

**Polaris Career Center  
Advisory Council Minutes, High School and Satellite  
Fall Meeting – October 11, 2016  
Program: GRADS**

**Council leaders present**

1. **Melanie Urban**

**Members in attendance:**

1. **Kathleen Augustine**
2. **Tricia Calloway**
3. **Susan Conover**
4. **Lori Govich**
5. **Amy Harrin**
6. **Randy Kimbro**
7. **Sondra Martin**

**Members Absent**

1. **Steve Killpack**

**Welcome and introductions**

The Fall meeting began at 4:05 with Melanie welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. All of our members are returning members so introductions were not necessary.

**Review spring advisory council meeting minutes**

Melanie read through the minutes from the Spring meeting and explained about summer classes and current enrollment as she read the minutes. The agency updates from Kathleen - child support warrant recall - and Amy - handouts on "Building Piece of Mind" - were shared with the students during spring and summer classes.

The date for the Spring meeting was determined and set for Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. In room 304 here at Polaris.

**Review purpose and scope of advisory councils:**

Melanie asked if anyone had any questions regarding the nature of their responsibilities to Polaris as outlined in the Guidelines Brochure. Everyone assented that they understood the duties.

**Polaris Mission Statement** – Members read the new mission statement as presented in their folders.

**Program Review**

To date, there are no Webxams in place to assess progress of GRADS students. Melanie does pre-test students on materials before presenting new information and post-test at the completion of a unit.

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Students are involved in compiling the handouts into a notebook for their personal reference guide.

**Program Data Discussion –**

Enrollment for GRADS has been dropping over the years and we only have Four students currently enrolled in the program - One pregnant junior from Brooklyn high school, one sophomore mother from Fairview, one freshman parent from North Olmsted who attends Ombudsman in Berea and one pregnant senior from Strongsville. Melanie continues to stay in contact with the school counselors monitoring for any new parents or pregnancies. Susan Conover suggested contacting the Family and Consumer Science instructors at all of the schools and asking to go in to speak to the classes about GRADS and teen pregnancy. Sondra Martin volunteered to go along and share information with the classes.

Susan raised the question on statistics of pregnancies especially teen pregnancies in Cuyahoga County. Randy Kimbro stated that the birth rate/population is declining for Canada and China as well as the United States. Melanie will do some research online to find solid numbers supporting these ideas.

**Goals for the school year 2016 – 2017:**

- Call on recent graduates to act as mentors for current Pregnant parents.
- Have all students who attend bring their babies ultrasound pictures
- Seminar day for current students - Infant/Child CPR with additional guided activities to teach how to access/secure services; needed products or support (colleges? Lamaze classes?)
- Roll play how to make the phone calls needed to get the help they are seeking.
- What are the most accurate and safest “apps” to use predator awareness for themselves as well as their young children (ithappensheretoo.org / human trafficking)

**Equipment Needs and Recommendations**

- Update out of date materials
- Check old purchase orders and replenish needed materials

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**Additional program specific agenda items:**

- Infant/Child CPR credential on Seminar Day – date to be determined
- SIDS Training - Sondra Martin will help with
- Boot Camp for New Dads - Randy Kimbro will help with
- Susan, Lori and Tricia all said they could possibly help with seminar day

**Council member feedback, questions and comments.**

- If and when the program does close the members had suggestions for how and where to the teaching materials and supplies:
- Homeless shelter
- Laura's House
- Womankind in Garfield Heights
- Women's Center in Greater Cleveland – Storer Avenue

**Agency Updates:**

Kathleen Augustine shared that the local Fatherhood Initiative group received funding to provide Pac-n-Plays for area dads so that infants have a safe place to sleep at "Dad's" home as well as with the moms.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:12. Members moved down to the Commons for the Fall Dinner**

Spring meeting will be held at 3:00 on Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Urban