

Child Safety Committee

Minutes 1/8/2014

Attendees: Members in attendance

Bob Correia, Jeff Downs, Pastor Bill Dudley, Vicki Lowe, Det. Tim O'Leary, Deb Spinelli, Lynda Walsh

Guests:

Michele Friel Mullen, Program Director Norfolk Advocates for Children

The Minutes for the 12/18/13 were approved: Motion by Tim O'Leary/Second by Bill Dudley 6-0-1 (Jeff abstained because of not being present at the 12/18 meeting.

Michele Friel Mullen went through the questions the committee had submitted to her and in summary she informed the group that the Norfolk Advocates for Children are happy to help in any way we need. She supplied the group with a copy of the How to Manual for Mass Educators "Designing and implementing a School Reporting protocol" as well as the YMCA's "Child Protection Tools for Implementation" she suggested that we read through these documents to create our own town policy. Michele also handed the group copies of proposed new legislature (copies available)...

SENATE Docket No. 1364 No. 47 *legislation to create a task force to protect Massachusetts children against child sexual abuse*. Filed on 1/18/2013

HOUSE Docket No. 3341 No. 1454 *legislation to expand the definition of mandated reporters and updating the fines and consequences for failing to report abuse*. Filed on 1/18/2013

Michele informed the group that there is on-line training available, currently through the Middlesex Child Advocacy Center and that the Norfolk Center is in the process of building their own training site, with hopes of it being available within the next 6-8 months. She also has postcards and brochures that she will get to Det. O'Leary for distribution.

Jeff Downs mentioned that he spent a little time with Rec Director, Deb G. She gave him a copy of the form that is required for any groups using the fields. After reviewing the form, it was suggested that the group rework the form to include a check box that users have had some type of Child Sexual Abuse training, whether the Darkness to Light Program or on-line training. Jeff also noted that the Board of Health is responsible for approving outside groups that come into town to use town properties. He will get a copy of those forms from Pauline Clifford for the group to discuss.

Deb Spinelli reminded the group that there will be a training class for employees on the Darkness to Light program on January 24th from 12-2:30. She also mentioned that her trainers will be pulling together snippets of the training program and using them as yearly training for all schools mandated reporters. So that after the initial training of the full program, individuals are reminded yearly of each portion of that training, for example if the program was broken up into four segments, by the end of the fourth year they would have completed another full program of training, thus keeping it fresh in folks minds.

Tim O'Leary mentioned that the Chief is working with Tony from the YMCA to set up the Darkness to Light Program for the Foxboro Youth Athletic Program's volunteers to attend.

Chairman Correia asked that if within the next two weeks members could try to put together a draft of what the training template would look like, for example... Employee – Darkness to Light; Mandated - Middlesex On-line training.

It was noted that the committee should continue to meet every two weeks, the next meeting will be 1/22/14.

Motion to adjourn by Det. O'Leary, Second by Jeff Downs, motion carried 7-0