



HOPE 4 Youth Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm | Anoka County Sheriff's Office or Zoom

Board Members Present: Steve Nash, Anna VonRueden, Liz Cook, Krista Benjamin, Don Phillips, Sue Woodard, Julie Cole, Paul Moore, Linda Barnum, Pat Chen

Board Members Absent: Brad Wise, JJ Slag, Brad Konik, James Lyght

Staff and Guests Present: LaChelle Williams, Mark McNamer, Nikki Kalvin, Breanne Patton, Karen Anderson

Minutes:

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm by Anna VonRueden.

Mission Moment (Paul Moore)

- Paul Moore talked about the 3rd annual Stepping Up 4 HOPE event held at Chain of Lakes Church. The event is held to bring awareness to youth homelessness as well as raise funds to support HOPE 4 Youth and Stepping Stone. In total, the event raised around \$5,000.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Motion** made by Anna VonRueden, seconded by Steve Nash and passed unanimously to approve the agenda and the March 25, 2024 minutes.

Board Executive Committee Update (Anna VonRueden)

- Anna VonRueden shared A Night 4 HOPE grossed \$192,345 and net was \$137,919.
- Anna VonRueden spoke to diversifying the Board. The Board is looking to recruit members for the Advancement and Development Committees and bring in members of the BIPOC community. This answered Sue Woodard's question about who we are looking to recruit.
- Paul Moore asked about member capacity for the Board. LaChelle Williams pointed to the bylaws and stated 25 members. However, our goal for 2024 is to add 3 new members.

2023 Audit Results (Don Phillips)

- Don Phillips shared that HOPE 4 Youth had a clean audit. The organization has 9 months of cash on-hand and ended with a \$100,868 surplus in 2023.
- Don Phillips acknowledged the rebuilding of the relationship between HOPE 4 Youth and Abdo and pointed to how well-funded the organization is. HOPE 4 Youth dropped our reserve but put in place a \$200,000 line-of-credit. HOPE 4 Youth also had an increase in fixed assets that made improvements to HOPE Place.
- LaChelle Williams recognized Brooke Linamen for her work with the auditors, and Steve Nash congratulated the Finance Committee for their continued work to improve the organization's financial health.
- Motion** made by Don Phillips, seconded by Linda Barnum and passed unanimously to approve the 2023 audit.

Risk Management (Sue Woodard/Linda Barnum/ Karen Anderson)

- Sue Woodard outlined and spoke to the timeline in creating the Risk Management Plan. We need to see the Risk Management Plan as a living document that is ever evolving.

- Karen Anderson (Strategic Steering Committee member) spoke to the importance of gathering different perspectives when developing the Risk Management Plan. It was a great exercise for staff to participate in at the March All Staff Meeting.
- Linda Barnum acknowledged that this exercise is an assessment. Now that potential risks are identified, HOPE 4 Youth and the committee will create strategies to mitigate said risks.
- The goal is to have the initial Risk Management Plan completed by 2025. LaChelle Williams noted the Risk Management Plan will be reviewed annually.
- Don Phillips asked if large or catastrophic risks have been identified. Sue Woodard responded, yes, and that there are no imminent organizational concerns.
- Don Phillips, Steve Nash and LaChelle Williams expressed their thanks for the work the Strategic Steering Committee is doing with staff to help develop the Risk Management Plan.

Operational Update (LaChelle Williams)

- **State of HOPE 4 Youth:**
 - The state of HOPE 4 Youth is healthy. The organization is committed to the professional development of staff. HOPE 4 Youth have one role opening, which is the Youth Navigator position. HOPE 4 Youth is exploring timing and need regarding expanding the Advancement Team.
- **Operations Plan Snapshot:**
 - LaChelle Williams pointed to the Board Matrix Recap – all is in “green” or “yellow” with the only “red” concern being the identification of the new HOPE 4 Youth Center location and reminded everyone to remain patient as this could take over a year.
- **Partnership Model:**
 - HOPE 4 Youth created a relationship management protocol, which will be communicated to staff the week of May 20, 2024.
- **New Facility Progress:**
 - HOPE 4 Youth is focused on Fridley and Blaine as potential locations for the new facility.
 - Steve Nash called Board Members to contact their network about connections within City Councils to help find a new location.
 - Paul Moore will connect with the Blaine City Council.
 - Julie Cole suggested reaching out to Mandy Meisner. LaChelle Williams has a scheduled meeting with Mandy in June.
- **Board Communication - Portal:**
 - LaChelle Williams asked if the Board Members find value in the Board Portal.
 - The Board Members agreed that there needs to be a repository, but they are unsure if the current portal is the most user-friendly option. SharePoint was suggested as an alternate option. HOPE 4 Youth staff will update the portal until a new repository plan is identified.

Program Update (Mark McNamer)

- Mark McNamer shared that April had the highest visits to the HOPE 4 Youth Center, over 400 visits and 28 new intakes. 200 hot meals were also served in April at the HOPE 4 Youth Center.
- At HOPE Place, 7 youths are employed, and 6 youths are actively pursuing an education.
- Anna VonRueden wondered why the influx in the number of youth seeking support from HOPE 4 Youth. Mark McNamer claimed the organization is seeing more youth from further away. The centers in Minneapolis and St. Paul are busy and at times feel chaotic to young people.
- Mark McNamer complimented the HOPE 4 Youth Center team on creating a safe and welcoming space for youth.
- Mark McNamer reminded everyone about the transition from saying Drop In Center to HOPE 4 Youth Center.
- Staff attended a Sex Trafficking Awareness Training. A high percentage of minors are sex trafficked and while HOPE 4 Youth does not collect that information from the youth served by the organization, staff is trained on how to identify youth that have been or are being sex trafficked.
- HOPE 4 Youth recognizes the realities of the opioid epidemic. Staff received Narcan training. As an organization, we are figuring out who to work with via the Anoka County Opioid Initiative.

Advancement Update (Nikki Calvin)

- Nikki Calvin provided A Night 4 HOPE recap. The event will be hosted at Bunker Hills and the seating capacity will remain the same. The 2025 A Night 4 HOPE event will be held on May 3rd, 2025.

- Anna VonRueden commented on the overwhelming energy and excitement in the room for A Night 4 HOPE.
- The Advancement Team put together 2 youth videos and 30 second videos that will be posted on YouTube, linked to the website, the portal and sent via email. The Advancement Team would like to share the stories of 2 youth each year.
- HOPE 4 Youth will be present more in the community via local community events. Nikki Kalvin shared a list of those events.
- The Advancement Team is evaluating their donor stewardship methods.
- The Advancement Team is reconnecting with Foundations that supported HOPE 4 Youth back in 2019 and sharing where the organization is today.
- The Development Committee reviewed the benefits of doing a summer appeal vs summer campaign. There was a less than 2% return on last year's summer appeal. This year, HOPE 4 Youth will be putting on a Summer Kick-Off Challenge to fill the food pantry at the HOPE 4 Youth Center. The summer campaign will be a food and fundraising drive that begins on June 3rd. The goal is to raise \$15,000 and 15,000 lbs of food.
- There was discussion on how HOPE 4 Youth can source food for the pantry and keep the shelves full. There were 262 youth visits in April to the food pantry at the HOPE 4 Youth Center.

Financial Report (Don Phillips)

- Don Phillips commented on the health of the organization's operating funds, which are good. He also commented on the growth of the Finance Committee. It is a strong group with a lot of financial background.

Open Business (Anna VonRueden)

- None

Adjourn

- **Motion** to adjourn was made by Steve Nash, seconded by Paul Moore, and approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Breanne Patton, Administrative Coordinator

Action Items:

- Anna VonRueden asked the Board Members to continue thinking of different methods to recruit new Board Members.
- Steve Nash asked the Board Members to contact their network about connections within City Councils. Hopefully, forming these relations will aid in finding a new location.

Upcoming Events:

- Community Events (HOPE 4 Youth will be present):
 - Fridley '49er Days on June 14, 2024 from 6-9 pm and June 15 from 2-6 pm
 - Coon Rapids Women of Today Drive on June 8, 2024 from 10 am-2 pm
 - Columbia Heights Art & Info Fair on June 20, 2024 from 4-7 pm
 - Blaine Festival on June 29, 2024 from 11 am-7 pm
 - Ramsey Happy Days on September 7, 2024 from 11 am-7 pm
 - Carlson Toyota Family Fun Days on September 15, 2024
- [Heartland Tire Golf Classic on August 26, 2024](#)
- [Hunt 4 HOPE on September 20, 2024](#)
- [Darkest Night 4K on October 4, 2024](#)
- [Clays 4 Youth on October 22, 2024](#)
- [Out of the Cold on November 21, 2024](#)