

Youth Anti-Bullying Task Force

Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2020

Clerk's Conference Room – William H. Rogers Building, Hauppauge

Members Present: *Morgan Dunn, Madison Tutone, Bari Gruber, Melanie Clements, Devin Moore, Riley Meckley, Gianna Tantillo, Brook Weisberg, Emily Grieco.*

Others Present: *Derek Stein.*

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Devon Moore. Derek Stein stated that Joe Salamone and Dominic Armano from LICAB were unable to attend today's meeting, but Joe Salamone had recorded a video for the Task Force to review. Derek Stein mentioned that Legislator Rudy Sunderman's staff was supposed to attend today's meeting with a constituent to discuss some efforts they have done at the community level. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend.

Update & Discussion on the "Stop Bullying App".

The Task Force watched the video from Joe Salamone. (The video can be found at https://youtu.be/05Ui-XRtZ_g). At the end of the video, Derek Stein said he had reached out to the Department of Information Technology's Commissioner Scott Mastellon to ask if there was any update on the app. He was told by Lora Gellerstein that during the development of the opioid app, there was an abundance of work done behind the scenes on the app and development took roughly two months with limited communication at that time with Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory's office. However, Derek noted that there have been a number of good suggestions since the last meeting in October with Will Thurman, including QR code integration. Derek Stein hoped to avoid a situation where it completes and presents an app which doesn't have all of the features the Task Force requests, and would work to avoid that situation.

Derek Stein mentioned that he would use a white board to list ideas which would fit the purpose of the mobile app and also ways to promote the mobile app as suggested by Joe Salamone.

Derek Stein then added that he researched the "Reach" name proposed at the last meeting and found that it was already used for a mobile app put together by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez during her initial campaign and that the "Reach" app is now commonly used by a number of political campaigns. Devin Moore suggested adding one word on the end like "Reach Out." Bari Gruber suggested that the name should be shorter, since most successful apps are two words combined or with some consonants or vowels taken out. Melanie Clements suggested "A Cab to Help," Morgan Dunn said she liked that, but asked if we could do "Reach Out," Bari Gruber noted that there would still be an overlap with the current "Reach" app since it is local to New York, but felt that "Reach Out" wouldn't be grouped together with it. Melanie Clements suggested "Lifeboat" as the app could reflect how the app can help save people. Derek Stein, Bari

Gruber and others liked that idea. Morgan Dunn said that there is an app called Lifeboat already, and it is used for shopping. Devin Moore stated there is already a “Reach Out” app, but it is from the University of Cincinnati and serves as an emergency contact app and to raise awareness of mental health. Gianna Tantillo suggested “Instahelp,” Madison Tutone replied that it sounded like something to call an ambulance. Derek Stein replied the only issue is it could be confused for being affiliated with Instagram.

Derek Stein asked the members to think of purpose and ways to get people involved in the app, based on Joe Salamone’s video. He stated that past Meeting Minutes indicated reporting was a key feature discussed at October and September’s Task Force meetings. He asked the members what they thought of Joe Salamone’s suggestion of reporting only requiring first name, grade and school. Madison Tutone liked the idea since most cases reported would not be an emergency situation, but if there is an emergency, grade and school would allow authorities to find a victim, if needed. Derek Stein agreed and added that additional options upon sign-up could allow users to opt-into more, such as LICAB’s emails.

Morgan Dunn suggested that resources and education would be another purpose of the app. Gianna Tantillo stated that education could even be separate Morgan Dunn asked if they would be together or separate. Derek Stein said that they would be separate, since resources would include phone numbers, contacts and organizations, while education would focus on features in the app educating users about bullying. He noted the three features on the board were reporting, resources and education and said there were a couple more items discussed in the past.

Derek Stein recalled that during past meetings there were discussions about having a chat feature and asked how the members still feel about that. Morgan Dunn stated that she still likes it. Riley Meckley recalled that daily quotes were suggested and asked if we could do that. Derek Stein replied that they could, but that it would be a way to get involved and not be part of the purpose of the app. Gianna Tantillo asked if chats would be monitored by LICAB, since she could see someone bullying someone on there if it is not monitored. Derek Stein replied that they would be, and apologized for writing it down as “peer-to-peer” chat since that gives an image of it being more like Whatsapp or Snapchat. Madison Tutone suggested that one way to get people involved could be to ask students to use the app in return for points. Riley Meckley suggested asking honor society or Golden Key students. Morgan Dunn said you couldn’t ask students to monitor it during the day, and Madison Tutone clarified that she meant they would be simply on the app and not moderating. Derek Stein added that LICAB had talked about having a forum on their website that would be moderated by volunteers.

Derek Stein stated that one thing to keep in mind with the purposes is that all of it falls back on a core notion, which for this app would be preventing bullying. Devin Moore stated that on the education section, they could implement video scenarios that would help people learn. Madison Tutone responded that would fit more with ways to get people involved in the app, Derek Stein agreed, and noted that they had talked about the wish app in the same breath. Melanie Clements suggested that one way to get people involved would be to have feedback and allow people to

make recommendations. Derek Stein agreed, and said it is a way to get people involved, especially if people see their feedback being implemented. He stated it would be important because it would allow people to see people listening to their recommendations by keeping the app updated.

Another idea Morgan Dunn had was to allow someone to opt in to put someone on an text chain automatically Madison Tutone agreed with the idea and noted other apps do this already. Riley Meckley asked if there was a way to avoid having a check box for notifications, Derek Stein said there probably wouldn't be since that would have to be disclosed in the terms of use. Melanie Clements mentioned that given LICAB's program with Starbucks if the app could use the same login as the Starbucks app. Derek Stein replied that wouldn't work for security reasons, Riley Meckley suggested combining rewards in such a way that someone could get more out of the app by shopping at Starbucks. Derek Stein suggested that might be a little tricky to figure out. Gianna Tantillo asked what if it was the other way around and let someone use the app and earn rewards in the app. Derek Stein replied that could work. Madison Tutone suggested if you participate in the app for a month; they would get a \$5 coupon. Derek Stein suggested modeling it off of Snapchat's streaks and added that the coupons could vary once the app is handed over to LICAB, but it would be unlikely that Suffolk County government would be able to implement it.

Derek Stein asked how would a rewards system connect to the app, such as if it would connect to reporting? Madison Tutone said if it was tied to reporting that would lead to false reports. Gianna Tantillo added that feels like people would be getting rewarded for being bullied. Riley Meckley asked how it would work. Derek Stein suggested that would only really fit if there was a way for a school to verify a report. Riley Meckley said that would be complicated, and it would be easier to tie it into the game.

Madison Tutone suggested that the games could have dialogue with different choices where different games would be available, so it could include different events, such as cyberbullying. Derek Stein added that it would tie into resources and education and awards could be added right away. Melanie Clements asked if there could be a quiz leading off. Morgan Dunn agreed and thought it was a good idea. Derek Stein suggested that if the quiz is interactive it could be more interesting, such as comparing results to other users. He noted resources could tie in directly to the Stop Suffolk Bullying website. Derek Stein suggested that it could be set up so the quiz would be the first step, once you clear the quiz then you get put on a main screen with each of the four or five main features listed on the bottom. He noted there would be some overlap between quizzes and games since they would be accessible through choices right away.

Madison Tutone suggested that users could upload their own quotes, which would be moderated and verified. Devin Moore added that you would be able to go ahead and share how many people would share a given quote. Derek Stein just asked if you would have to put a quote in, and would be judged against other quotes? Riley Meckley suggested that someone could submit quotes and they could be counted. Devin Moore clarified that quotes could be shared with other people.

Madison Tutone suggested this could help encourage older people who may not be interested in games to use the app. Morgan Dunn suggested that it could be like a wrapper from chocolate where it could use names with the quote.

Derek Stein stated that the last way to think about these things is to tie things into each other. Morgan Dunn suggested that quotes could be implemented at the end when someone reports an incident. Madison Tutone said that reporting kind-of stands on its own. Melanie Clements said feedback could be provided right after reporting, Derek Stein added that this would fit with only requiring schools, grades and first names.

Bari Gruber asked what would happen if there was a situation where abuse occurred at home. Derek noted LICAB would of course be a reporter. He imagines it would be reported to the school, but how exactly it would be a question for the app. Gianna Tantillo added that she doesn't see much bullying in school itself since punishments are so severe. Emily Grieco added that her school district is only a few towns so most people have grown up together so there isn't much bullying either.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Youth Anti-Bullying Task Force was scheduled for Thursday, February 27th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Hauppauge.

Respectfully submitted, Derek Stein, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Robert Calarco.