

**2017 OPEN HOUSE AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**November 17, 2017**

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**The HUB 2017 Annual Meeting Agenda**

* Open House with refreshments in The HUB facility – 6pm
* Distribution of meeting documents
* Welcome and introductions – Board President Bruce Allen – 7pm
* Declaration of a quorum according to the by-laws
* Report from Board President – Reference annual and strategic reports
* Executive Director – Reference annual and strategic reports
* Question/discussion of Annual and Strategic reports
* Treasurer’s report
* Approve September 1, 2017- August 31, 2017 budget
* HUB Program Manager’s report
* Nomination and election of Board Officers (excludes Treasurer)
* Other business
* Meeting is adjourned

**Board Members and Staff**

Hank Hall Executive Director/Treasurer

Bruce Allen President

Brandon Turner Vice President

Diane Lantz Secretary

Pat McDaniel Director

Stacy Wick Director

Becki Busch Director

Craig Maietta Director

Shelly Rempa Director, Program Manager

Azrael Rempa Program Assistant

**The HUB Youth Central’s Mission Statement**

* To engage youth by providing innovative programs and a safe place to socialize
* To honor youth by offering support, acceptance and a sense of purpose
* To build coalitions which advocate for youth, family and community
* To prepare youth for independent life by developing leadership and life skills

**ANNUAL REPORT**

In Island County our youth participate in an annual Healthy Youth Survey (Analytics 2016). Statistics are gathered so that agencies and schools may target the needs of youth with an accurate understanding of specific deficits and strengths that should guide the development of our programs. Below we list some of the statistics that we feel we should address at The HUB.

The following are 2016 Island County statistics from 443 middle and high school students surveyed:

* 34% of 6th grade and 27% of 10th grade students report being bullied at school in the past 30 days
* 21.2% of 10th graders and 23% of 12th graders report that they are seriously considering committing suicide
* 50% of 10th graders say that they do not have an adult to turn to when they are feeling sad or hopeless
* 20% of 10th graders report having drank alcohol in the last 30 days, down 10% since 2006

Statewide, children who are bullied report having lower grades (C’s, D’s and F’s) than those who are not. Locally, we have a 7% higher rate of bullying than statewide statistics for 6th grade students. South Whidbey School District (where the majority of our youth attend) has taken a serious stand against bullying. They recently (10/21/17) gathered all the students grades K-12 in a Unity Day gathering to make it clear that we are going to improve feelings of safety in our schools (Moccia, 2017). Our program at The HUB backs these efforts and actively intervenes in conflicts between youth, giving them a safe atmosphere in which they can process their conflicts and find solutions. We take a firm stand against any form of bullying. LGBTQ youth experience a greater degree of bullying. We are supporting those students who have experienced discrimination and advocating for their rights. Our “Bill of Rights and Responsibilities” that each student signs outlines our stand against bullying. At The HUB, we have the policy that “everyone belongs here”. Our staff gently remind students to keep an open mind and respect that many different kinds of kids attend The HUB and that tolerance of differences is a core philosophy of our program. This stand enables kids to express themselves freely without fear of bullying. For the most part, we have a peaceful atmosphere in our youth center. One student recently told Shelly that “I don’t feel safe at home, I don’t feel safe at school, but I feel safe at The HUB.” That is always our goal. We are a home away from home, with experienced staff and volunteers who nurture a peaceful and empowering environment.

The HUB is aware of the need to support youth who are experiencing depression and suicidal feelings. In the past 60 days we have had three teens tell Shelly that they had thoughts about ending their life. We must continue to support youth by communicating with their families and encouraging them to seek medical and mental health care. At The HUB we are not afraid to talk about these frightening feelings and take a practical approach to getting help. Because suicidal thinking is reported at such a high rate and we are helping some of those students, we need to widen our understanding of current evidence-based suicide prevention practices. We are sending staff to suicide prevention training at Seattle Children’s Hospital in January 2018. We will continue our important work with youth and their families to prevent suicide on South Whidbey Island.

Many youth come to The HUB and ask to speak one on one with staff. We actively ask kids about what is on their mind. We inquire as to what they need and arrange to fulfill that need whenever we can. Kids know that they can find information through our staff. We send food out the door with some kids who face food insecurity and we arrange Whidbey Island Nourishes food drop-offs. Leftovers from the hot meal we serve everyday are sent out the door. Toiletries are available to take as needed. We have arranged to have clothing and shoes given to students in need. When school began the staff made multiple trips to the Family Resource Center to procure school supplies for kids who could not go there. We have Ryan’s House For Youth staff come into our program to talk about their services and our staff commonly refer to, and collaborate with Ryan’s House.

By providing a warm and safe environment in which youth can socialize, we believe that we reduce the desire for student’s to use alcohol, tobacco and drugs. We do not allow anyone who is using to come into our program. It is rare for us to experience this. Kids know that our program is anti-drug and alcohol. While the kids are in our building they are participating in safe, parent approved activities. We also serve as eyes and ears for parents and we communicate about any concerning behaviors.

**Program Inputs**

Program expense $32,856.00

Employee hours 721

Salaries/wages $19,746.00

Volunteer hours 912

**Program Outputs**

Days of Service 144

Hours of Service 512

Unduplicated Youth Served 187

Member Attendance 3,168 Visits

Meals Served 3,168

Annual Cost per Member $175.70

Cost per Member per Visit $10.37

Volunteer Hours per Student 4.87

**Strategic Plan**

* We need to broaden our funding base in order to assure program constancy. It is the responsibility of our board to continually source grants and donations.
* Building coalitions with other local nonprofits that serve children is a priority.
* We must continue to offer interesting and relevant programming for our youth.
* Offering extended year services is recognized as an important and necessary model to continue.
* We will use evidence based resources to guide our program philosophy and as a way to determine our priorities.
* We will continue to do outreach with our youth who are disadvantaged in every way possible. We continue to advocate for youth and intervene when necessary to ensure their safety and healthy development.
* Suicide prevention strategies will be used to assist youth who are at risk and to educate all youth about how and where they can get help.
* Homelessness will continue be addressed and assistance will be offered to kids who are experiencing this.

**Program Manager’s Report**

Hello, my name is Shelly Rempa and I was hired to be The HUB’s program manager in January 2017. We have had a very successful year together with our board, staff and youth. We have averaged 22 kids per day, some day’s there are only 7-8 kids and other days we get 45 kids! The music is always on, food is on the counter and busy youth are accessing a variety of entertainment, educational and art activities. We are helping kids discover their strengths as well as enjoy their friends. Adolescents need to have pro-social experiences to successfully navigate becoming an adult. They also need guidance and support. We are continually assessing every youth for ways that we support them best.

One of my first priorities in developing our program was to create a year round model so that we do not see a drop in services for youth when school is out of session. We opened for spring and summer break for the first time in 2017. We had somewhat low numbers through the summer (10-20/day), but the kids we served were our most needy. We had 12 homeless youth in our program on a regular basis all summer long. It was easy to see the importance of providing the needed respite for both kids and families during the summertime. It is hard to keep kids entertained when the novelty of camping has worn off. Because of the homelike atmosphere of The HUB, kids found a comfortable couch to relax on and mom-cooked meals. Parents are then free to continue looking for housing and employment. Other families send their kids to The HUB to keep them busy while parents were at work. Middle and high school youth are typically left to their own devices after school, during summer and other school breaks. With The HUB in operation, families can count on coverage during the long work day. Additionally, kids know that they can come to The HUB if they needed anything. We are convinced that extending our service hours provides a valuable resource to our South Whidbey Community.

For the first four months of the 2016-2017 fiscal year The HUB was closed due to lack of funds. Our board mobilized, bringing on a new manager and board members. They raised money so that we could re-open. We are actively working to keep our organization financially solvent and to prevent ever having to close our doors again.

Because I am a nurse I do a lot of health teaching and some basic first aid care. I am mentoring an at-risk youth who wants to become a nurse. I also volunteer at Ryan’s House for Youth in their medical clinic. This enables me to coordinate with the medical staff at Ryan’s House. I am kept up to date about emerging health issues and particular problems within our community and with our teen population. It is through health and healing that I nurture our kids. Because I am pragmatic about what are sometimes difficult things to discuss, I am able to push past barriers in helping kids access important health related information. We also have a volunteer who is at The HUB two days per week and she is a retired R.N.

I believe that our magic lies within our philosophy of “warm, positive regard”. Each youth is given attention and encouragement, they are treated with respect and kindness. It is through serving food that much of this is conveyed. I will regularly ask kids what they want to eat and serve them with a smile. We are happy to say hello when they walk in the door and we look for their talents and encourage them to explore those further. We see the good in them! When conflict occurs we take an impartial stand, “what happened?” and give all kids the opportunity to express their feelings before we help brainstorm solutions. It is by treating each child as the unique and important human being that they are that we develop trust and a sense of belonging. ~ Shelly Rempa

**Testimonials:**

Here is what our youth have to say about The Hub:

The food is always good. Sometimes I get to paint on the wall and that makes me calm. I met a lot of new friends here that I now know very well. My favorite things to do at The HUB is art and dancing! I learn a lot about people and how they see things. ~E.K.

The Hub has free food, games and you can even paint the wall! J.R.

In my opinion it has pretty great service. There are a lot of free style painting. This is where you come to hang out with your friends. J.S.

I love the staff because they provide good afterschool activities. My friends like to go here! K.S.

I think this is a good afterschool program for kids that need something to do. It is kind of like a resource center. The staff and the volunteers are great! S.A.

I like that this is a place that people can come and just enjoy life and leave their problems at home. We can hang out, we have music, pool, video games, Netflix, arts and crafts or sleep. We have a place that we can do all that. When somebody makes a mistake you forgive them. You teach them a lesson. We need that in our lives. Some kids don’t have someone who teaches them- they get away with whatever they want and no one stops them. I have learned a lot from here. And you have zero tolerance for bullying. If someone is banned they are not banned for life though. I really like The Hub! E.R.

 I have been involved with The HUB since 2012, my 6th grade school year, and I am a junior at SWHS this year. It has been my favorite place to go after school since. I have taken a leadership role in volunteering my time to update their website. I really enjoy the environment and atmosphere and having been fed. I have given back to The Hub by volunteering by helping make food and working our Garden Cart fundraiser, and our annual Salmon Dinner. It has always been an easy place to attend because it’s on my transit route between school and home, but now I am at the point in my life where I can drive and The Hub isn’t within my route home yet I enjoy it so much I continue to go. Overall it’s a good place for youth to enjoy time indoors doing homework, and hanging with friends after school. A.D.

References:

Analytics, L. G. (2016, August 5). Healthy Youth Survey 2016. Retrieved November 17, 2017, from https://www.askhys.net/FactSheets

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