



### Youth Advisory Board Minutes

November 22, 2016

In attendance: Meika Burnikel, Erika Smith, Darrius Liggus, Shaunda Gobat, Rakeem Ragsdale, Onyx Murphy, Ryan Myers

Pizza, soda, chocolate and twizzlers provided.

1. Welcome and Introductions of all youth at the table. Completed Sign in Sheet and personal profile information.
2. Discussion of what the Balance of State is
3. Discussion of why the BOS needs them
4. Discussion of what the PIT is with a video of the Brown County PIT
5. Discussion of how to incorporate youth in the PIT- Just ask them but you need to give them something for their time. Kids aren't going to do it for free. We like food and money. We are happy to help but most kids won't do it for free. If we have to travel we need gas money
6. Discussion of where to find youth during the PIT- You are NOT going to find youth between 11-4am. You have to do a count during the day. In the winter you won't find youth because most of them are in houses with people. But you might find some of the older ones at the library, Ymca, Schools, hospitals, 24 hour laundromats, or in their cars. In Brown County they are at Baird Creek in the car, Joannies Park, Fisk Park. They walk around the hospital until they caught or they walk around Walmart until they get caught. Usually they can walk around for a very long time before anyone notices, and sometimes they can sleep in the fitting rooms for hours at night. In the summer they are staying in Bay Port High schools parking lot because there is no one there for days. They also stay in West High school parking lot in the back in their cars. There are more kids on the West side of Green Bay than the East side that are homeless. This is Wisconsin so kids stay with other people. We do things for them to stay there. We give them what little money we might run into to stay there, so we are in the houses on couches, floors, basements, attics and garages. Most kids don't trust people who have clipboards and just come up to them out of the blue unless they hand them a card of some sort saying who they are. If you want kids to talk to you you have to be cool and maybe have one of us with you. Gas stations are a big place to find kids. Gas stations have paid for gas for many kids in the winter so they have heat. Maybe offer people gas cards when you are out and about for the Pit. Kids our age don't use the job center and shelters are a no. Most kids our age will do anything not to go to a shelter if at all possible. We want to live on our own with our own rules. All youth at the table stated that their experiences in shelter were not positive and that they felt that staff expected more from them than others because they were young. They felt very judged and that

it was not the right place for them. Independent living is a much better option per this group of youth.

7. Where do you usually find help when you are in need

- Gas Station
- Schools-Social Workers are almost always helpful and our favorite teachers always help (but we have to be careful what we say to them because they will tell)
- Coats for kids
- Family Services
- Churches

Any place that doesn't judge you, any place that people smile and are cool and down to earth. People who try to act better than us we just walk away from.

8. Demonstration of the website

9. Pictures of the group

10. Discussion of who is committed for 4 meetings a year!!!

11. Thank you's and Certificates for being on the board and being committed to this cause