**POLK COUNTY YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL MEETING**

January 2024

**Vision**: All people in Polk County will have a safe, supportive, and stable place to call home.

**Mission**: The Youth Action Council’s mission is to empower and motivate our community to be the change by ending the stigma and stereotypes associated with homelessness, connecting at-risk youth with resources, and promoting compassion within our community.

**Ground rules** were reviewed by Amy. All agreed.

**Introductions**

**Budget**. Luke reported that we spent $135 in January. Current budget is $2,479.

**YHSI letter:** Amy reviewed the Youth Homelessness System Improvement grant including the focus on youth leadership and peer mentoring. Questions were fielded and all members present were given the opportunity to sign a letter of support.

**Agency Spotlight:** Staff from 612 presented as they are trying to create more structure at 612. Youth were asked what is going well, what is needing to change, and what they would like to see occur at 612. Significant comments were provided directly to staff. Many were in agreement with time at 612 being dedicated to personal improvement and working on goals, but also were concerned about not having a safe space to sleep if this opportunity was removed from 612.

**Community Resource:** Aurora introduced our guest speaker from DMACC, who spoke about non-credentialed workforce programming available at no cost through DMACC.

**YAC Committee Work:** Amy quickly reviewed the progress of YAC committees.Anyone who is interested in being involved in the following pieces should contact Amy.

 **YAC Web page design**

* Committee to work in-person to design the webpage.

 **Grand View presentation**

* Grand View presentation: to be scheduled for a Wed from 5-7 pm. Dates set by committee.

**Volunteer Service Project**

* Grant Submitted. Notification is Feb. 7th.

**Leadership Applications**

* Must have attended 2 general YAC meetings
* Applications will be reviewed between the general meeting and the leadership meeting.