



# Online Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2023

## **Guest Speaker: The Garage, Teen Café Tiana Perry & Jocelyn Skillman**

- The Garage first opened in 2018 and initially saw 15-30 students per day, quickly growing to 50. Now, the Garage is serving 100-150 students per day.
- The Garage is open to any high school aged teen, regardless of where they live, if they are enrolled in school or not / home schooled / attend any high school. Typically this means ages 13-18. Low barrier proof of age is requested when first attending
- Everything at the Garage is FREE – snacks/food, art supplies, use of musical instruments, mental health counseling, case management services, and much more
- The Garage is a teen-led environment where all activities within the Garage originate with teens, and staff provide support to help execute the plans
- There are multiple ways teens can provide input to staff: monthly listening sessions, join Teens 4 Teens committee, join Teen Advisory Board
- All teens agree to a participation agreement that invites all teens to follow guidelines for safety, and responsible contributions like recycling
- Free drop-in mental health services are provided for free 5 days/week between 2 mental health professionals. Last year the Garage hired mental health professionals, in the past collaborated with Friends of Youth counselors.
- Free case management services are also available to any youth, ages 12-19. This is a larger age span than the Garage regular students, so families can engage with Garage case managers.
- Blackthorn Haven program development is progressing, providing case management to teens who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk, and will soon be able to open Host Home program in Issaquah area.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> Garage location in Sammamish is under development, with plans for 2023-2024 school year. The Garage staff are recruiting for a Sammamish Teens 4 Teens committee to be part of the new location's development.
- Upcoming Community Events:
  - o April 19: Teen panel discusses the importance of creative outlets
  - o May TBD: Teen panel discussing how to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community
  - o June 24: Garage Pride event, bigger than prior years. This teen-planned event is open to the community
- Garage presentation slides are available on INN website

## **Hopelink Financial Capabilities & Education, Donna O'Connor**

- Free and available to all in the Hopelink service areas
- Donna is available to present at public locations in addition to the Hopelink centers
- Donna can bring the financial education class to organizations to train staff on how to share the information with clients
- Typically clients for these services are aged 18+, but can be with you with accompanying adult

### **Issaquah School District Family Partnerships, Lorna Gilmour**

- Kindergarten registration is open, please encourage families to enroll asap. Family partnership can assist with the registration process
- Conducting outreach for the district free & reduced lunch program, especially with the loss of federal assistance this year where FRL was open to all students
- In search of resources that provide clothing for adults

### **Imagine Housing Case Management, Jordan Graves**

- Working with mostly teens right now
- Will be providing summer programs and resources

### **YMCA of Greater Seattle - Hunger Response, Program Supervisor Raven McIntosh**

- Providing food to properties in Issaquah

### **EF&R CORE, Carolina Del Toro & Erica Stapleton**

- No updates, clothing voucher idea for lack of clothing banks

### **Issaquah Equity & Inclusion, Saba Mahanian**

- No updates, here to hear about resources

### **City of Issaquah Human Resources Service, Hannah Roberts**

- City Council approved additional funding for emergency rental assistance, allocations to ICS, Y Village and St Vincent de Paul
- Emergency Housing initiative in development with potential collaboration with Motel 6
- **HIRING** for [Limited Term - Emergency Housing Program Specialist](#)
- Human Services Commission has new members. For the upcoming grant cycle, organizations are encouraged to invite members of the Commission to come learn and see how the community is served

### **Issaquah Community Services, Lori Birrell**

- Very grateful for the allocation of funds from the City
- Continuing to provide assistance for rent and utilities as same levels as last year. 109 households in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, \$89,000 in assistance
- New president is Carol Schneider

### **Hopelink Family Development Program, Donata Brenner**

- Assisting families with children under the age of 18 across northeastern King County
- Families can self-refer to the program through online form or calling intake line
- Assistance with community resources with housing, legal, parent classes, employment, etc

### **Safe Place, Friend of Youth, Sara Clinton**

- Staffing level limits hotline hours to 11-7 M-F. Outside those hours, connect with live person at The Landing shelter (ages 18+) or Youth Haven (under 18) or Crisis Connections