

Cambridge Human Services Commission  
Minutes of Meeting 4/10/2014  
5:30 – 7:30pm  
Area 4 Youth Center  
243 Harvard Street  
Cambridge

Commissioners present: Ayse Atasoylu, Christine Elow, Christopher Hall, Kati LaBraico, Lori Likis, Khari Milner, Nan Stone, Katharine Thomas, Rev. Lorraine Thornhill

DHSP staff: Janice Alger, Ellen Semonoff

Presenters: Nicole Rodriguez, Area 4 Youth Center Director; Tyrell Dortch, Area 4 Youth Center Teen Program Director

Guests: Commissioner Robert Haas, Cambridge Police Department; Mayor David Maher; Richard Rossi, City Manager

Ellen Semonoff welcomed the Human Services Commissioners and guests to the Area 4 Youth Center, one of five DHSP Youth Centers. The HSC normally meets at the Citywide Senior Center, but chose to meet at the host site of the Boys II Men program for tonight's meeting. Ellen introduced Nicole Rodriguez, Director of the Area 4 Youth Center, and Tyrell Dortch, Teen Program Director of the Area 4 Youth Center.

Nicole and Tyrell provided a brief introduction to the Boys II Men program. The Boys II Men program is a leadership and empowerment group that allows young men (ages 14-18) to learn while working and having fun. The program fosters development of good decision-making skills. The program encourages young men to become positive, engaged citizens by introducing them to mentors, and using personal development, reflection, and career-awareness activities. Participants also have the opportunity to create personal, professional portfolios that can be used for applying to colleges and jobs.

The [Boys II Men documentary](#) was screened. The documentary focuses on workshops in the Boys II Men program, including Media Analysis, Hip Hop & Poetry, D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read), Urban Farming, Cooking, Life Workshops, Be a Boss (marketing workshop), Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP) job skills workshops, Ice Breakers, Chess, and a discussion of the Trayvon Martin verdict with the Moore Youth Center's City Peace Program. The documentary also includes testimonials from program participants. The documentary concludes with scenes from the MSYEP Showcase, which was held in the lecture hall at the Main branch of the Cambridge Public Library.

The documentary was followed by a discussion of the Boys II Men program with program staff and participants.

The next Human Services Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Citywide Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned.