Mankowsky, Kyla, Ric Avila, Jamie Cleveland

- **Welcome & Icebreaker -**

Ice breaker: Names/Pronouns/Organization

“What’s a memorable summer experience that you had?”

“What was a healthy and constructive way you spent your summer?”

- **Amanda Mankowsky**, Youth Program Director at MassHire Workforce Board presents YouthWorks Summer Info; Q&A

Providing paid jobs for youth; training for core soft and hard skills; Ages 14-25; Summer employment is focused on “Tier 2” model 16-21 year olds; youth will get hands on mentoring experience on worksites; participate in cohort based model; Signal Success is the curriculum to help training youth - communication, dependability, collaboration, initiative. Eligibility requirement: low income; homeless or runaway youth; pregnant or parenting; single parent household.

If youth want to work year round they need to check in with their MassHire supervisor towards the end of summer to get signed on for the fall.

\$16.25 starting hourly wage & \$17.25/hr for peer leaders

Looking for Franklin/Hampshire county worksites - spread the word to local businesses to be host sites

Ric Avila from All Stars has youth to refer to Youth Works and would like to set up an All Stars/Work force board meeting

No Marijuana/Alcohol sales & religious organizations as work sites

WFB provides necessary supplies to youth - clothing/attire, bus fare (if not free)

If you want to be a host/work site please provide WFB with job description & WFB staff do site check ins to make sure youth and the host site are feeling supported

- **Activity & Discussion** - Small groups to discuss summer programs

Next Meeting: 5/15 - **June Meeting is canceled**

- **Announcements/Updates** - **Add yours here!**

*Law Day May 1 at Franklin County Justice Center



REGISTER NOW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

FRANKLIN COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
43 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD
KEYNOTE 9 A.M.; TOURS TO FOLLOW

FRIDAY, MAY 3

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
15 GOTHIC STREET, NORTHAMPTON
KEYNOTE 9 A.M.; TOURS TO FOLLOW



Preserving Democracy:

Constitutional law scholar and voting rights advocate John Bonifaz will address the grave threats to democracy, voting rights, and the rule of law and how to respond. He will be joined by his daughter, Marisol Bonifaz, Amherst High School student and founder of the Amherst Young Feminist Party (formerly known as Generation Ratify Amherst).

With this year's theme, the American Bar Association encourages all Americans to participate in the 2024 elections by deepening their understanding of the electoral process; discussing issues in honest and civil ways; turning out to vote; and helping to move the country forward after free and fair elections.

Students, school groups and other community members are welcome to attend either Law Day 2024 event.

REGISTER NOW BY EMAILING
LAURIE.LOISEL@MASS.GOV



Hosted by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Hampshire Bar Association, Franklin Bar Association, Franklin County Justice Center and Hampshire County Courthouse in collaboration with the American Bar Association.

Save the date - CTC Coalition meeting May 30 at Camp Apex in the afternoon!

*

Kelly Broadway and Abby Bliss at the Children's Advocacy Center are starting a girls' group in April that will focus on prevention (primary and secondary) of sexual exploitation. They are taking referrals now! kbroadway@cacfranklinnq.org for more info and flyer.

MassHire's Construction Day @ Franklin County Fair Grounds 9:30AM-1PM

We invite you to participate in
CONSTRUCTION & TRADES
Career Day

May 2nd, 2024
Franklin County
Fairgrounds

Painting Plumbing Manufacturing Landscaping Electrical Construction HVAC

Our Goal: Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire and North Quabbin Regions to the career opportunities in the fields of construction and manufacturing

If you would like to participate and create a display or activity to engage students in careers in construction or manufacturing, please complete the google form:
<https://forms.gle/wNXxiNUSqAsDYqX7>

Sponsored by MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board
Funded in part by DESE School to Career Connecting Activities
contact: schooltocareer@masshirehwb.org

***Law Day - May 1 Franklin County; May 3 Hampshire County Time/Details TBD**

***Next CSYP Meeting: Wed., May 15, 1:30-2:30PM, on Zoom (same link).**

Mark your calendar now! - CSYP will meet on the third Wednesday of the month 1:30-2:30PM this school year.

The CSYP webpage: <https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/> has links to meeting notes and handouts for most of our recent meetings.

Please let me know if you have updates, events, or requests you'd like to share with the group so we can include them in the notes for this meeting!

Community Supports for Young People Workgroup

March 20, 2024, 1:30-2:30

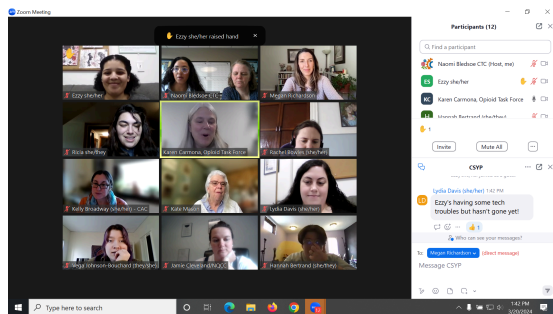
Zoom link _ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82979388408>

Link to share this document -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L-t79pqB5mLJ0qIrO0ffiXI_sbjZcoCGIHtt1jSb9M/edit?usp=sharing

Participants: Ezzy; Lydia Davis; Megan Richardson; Rachel Bowles; Ricia Elwell-Socci; Kate Mason; Vega Johnson; Kelly Broadway; Jamie Cleveland; Hannah Bertrand; Kat Allen; Naomi Bledsoe

Note takers: Naomi and Ricia



- **Welcome & Icebreaker** “When was the last time you tried something new, out of your usual wheelhouse, and what was it?”
- **Activity & Discussion** - “Being the new one” We’ll break into small groups and discuss, then come back to the group and share.
 1. What strategies do you use when you are out of your comfort zone?

It helps to know someone at an event or program you’re going to.

Start smaller then work bigger when getting out of comfort zone; lower barriers for participation and getting involved;

Ex. at community action they try not to require camera on or speaking during zoom events and participants can utilize the chat in hopes they build more confidence to be able to share out soon.

2. How can programs make spaces feel more welcoming to new people?

Trauma responsive spaces with soft lighting, snacks and beverages available, a singular activity for introverts to have like a coloring page or fidget.

Food is a universal connection that can build connections. Create a “Soft landing” for members.

Greeting and welcoming people into new spaces; giving people space when they’re new and not bombarding them; having snacks available for people to help themselves; ice breaker questions are a welcoming way for people to find commonalities.

3. What strategies do you think help bring people back to programs?

Creating a comfortable and safe space; present staff who care and are cared for; pleasant decor; effective outreach, relatable content and conversations, safe space to have vulnerability and accountability for staff and members to share; you're always welcome back regardless if we've seen you in a year or not.

No shaming if you can't be present. Importance of doing something new with someone is really helpful - you both can be new or if your friend has done it already that can be comforting too. Ricia - maybe a "bring a friend day" to encourage new youth to visit a new event/program.

Self check-ins (how am i feeling); Planning ahead before going somewhere new - what can i learn about it before going, ex. looking at menus before trying a new restaurant.

What strategies do you use: See things from other people's perspective; Everyone has their own experiences; Ask questions be vulnerable; Be honest about where you're at; Trying new things with other people; Part of the fun is learning

Karen - authentic connection is so important. Kids can sense when its not authentic

Asking questions—showing interest; Employee compensation—how present people are in their jobs depends on how "worth it" they feel it is; Outreach—how much outreach happens impacts people coming back; Holding ourselves accountable when harm happens; Relevant content and conversations

4. What helps engage new people? What have you seen that didn't work?

Checks in with new youth and letting them know about current events and or what they may be walking into

Next Meetings: 4/17 & 5/17 - **June Meeting is canceled**

- **Announcements/Updates - Add yours here!**

Save the date - CTC Coalition meeting May 30 at Camp Apex in the afternoon!

*

Trans Day of Visibility is Sunday, March 31. Multiple organizations are co-hosting an event in Northampton. dalionheart@communityaction.us for more info.

*

Kelly Broadway and Abby Bliss at the Children's Advocacy Center are starting a girls' group in April that will focus on prevention (primary and secondary) of sexual exploitation. They are taking referrals now! kbroadway@cacfranklinnq.org for more info and flyer.

& April 5, 2024 11AM Annual Child Abuse Awareness Flag raising on Greenfield Town Common

* Peacemakers Award Nominations: katelagrezemason@gmail.com for Peacemakers InterfaithCFC.org

MassHire's Construction Day @ Franklin County Fair Grounds 9:30AM-1PM

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Career Day

May 2nd, 2024
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Sponsored by Masshire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board
Funded in part by DESE School to Career Connecting Activities
contact: schooltocareer@masshirefhw.org

***Law Day - May 1 Franklin County; May 3 Hampshire County Time/Details TBD**

*

Montague Public Libraries events!



***Next CSYP Meeting: Wed., April 17, 1:30-2:30PM, on Zoom (same link).**

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Please let me know if you have updates, events, or requests you'd like to share with the group so we can include them in the notes for this meeting!

Community Supports for Young People Workgroup

February 21, 2024, 1:30-2:30

Participants: Ricia Elwell-Socci, Jen Audley, Ezzy Harrison, Vega Johnson-Bouchard, Lynn Blanchard, Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Rachel Bowles, Jenna Weld, Dan Lionheart, Aaron Hellem, Hannah Bertrand, Kelly Broadway, Hayley Gilmore, Olivia Gilbert

Agenda

- **Welcome & Icebreaker** - What connections do you have already with Community Action Pioneer Valley?

- **Virtual Visit:** Community Action Youth Programs (Greenfield) w/ Dan Lionheart and Rachel Bowles
- **Questions and Appreciations** ([The Appreciation Station](#))
- **Announcements/Updates**

Virtual Visit resources:

Rachel is the Enrollment and Fiscal Specialist and first person many people interact with if they reach out to (or are referred to) Community Action. She gave an overview of what she explains in an info session and shared the slides:

- PDF of Info session slides:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1by11gJAdHukQOhTCr1DkypILCwL5MjqU/view?usp=drive_link

Filling out this form gets you connected with Rachel:

- Interest/enrollment form:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=YH2pJDtha0GGRSsngk3LnGBxflg_E9Fpo97eN4vSjVUREU3TVhBTjRJMFI2ODdEMEdVM0RKQ0FDWC4u

Dan is the LGBTQIA2S+ Coordinator and an MSW. He leads a team of staff (Rhea and BJ - who made the slideshow!), Peer Advocates and Peer Leaders.

GenQ is a free after-school social support program for LGBTQIA2S+ youth and young adults ages 14-24. Allies welcome! This Community Action program is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year!!! GenQ meets on Tues and Wed., 4-6PM - the program also hosts drop-in spaces that are open from 2-6PM Mon (1-6pm)-Tues(2-7pm) in Greenfield and Wed(2-7pm)-Thurs(1-5pm—starting in March) in Northampton. More info in slides:

- PDF of Drop-in/Gen Q slides:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13qskjLJQEiDH1MQnhEUJbK9A7d5F_Dyr/view?usp=drive_link

Discussion highlights:

Visitors are welcome anytime during open hours, please let them know you are coming. Intergenerational community building is a focus! Best entrance for drop-in at 154 Federal St is the side door where the ramp is. Front door is okay, too.

About 50 people are engaged with GenQ these days - 5-9 are in the drop-in space on a day to day basis (sometimes more.) Discord server is an online space with about 50 active participants, is moderated by staff.

Some wished-for items: plushies, fidgets, snacks that are safe for people w/ allergies, Nintendo Switch games, gift cards to local stores

Some places to check out for support/resources for younger young people -

- The Brick House Teen Center in Turners Falls is 11+ and currently mostly middle school aged participants, all queer staff. Hannah Bertrand - hbertrand@brickhousecommunity.org
- [Translate Gender](#) is out of Northampton, but offering programs online and regionally.
- [The Community Action Family Center](#) is a resource for families generally, doesn't have LGBTQIA2S+ programming currently, but could!

Announcements and Updates

Add yours!

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*

Kelly Broadway and a colleague at the Children's Advocacy Center are starting a girls' group in April that will focus on prevention (primary and secondary) of sexual exploitation. kbroadway@cacfranklinnq.org for more info

*

Jen Audley learned that the Athol Y is opening a new downtown space that will give area teens a new drop-in option + space for programs and meeting space other agencies can use. They are getting the space ready - painting etc - and could use help! Contact Desirae Burke for more info - dburke@atholymca.org

*

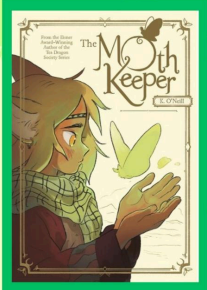



Question from Jen Matoney 'jmatoney@riversidecc.org' to the Franklin County Resource Network last week:

Hi folks,

Does anyone have a list of mental health resources for teens in Franklin County that you can please share? Thank you,

Jen Matoney, Co-chair, Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention, Facilitator, Greenfield Suicide Loss Support Group

Montague Public Libraries have lots going on!

<p>Graphic Novel Book Club! for ages 7-11 Thursday, February 22nd 3:30-4:30pm at the Millers Falls branch 23 Bridge St, Millers Falls, MA 01349</p>  <p>"Anya is finally a Moth Keeper, the protector of the lunar moths that allow the Night-Lily flower to bloom once a year. Her village needs the flower to continue thriving and Anya is excited to prove her worth and show her thanks to her friends with her actions, but what happens when being a Moth Keeper isn't exactly what Anya thought it would be?"</p> <p>This month we will be discussing <i>The Moth Keeper</i> by K. O'Neill. Email gracenm@montague-ma.gov to register for the program. Visit any of the three MPL branches to pick up a copy of the book, as well as an activity packet.</p>	 <p>BILINGUAL MUSIC AND MOVEMENT</p>  <p>WITH TOM & LAURIE</p> <p>THURSDAYS - 10:00AM MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY 17 Center St, Montague, MA 01351 FEB 1st to MAR 28th</p> <p>Starting Feb 1st!</p> <p>Made possible by a grant from the New Salem Academy</p> 
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Ages 8+

MAKER SPACE MONDAYS

MARCH
4TH/11TH/18TH/25TH
3:30-5:30 PM

CARNEGIE LIBRARY
201 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS

Swing by to explore basic STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concepts in a fun, no-pressure environment.

Children are required to have an adult or guardian with them during this drop-in time.

KIDLEIDOSCOPE STORY HOUR COLLABORATION

GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER



MARCH
15TH 22ND 29TH
10:30 - 11:30AM

For ages 3 - 6, accompanied by an adult.

Program includes a story, activities, and crafts. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

Montague Public Libraries' Youth Services Librarian will be a guest reader and have books available to check out!

This series is a collaboration between Montague Libraries and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Montague Public Libraries Artists' Reception

Designing My Public Library:
work by Sheffield 3rd Grade Students

Hosted by
the Great Falls Discovery Center

Refreshments in the Great Hall.

For all ages.

The artwork will be on display in the hallway gallery March 23 through the end of April.

March 23
1:00-3:00pm

Visit montaguepubliclibraries.org for more info.

*

Francesca, who is the teen librarian at Greenfield Public Library, wrote:

On Tuesday, April 2, we'll be bringing award winning author Jarret Krosoczka to Greenfield for the day. Among many other titles, Krosoczka is the author of the graphic novel *Hey, Kiddo*. *Hey, Kiddo* is Jarrett's memoir about growing up in Worcester with a mother who had lived experience with substance abuse and resulted in Krosoczka being raised by his grandparents. Jarrett was able to develop resilience through his love of art and cartooning from an early age. *Hey Kiddo* was also a finalist for the 2018 National Book Award.

Jarrett will be discussing his book *Hey, Kiddo* along with its sequel, *Sunshine*. Our goal is to bring our community together to support teens and community members who have or are currently dealing with trauma associated with a loved one whose life is affected by opioid addiction as well as the broader community in hopes that we can help to break down stigma and create a culture of caring.

We would love to have your organization join us. There are three time slots available.

Please complete this survey to let us know which time works best for you:

<https://forms.gle/k4UHjP25Qf56QNCA8>

In addition, Greenfield Public Library has copies of *Hey, Kiddo* to loan out as well as discussion questions. We can also reserve copies of *Sunshine* for you. If transportation is an issue, let us know and we may be able to help.

Please reach out to me with any questions - francesca.passiglia@greenfield-ma.gov

*

Kat <freemank@pvrsdk12.org>, who is the school adjustment counselor at Pioneer Valley Regional School, is looking for ideas on conferences and trainings in MA that a high school student with interests in leadership, social justice, mental health, etc could participate in before the end of this school year. Email them if you have suggestions!

Community Supports for Young People Workgroup

January 17, 2024, 1:30-2:30

Attendees (from Zoom):

Jen Audley (she/her) CHIP/FRCOG , Megan Richardson (she/her) , Ricia she/her (Ricia she/they), Isabella Rolandini, Sara C. (she/her), Amanda Mankowsky MassHire FHWB, lilyreske

Angela R-L (she/her) Montague Libraries, Jenna Weld PEER Ambassador (GFFC), Rachel Bowles (she/her) Youth Intake Worker, Olivia Morris (she/her), Melissa Bednarski, GPS (she/her), Lydia Davis (she/her), Ezzy she/her, Willow (for a few minutes), Shaundell Diaz (she/her) 3COC/CAPV (Three Cty Continuum of Care Zoom), Jo Ann Onduso, Greenfield FRC Supervising Clinician, Abbe Bresciano BBBS of Western MA, Jayson Z they/them, Aaron Hellem | GCC | Office of Admission (he/his/him), Jay [Clem, CHD?], Olivia Gilbert (she/her)

- **Welcome & Icebreaker** - Ricia
Something you're hoping will happen for young people you know in 2024
- **Dimensions of Wellness Activity & Discussion** - Megan

We found lots of "wellness wheel" activities when we did a quick internet search. We chose this one for today: [Wheel-of-Wellbeing-EN-FINAL-new.pdf \(kidshelpphone.ca\)](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca/Wheel-of-Wellbeing-EN-FINAL-new.pdf)

We spent a few minutes on our own, filling out wellness wheels for ourselves. Here is the version we shared onscreen for folks to copy:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sSrsOFLrjos9opmeDu7ePP34sIP8vtehHQXYJ7HxRyU/e/dit?usp=sharing>

We shared about how different ways we filled out our wheels, what we noticed, and how we felt. We talked about how we might use or adapt this exercise with others, including young people.

This inspiration for exploring this is this SAMHSA's "8 Dimensions of Wellness," which you can read about here: [CREATING A HEALTHIER LIFE, A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO WELLNESS](#) (SAMHSA is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a federal agency that provides funding and technical assistance to youth-serving programs.)

- **Announcements/Updates** - Ricia
 - New Free Teen "Open Hack" for ages 13-17**, at [LaunchSpace's](#) 13,000-sq-foot makerspace in Orange. Third Friday of each month at 6PM, starting January 19
 - Grab a friend and join this casual monthly maker event to socialize and make cool things!
 - A welcoming, inclusive space for teens to hang out and explore making things together. Each month will feature a new shop or media/materials.
 - [Learn more here.](#)

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES
FEBRUARY
SCHOOL VACATION WEEK YOUTH PROGRAMS

MONDAY 2/19	TUESDAY 2/20	WEDNESDAY 2/21
Libraries Closed Presidents' Day	Drop-In Art 2:00-4:00pm Millers Falls Library	LEGO 11:00am-1:00pm Carnegie Library
THURSDAY 2/22	FRIDAY 2/23	SATURDAY 2/24
Music & Movement 10:00-10:45am Montague Center Library Graphic Novel Book Group 13:30-4:30pm Millers Falls Library <i>*Details below!</i>	LEGO 3:00-4:30pm Montague Center Library Youth Volunteer Program 4-4:45pm Location TBD	Story Time 10:00-11:00am Carnegie Library Drop-In Art 1:00-3:00pm Carnegie Library

Check our website for updates: www.montaguepubliclibraries.org

NEW!

Graphic Novel Group*

Thursday, Feb 22nd
 3:30-4:30pm
 Millers Falls Library

This month we will be discussing **The Moth Keeper** by K. O'Neill.

Email gracem@montague-ma.gov to register for the program.
 Visit any of the three MPL branches to pick up a copy of the book, as well as an activity packet.

Designed for ages 7-11

Next CSYP Meeting: Wed., Feb 21, 1:30-2:30PM, on Zoom (same link). This one will be a virtual visit to Community Action Youth and Workforce Development's Greenfield location, hosted by Dan Lionheart!

Mark your calendar now! - CSYP will meet on the third Wednesday of the month 1:30-2:30PM this school year.

The CSYP webpage: <https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/> has links to meeting notes and handouts for most of our recent meetings.

[meeting reminder email, sent Jan 12]

Hello, Community Supports for Young People! Our January meeting is coming up next Wednesday, 1/17. At this one we are planning to do an activity inspired by SAMHSA's "Dimensions of Wellness" that will help us continue to get to know one another better and be an opportunity for you to reflect on what "wellness" means to you and to young people in your communities. (If you'd like to do some background reading ahead of time, check this PDF out: <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/sma16-4958.pdf>)

Please let me know if you have updates, events, or requests you'd like to share with the group so we can include them in the notes for this meeting!

One time sensitive announcement I wanted to share with you is this, from the United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region: <https://uw-fh.org/partnership-opportunities>
Basically, this is an opportunity for agencies that work with children, youth and their families to apply for 3 years of support, and some of the funding specifically designated for projects focused on youth wellness and mental health. Follow the Partnership Opportunities link above to read the RPF and get info about the two information sessions scheduled for next week. (Agencies that are planning to apply must send program staff or a supervisor to one of the info sessions.)

Community Supports for Young People (CSYP) Meeting Notes Feb 7, 2023

DROP BY THE
DROP IN Center
NO ENROLLMENT FORM REQUIRED!
OPEN TO YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS 14-24!

GREENFIELD
@154 FEDERAL STREET
MON: 1:00-6:00PM
TUES: 2:00-7:00PM
FRI: 11:00-3:00PM

• PAINTING
GAMES
WIFI
COMPUTER ACCESS
RESOURCES
PEER SUPPORT

HELP W/ BASIC NEEDS
HYGIENE SUPPLIES
SAFER SEX SUPPLIES
CLOTHING CLOSET
SNACKS

FOR MORE INFO
STOP BY
OR CONTACT DAN:
TEXT: 413-768-4159
DLIONHEART@COMMUNITYACTION.US

LGBTQIA+ Safe and Affirming Space
COMMUNITY ACTION YOUTH & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
United Way

Case Study:

New Drop-In Space at Community Action Youth Programs site at 154 Federal St in Greenfield
Featuring LBGTQIA+ Specialist **Daniel Lionheart**

DLionheart@communityaction.us

Dan described what visitors to the new space can do and get:

- Help W/ basic needs
- case management/individual support - one on one meetings to help with things like navigating systems like name change, HRT, and therapy and more, setting goals, or simply having someone to talk to about how hard things are.
- Help Navigating systems
- Hygiene supplies
- Safer Sex Supplies

- Clothing Closet
- Snacks
- Painting
- Games
- Wifi
- Computer Access
- Resources
- Peer support

The space is open to anyone between 14-24 years of age; there are no eligibility requirements or enrollment forms needed to be in the space, although there are some additional services that enrollment 'unlocks'. There are some evening times set aside each week for participants who are at the older end of the age range, and a monthly time when the space is open just for Trans and Nonbinary youth and young adults to gather in person and connect about experiences, joys, and struggles trans folks face. That Trans Space time is the third Monday of the month from 4:30-6 at 154 Federal street in Greenfield.

Here is a link to a folder with flyers:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1l8RTRUZiyUYSaA54VjjW6Cw9cSPfqY8t?usp=sharing>

(The Gen Q and Trans Space flyers are dated, but the descriptions of those programs and the contact info is still good. Please do not post Trans Space flyers too publicly - for instance, no email blasts or public board postings. Sharing in offices and handing directly to folks is great.)

In our discussion, some of the topics that came up were:

While it is designed to be a place where a person could make their initial contact with CAPV, the reality is that very few young people are coming in without a connection or introduction. It takes courage to check out a new place, and local youth face numerous challenges when it comes to getting around, plus the ease of staying home and doing familiar things with familiar people is considerable. Numbers have been lower than desired, and Dan is looking for help getting more young people to use the space.

Several people were enthusiastic about distributing and posting flyers.

Dan recently hosted a group that Megan R from The Brick House brought over to check out the space. He would love to do more of this - that is, a trusted older person handles the logistics and helps get youth through the door the first time. Or alternatively, arranges an opportunity for Dan to meet youth in places where they are comfortable at school or in the community. Dan is particularly looking for connections to schools.

While transportation home from the center at closing time is possible within a limited radius (Greenfield, Turners), for the most part the youth most likely to use the space will be coming from within walking distance or have access to public or private vehicles that can get them to Greenfield. There is a group that has been coming from West County regularly - a supportive parent is able to drive them.

Attendees:

Ricia (she/her)

jenna weld (jenna)

Jennifer Webster (she/her) BBBS Franklin
Co

Jamie Cleveland/NQCC

dan he/they

Olivia Morris

Megan Richardson

Keyedrya Jacobs (She/Goddess) CTC

Accasia

mary king

Peggy Fallon# She/Her# Dual Enrollment
Coordinator

Debb Gonz

HEROES/Treehouse Foundation (Holly
Rueger)

Olivia Gilbert (she/her)

Next Meeting: March 14, 2023 3:30-5PM, online

About this group: The CSYP workgroup is co-sponsored by the Community Health Improvement Plan and the Communities that Care Coalition. We regularly bring people together – including young people themselves! – for collective engagement around health equity and the overall wellbeing of young people of all ages (0-24) in our community. This group includes individuals who volunteer or have personal or professional connections to systems that aim to support and care for young people in our area. Learn more here:

<https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/>

Community Supports for Young People (CSYP) Meeting Notes Jan 9, 2023

Case Study: New Teen Space at the Greenfield Public Library www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org
Featuring GPL's Teen Librarian Francesca Passiglia (Pah SEE lee uh)
francesca.passiglia@greenfield-ma.gov
with members of the GPL Teen Space Team: Vala, Shane, Maia Valcacre, and Ashley Winn

Francesca described ways the library has offered programming for teens up to now, with very limited physical space inside the building. The opportunity to design a new library facility included a chance to create an area that will be primarily for teens, and to involve young people in its design.

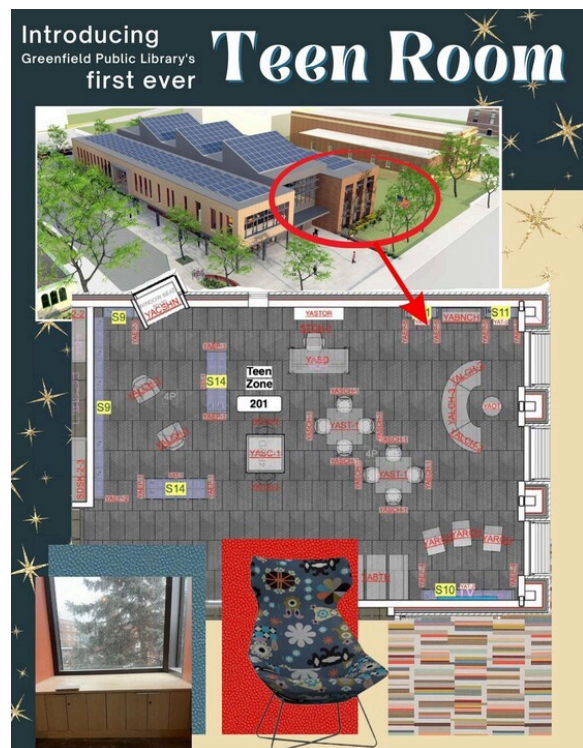
[Here is the slideshow](#) Francesca used to help us understand the process and picture what the new space will be like. They are planning for a space that will be outfitted for many different uses - hanging out, making, playing, etc.

She posted some of the Architects' renderings in our Slack workspace, here:

<https://csyp-ctc.slack.com/archives/C04J6QD22TF/p1673373837022059>

In the questions round, we learned that:

- New building on Main Street is scheduled to open in June 2023!
- Teen Zone will be primarily for teens - younger and older people may visit
- 7th-12th grade = "teen" for teen space, plus some opportunities potentially for 5th & 6th graders. Children's library space will be separate and awesome, as well.



- Teen Zone will have an adult staff person present to assist at all times, but the plan is for the librarian presence in the space to be very low key.

- Shelf space will double, 700 in collection now, can be more like 1400 in new space
- No library card needed to use the space. Can use a library card from any library in the CWMARS system to check things out. There will be an option to self-checkout!

- 8 non gendered single stall bathrooms

In the suggestions/ideas round, we offered:

- Ideas for outreach to local schools and youth programs
- Makes sure bus stops nearby and provide bus passes, if the busses ever cost money again

- Collaborate with other programs (GCC, Y, BBBS-FC, etc) to potentially offer special events
- Shift library's open hours to be more aligned with teen schedules

After the meeting Francesca followed up with these reflections:

Thanks so much for letting the teen room in the library be a case study on Monday. It was such a positive experience and very helpful. Every single question asked and point made gave me a new perspective on the space:

I really enjoyed hearing from the young person who discussed ways I could get the word out to kids about the teen space and will definitely pursue her suggestions such as bringing mini programs into the schools and adding library programs to school announcements.

Being asked to reflect on what it would feel like for a teen to come to the library for the first time was also very helpful.

I am also very interested in the possibility of having FRTA passes on hand to share with youth and am almost certain there will be a bus stop between the Y and the library however I will reach out to the superintendent, along with Grady Vigneaux at the Y, and see what our options are for an after school bus that brings kids downtown.

Collaborating with community members such as BBBS and All Stars is essential, how do we get started?

Lastly, I need to visit youth organizations and spaces in our area. I've never even been to Brick House. I plan to begin scheduling site visits next month. If you have any suggestions, I'd love to hear them.

Attendees: Jen Audley (she/her) (FC/NQ CHIP), Jennifer Webster (she/her) BBBS Franklin Co, Ricia Elwell (she/her), Francesca Passiglia (she/her), Starr Pinkos, Rachel Bowles (she/her), Vala (he/him) ShaneT, Gabrielle Field, Accasia, Maia Valcarce, Megan Richardson, Kanyin, Ashley Winn Jenna Weld (PEER Ambassador), mary king, Kat Allen (she/her) Communities That Care Coalition, Olivia Gilbert, Peggy Fallon Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Judy Raper, Jack Jette, Ezzy Harrison, Louisa Dice

Next Meeting: The February 7, 2023 CSYP meeting will use our "case study" format and will focus on the drop-in space Community Action's GenQ program recently opened in Greenfield. Please join us to learn about and help support this new LGBTQIA+ affirming space for young people in our area! Contact Jen Audley for more details, including the Zoom link.

About this group: The CSYP workgroup is co-sponsored by the Community Health Improvement Plan and the Communities that Care Coalition. We regularly bring people together – including young people themselves! – for collective engagement around health equity and the overall wellbeing of young people of all ages (0-24) in our community. This group includes

individuals who volunteer or have personal or professional connections to systems that aim to support and care for young people in our area. Learn more here:

<https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/>

Community Supports for Young People

July 18, 2022 3:30-5:00PM on Zoom

Meeting Notes

Welcome!

Intros & ways we are 'refilling our cups' this summer:

Who was there: Lydia Davis (she/her), Kat Allen (she/her), Olivia Morris, Olivia Gilbert Lilly (she/her), Jennifer Webster (she/her) - co-chair, Ricia Elwell-Socci (she/her)- co-chair, Jayme Russaw-Clem (she/her), Judy Raper, (she/hers), Amanda Mankowsky, Dan Lionheart (he/fawn), Ilana Gerjuoy (she/they), Elishema Jean, Ness Bellini (they/them), Melissa Burke, Kanyinsola, Accasia, Gabrielle Field, Starr Pinkos, Keyedrya Jacobs, Jen Audley (she,her) - notetaker

Want to reach out to someone who was at this meeting or see who's on the list for this workgroup so far? Here is [contact information for the CSYP workgroup](#) as of August 2022.

You should be able to edit this, so if you want to change or add to what it says about you, please do!

Folks shared examples of things they are doing to 'refill their cup' and keep from getting depleted this summer, including yoga, spending time outdoors, going to therapy, asking a partner for daily affirmations, meditation, going to restaurants once/week, and art.

Updates & Announcements

We heard from:

- Jennifer Webster - The BBBS-FC team will be arranging meetings with contacts at local schools and would be happy to have folks from other agencies or groups join them to introduce themselves and their programs. She will follow up on this idea in our Slack workspace. If you aren't using Slack and are interested in this, Jennifer's email address is jwebster@bbbs-fc.org
- Ness Bellini - Following up on concerns raised at our last meeting about experiences people were having with being misgendered and misnamed at CHD and long waiting period between intake and service delivery for people seeking therapy.

Ness thanked the people who shared their experiences and concerns and said that what happened was wrong and that addressing it is important. CHD uses forms to collect feedback, and sending information that way ensures that concerns are seen by the

people who are in leadership positions who can respond and make changes. Each clinic uses a different form - the link for the Greenfield clinic's online feedback form is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mKnnTMlim0aa2EhN61vvHLYtVk2yScJPK2mIMicKAS5UNExMSV4VJVJaN0hMS0ZVRFNDSVdUWjUzVi4u&qrcode=true>

The link to this form is also on slack, as is a QR code that links to the form. If you want another way to spread the word to your networks, Ness can also email you a printable quarter page flyer! Reach out to: nbellini@chd.org

- Dan Lionheart - [Gen Q](#) has been awarded a Safe Spaces grant to support creating a drop-in space at their Federal Street location in Greenfield. The new space will include opportunities for young people to access art supplies, help, and gender-affirming clothing. It will be open to all who are committed to its purpose as a safe space for LGBTQIA+. Gen Q will be on hiatus for 3 weeks (7/25-8/9) so the new space and program can be set up. Small donations for the gender-affirming closet are welcome - contact Dan to arrange - dlionheart@communityaction.us
- Melissa Burke - supervisor of the CHD outpatient clinic in Orange + private practice at Orange Innovation Center, lives in New Salem and has children who are 10 and 13. Interested in getting more going for tweens and teens in Orange. Has been developing an idea for summer programming in 2023 and is looking for people to form a team to make it happen. Jayme Clem, Amanda Mankowsky, Accasia and several others expressed interest. Brianna at Launchspace was suggested as a person who might help, but Melissa said she'd already followed that lead without success. Valuing Our Children also came up, as they are offering some teen programming already. After the meeting, Melissa posted more details on the new summer-tween-teen-programming channel on Slack, so if you are curious, check that out! Contact Melissa directly at: mburke@chd.org.

Group Work - The “what”, “how,” and “when” of this group

The What

The co-chairs and Jen have been working on a description of this group and what it does for the Communities That Care Coalition. We posted this draft on Slack and discussed it with those at the meeting:

About Community Supports for Young People (CSYP)

This new group is sponsored by the Communities that Care Coalition <<https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/>> and the Franklin County/North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan Network <www.frcog.org/chip>

CSYP brings together individuals from various sectors, including young people themselves, for collective engagement around health equity and the overall wellbeing of young people of all ages (0-24) in our community.

Our group includes points of contact from local organizations that work with young people (ie: Community Action Youth and Workforce Development Programs, BBBSFC, CHD, CHCFC, YMCA, DCF, etc.) and individuals who volunteer or have personal connections to support systems for young people in our area.

Our goal is to make Franklin County and the North Quabbin region a more accessible and supportive place for young people. We focus on strategies that will help our community become anti-racist and trans-friendly and that uplift the voices of community members who are not well-represented in data about our region.

Discussion:

Question about the 0-24 age range, since it seems as if most of the people who are actively involved work with older youth. Clarified that the original vision for the group was to bring together people who work with the whole age range, and there are some early childhood folks who are interested but cannot make the meeting time we chose. Recall that at our first meeting we set out some terms that we could use to distinguish between age groups: “0-2 = young children”, “3-11 = kids”, “12-16 = youth” and “17-24 = young adults,” with “young people” as the collective term.

More deliberate outreach to people who work with younger/youngest children is needed for them to be a stronger presence. Also noted that re participation by youth, several people in the meeting have family members who are younger children and we could include them more deliberately.

Question about naming agencies that are not active in the group as “key contacts,” and in particular DCF, which has a track record of being hard to connect with. For now, the agencies named as examples in the description come from the CHIP work group that evolved into CSYP. They are aspirational, rather than actual, and if over time we are not able to connect with them, we will stop calling them “key contacts”.

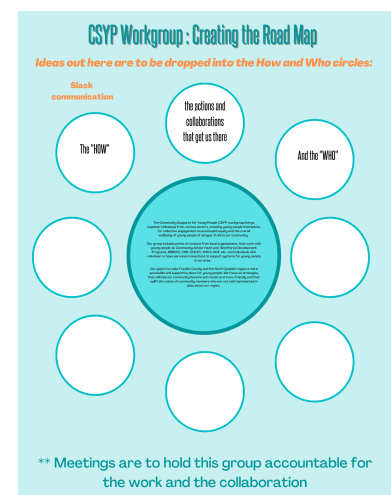
More feedback on this description is welcome! Here is a link to a document you can edit: https://docs.google.com/document/d/129xxeBjBW1JWUpzG6_I-mjV7q7bXWM2Gr1b-HZsmaqM/edit?usp=sharing

The How

Discussion:

How will we work toward our goal? What sorts of things will we do? Jennifer Webster showed us a visual representation of this process and we brainstormed ideas for broad categories and specific activities that might fit, including:

- Securing funding
- Collaborating on strengthening connections with schools
- Intergenerational initiatives
- Amplifying work that could use more attention



- Sharing resources
- Creation (podcasts were an example)

There was a question raised about whether the group would require programs it supports to be accessible to everyone.

Jennifer, Ricia, and Jen will come back to the group with an updated visual that reflects what we heard in this discussion and additional input we get from you through other channels. Please be in touch!

The When

We set the meeting day and time for our first few meetings based on an informal survey of interested people and their availability, and agreed to revisit this decision at our 3rd meeting. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the 3rd Monday at 3:30 is a good meeting time for people who were at this meeting! We decided to schedule our next meeting for the same time on the 3rd Monday in September (9/19, 3:30-5PM), and also to reach out to people who were not able to attend about an alternate meeting time. Jennifer W floated the idea of holding duplicate meetings, each w/ the same agenda, to reach more people. Co-chairs and Jen will discuss.

CSYP on Slack - our group's Slack workspace - <https://csyp-ctc.slack.com>

Check it out! We have lots of channels with active discussions. If you don't have an account yet, you will need to create one as a first step - it's not hard! Jennifer Webster - jwebster@bbbs-fc.org is your go-to person for ?s about Slack.

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept 19, 3:30-5PM Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88539349947>

Could be hybrid - stay tuned!

9/16/22 Update: We're postponing our September meeting, mostly likely to 9/26 or 10/3. We'll email and post on Slack when it's settled!

[Notes from previous meeting](#) (May 16, 2022)

Contact info:

Co-chairs -

Jennifer Webster <jwebster@bbbs-fc.org>

Ricia Elwell-Socci <relwellsocci@communityaction.us>

Staff -

Jen Audley <jaudley@frcog.org>

Community Supports for Young People

May 16, 2022 3:30-5:00PM

Meeting on Zoom

Welcome!

Intros & Our Reasons for Being Here: *We asked each person to say a bit about who they are and what they are hoping for from this group - today and in the future.*

Who was there: Rhea/Kaia Fulk (Fae/They), Lydia Davis (she/her), Blue (He/Him), Megan Richardson (she/her), Peggy Fallon (she/her), Kat Allen (she/her), Olivia Morris, Olivia Gilbert (she/her), Geo, Jennifer Webster (She/her) - facilitator, Ricia Elwell-Socci (she/her), Jayme Russaw-Clem (she/her), Judy Raper, (she/hers), Amanda Mankowsky, Jonathan Mirin (he/him), Dan Lionheart (he/fawn), Ilana Gerjuoy (she/they), Elishema Jean, Francesca Passiglia (she/her), Micah (he/they) Katz-Zeiger, Ness Bellini (they/them), Jen Audley (she,her) - notetaker

Want to reach out to someone who was at this meeting or see who's on the list for this workgroup so far? Here is [contact information for the CSYP workgroup](#) as of May 2022. You should be able to edit this, so if you want to change or add to what it says about you, please do! (This is taken from the interest form, so there are people listed here who are interested but haven't connected with us yet.)

Opportunities to Collaborate:

- We started by asking if CAPV participants and other young people present had thoughts they wanted to share:

Olivia M observed that Greenfield Community College's COVID vaccination policy, which extends to visitors, is a barrier to access and participation in programs that take place in GCC buildings, including the HEROES program. (Here is information from GCC on this policy: <https://www.gcc.mass.edu/safety/healthalerts/>)

Judy Raper said she would convey the feedback to people who created that policy.

Blue noted that CHD staff have repeatedly used incorrect pronouns and their deadname, despite being corrected and reminded.

Ness Bellini said they would share the feedback about people being continuously misgendered with the clinic director.

Olivia M shared that CHD has told her to expect to wait several months to be matched with a therapist, and what they offered until then are one-off walk-in appointments during scheduled hours 5 days/week. Wondering about priorities for access to mental health services - if CHD has

staffing to provide that many hours of service to walk-ins, why not shift some of that to meeting needs for ongoing support?

Ness said they would share this feedback with the clinic director as well.

- Re-Opening Greenfield Community College Campus - Judy Raper wants “to talk with folks about making connections between youth and GCC. I want people to know that they can use our space for meetings/gatherings etc. I'm also willing to set up special programs that allow youth to learn more about what GCC has to offer or just give them a positive on campus experience.”

Connection to the concerns raised earlier about the college's covid vaccine policy and the campus visitor policy. Clarification that outdoor events are not subject to these policies.

Judy highlighted two initiatives she's working on that are focused on intergenerational connections and learning:

CyberSeniors, a volunteer program where young people help older adults with tech support and learning to use technology. (more info:

<https://www.gcc.mass.edu/marketing/2022/03/17/gcc-launches-cyber-seniors-program-with-the-ymca/#.Yo5YWKjMKcw>) The launch of this program in May was successful and showed that there is lots of demand for this sort of assistance; more young mentors are needed, and the Alliance for Digital Equity has been approached about providing funds for stipends for youth mentors.

Upcoming workshops using the Ice House Institute model that will bring people together to come up with innovative ideas for particular topics. There's one coming up on strengthening inter-generational relationships Monday June 6th from 2:30-5:30PM. We are specifically looking for young people to join us! Another one, on addressing stigma and celebrating recovery from substance abuse disorders will be on Friday June 10th from 2:00-5:00PM. For that one we are looking for people with lived experience and due to a generous grant from the Opioid Task Force, we can pay participants \$100 for joining us! If you are interested, please email me at raperj@gcc.mass.edu

- Franklin County Pride is hosting a June 10 flag-raising on the Common in downtown Greenfield and a parade and rally with music, speakers and tables on June 11 (<https://www.franklincountypride.org/events>)

Dan Lionheart shared what Gen Q [<https://www.communityaction.us/generation-q>] has planned, which includes marching in the parade and tabling at the rally. Everyone is welcome to join them or sit with them!

They will also be hosting a GenQ youth pride with a cookout at the end of June. More details to come!

And Rhea is leading an effort to assemble a gender-affirming clothing collection that will give people opportunities to see, touch and try on items such as binders, and also to check out articles of clothing that are fun, fancy, comfortable, and costume-y. Donations are very welcome!

Ilana has sent an inquiry to the organizers of Pride to see if there is room for more tables at the event, and several people have signed up to volunteer on the day of the event - helping set up, clean up and organize the parade. (Link to volunteer sign-up form is here: More info: <[Parade — Franklin County Pride](#)>)

- Jonathan Mirin reported that Piti Theater Company has shifted its Valley Playwright Mentoring afterschool program for teens to a podcast format. Podcasts from past years are archived @ ptco.org/vpm They also offer a mentoring program for early career artists ages 18+ (adults also welcome): artsmentors.org/mentorship that is currently taking applications
- Rhea/Kaia would like to see people caring more about youth homelessness, and Ilana Gerjuoy wondered about connecting with school staff who oversee how funds are used for youth without stable housing (called McKinney-Vento at the school level). Ilana offered to connect with the people at the Greenfield Public Schools to pass along info or questions from this group or invite them. YAB participants thought it would be a good topic for YAB. Ilana and Lydia will coordinate about that.
- Discussion about connecting more with schools, getting into schools, rebuilding relationships with schools after several years of pandemic-related isolation. Many programs and groups share this goal, and we talked about sharing information, working together, and collaborating on back-to-school events in the fall. Blue described being invited to speak with Four Rivers Middle School students and how that was a successful way to interest several young teens in CAPV programs.

Jennifer Webster offered to share the information BBBS-FC has recently gathered about contacts for many local public schools. [Here it is](#) (It's also posted in our Slack workspace)

- CSYP on Slack - Jennifer Webster led a hands-on demo and practice session where we explored our group's Slack workspace - <https://csyp-ctc.slack.com> Several people joined on the spot, and others said they felt more comfortable and enthusiastic about using Slack after getting a tour.

Hop on over and check it out! We have lots of channels with active discussions about upcoming events, Franklin County Pride, summer jobs, and a just-for-fun space that includes photos of some very cute cats! (If you don't have an account yet, you will need to create one as a first step - it's not hard! Jennifer Webster - jwebster@bbbs-fc.org is your go-to person for ?s about Slack.)

Several folks noted that Slack seems to be a lot like Discord, and many young people (and some adults) already use Discord. Rhea/Kaia said yya (youth and young adults) might find learning a new system a barrier to participation. Ricia said I believe where we landed was that we were going to try out slack for a couple of months, and see how it works, and based on engagement, reevaluate and try to identify another way to connect [at that point if necessary].

Next Meeting: Monday, July 18, 3:30-5PM (could be hybrid or outside - stay tuned)
We're planning to consider changing our meeting day and time for September.

About CSYP:

This new group is sponsored by the Communities that Care Coalition <<https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/>> and the Franklin County/North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan Network <www.frcog.org/chip>

What brings us together is our shared interest in doing things to make our community healthier and more supportive for young people.

We are focusing on what's happening (and what could be happening) outside of school and away from home. (CTC hosts other groups that focus on parent/caregivers and on educators/schools and we would be happy to connect you with them if you're interested!)

Contact:

Co-chairs -

Jennifer Webster <jwebster@bbbs-fc.org>

Ricia Elwell-Socci <relwellsocci@communityaction.us>

Staff -

Jen Audley <jaudley@frcog.org>