



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, January 2, 2013
Council Chambers – Town Hall
MINUTES

Members Present: F. Baruzzi, A. Bladen, A. Bloom, L. Dahn, C. Guerreri,
 K. Grunwald (staff), K. Krider (staff), M. LaPlaca, MJ Newman,
 E. Soffer Roberts, J. Stoughton, T. Cook, and J. Woodmansee (staff)

Regrets: G. Bent, S. Daley and S. Rozelle

Guests: David Bechtel

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>OUTCOME</i>
CALL TO ORDER	V. Fry called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of December 5, 2012 meeting.	<i>The December 5, 2012 Minutes were approved without changes.</i>
TEAM UPDATES	<p>Successful Learners: A. Bladen reported that the team continues to work hard to interpret the large amount of data and determine what data is still needed. She noted that overall the data shows that children in Mansfield are successful learners and while the percentage of those who are not is small but can still be improved upon.</p> <p>One Book: MJ Newman reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first donation was received; • The books, “Hop, Hop, Jump” are in and were chosen because of the connection with physical activity and the playground; • The logo has been designed; • A grant was applied for; • Events will be scheduled in April during the “Week of the Young Child”; • A traveling display board has been donated for use; • A physical activity may occur during the week of events; and, • The Committee continues to work on the site. <p>Members discussed possible locations and that sponsorship by an UConn early childhood club may assist in securing a location.</p> <p>Community Connectedness/Transportation: K. Grunwald attended the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting and introduced the survey report done at Holinko Estates.</p> <p>Health: No updates at this time.</p>	

	<p>Playground: K. Krider reported that the playground committee has let go of their concrete build date in order to focus their efforts on fundraising.</p> <p>A concert will be held by an UConn a cappella group “Take Note” on February 10th at 3:00pm. More information to follow.</p>	
PLAN REVISION	<p>1. Introduction of process for re-write of Plan:</p> <p>K. Krider introduces D. Bechtel. D. Bechtel states that he has been working with Kathleen on the revision of the plan since summer and that the hope is to have it completed by Spring. He then explained the handouts each teams were receiving and the process they should follow in attempting to developing or affirming indicators and secondary indicators.</p> <p>2. Overview from team leaders of status of Plan re-write</p> <p>Each team leader gave a brief status of their teams’ status of plan revision work.</p> <p>3. Teams meet to review and discuss data and develop secondary indicators</p> <p>Teams met from 6:00 to 7:15.</p> <p>4. Teams back to large group to report on work.</p> <p>Teams returned to the large MAC group and each team reported on their progress:</p> <p>Successful Learners: Please refer to Attachment 1</p> <p>Health: Please refer to Attachment 2</p> <p>Community Connectedness: Please refer to Attachment 3</p> <p>D. Bechtel indicated that this work will continue both in the Executive Council meeting and at the February MAC meeting.</p> <p>C. Guererri noted the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Capacity Building conference will be held on February 27th; 2. A Health Institute will be held on January 28th ; 3. Facilitated Leadership Refresh on April 4th; 4. 3 to 3 Institute on February 24th and 25th will focus on Aligning PreK; 5. On January 22nd the First 1000 Days be held at the LOB in Hartford from 8:30 to 12:30; and, 6. There may be an opportunity for an Early Literacy Grant. 	<p>K. Krider requested that Teams prepare summaries of their work tonight and submit to her.</p>
PARKING LOT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summer Lunch Program 2. Before/After School Care 3. Scorecard 	<p>Discussion on parking lot items is tabled because of time constraints.</p>

<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.</p> <p>Next MAC Executive Council Meeting, Wednesday, January 10, 2013, 2:00pm – 3:00pm at Town Hall, Conference Room B..</p> <p>Next MAC Meeting, Wednesday, February 6, 2013.</p> <p>Agenda topics: Please send to Kathleen at kriderk@mansfieldct.org</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Jillene B. Woodmansee Assistant to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	
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All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners connected to the community.”

Attachment #1

Notes from 1/3/2013 MAC Meeting: Successful Learners Group

- 1) Birth-5: ELL Learners represent a small number of children not reaching proficiency on 3rd grade literacy mastery tests

- 2) 3rd Graders— receiving Free & Reduced Lunch: Achievement Gap on mastery tests

Possible strategies to address:

- Need to find out from public school preschools and centers about which families may qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch
- CAN—develop effective K Transition plan to bridge gap between preschool and kindergarten
- Literacy Grant—summer reading loss
- Pre-K targeted
- Summer Lunch Program
- Grow “Books on the Bus”
 - Look at time of day that bus is available, consider early evening or other times that parents able to take more advantage of the program.
 - Review “marketing” of the program—CC Team?
- Offer “Raising Readers” program—8 week program for parents of young children (birth-8)
 - Use Youth Services as a resources/way to reach parents
 - Involve churches/Laundromats/preschool screenings at library to get information to parents and possibly register them for the program.
- Coventry developed survey regarding reading practices at home of parents of young children (0-3). Review this and see if it is something that we could adapt.
- Find out what programs are being offered at area hospitals/birthing centers to support literacy early on.
- Breakfast/Reading programs at elementary schools—currently offered 2x/year. Could they be offered more? Could they also be used to target younger siblings? Could programs be developed for siblings?
- Follow-up with Faith-Based communities—how could collaboration support families of young children

At future meetings: look at data related to numeracy

Attachment #2

Can we somehow include the Transportation Team's work on Bus routes and sidewalks into this sub-strategy? Can we include successful learners in this through promoting wellness through the One Book initiative?

Additionally, Ande has done some work around creating a "Fit by 4th Grade" initiative that she wrote up as follows:

So, an image/concept to align with our conversation yesterday regarding BMI and physical fitness tests (what is our goal / what are we striving for?) – I would propose that we are striving for "everyone can be fit by 4th grade!"

We talked about creating a community-wide initiative whereby children can test their abilities four times a year on each of the four different tests that will be administered in 4th grade so that the community embraces the challenge and helps our children succeed – opportunities will be divided among various groups in the community so that the tests are not a mystery or a surprise to anyone, and so children are frequently asked/challenged/given opportunities to see how they are doing with each of the [areas](#) (mile walk/run, sit and stretch, right-angle push-ups, and curl-ups) beginning in preK. We don't need to exactly replicate the 'test', just provide opportunities to work on each of the types of areas (abdominal strength, aerobic endurance, upper body strength, and flexibility).

Examples of each of the four tests can be seen at this [link](#) with the full manual [here](#)



In terms of help needed; if Kathleen could collect data around fee waivers in town from the last 2-3 years with regard to how many were given for programming/recreational needs (as opposed to garbage collection) to whom and how many children 0-8 benefitted, that would help us in assessing data and seeing where our future efforts would lie.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Esther Soffer Roberts

Attachment #3

Community Connectedness Team Summary: 1/2/13

1. Began with our results statement: Is this reflective of what we mean by “community connectedness?”
 - We are really talking about parents and families being connected to the community, and not children by themselves.
 - How do we conceptualize and then measure the notion of connectedness?
 - Participation in programs and services
 - Access to critical information affecting young families
 - Access to key places and locations in the community
 - Satisfied with programs and services in the community
 - Happy
 - Aware of what’s available
 - Familiar with the resources that exist.

Proposed new results statement: “*All Mansfield children, ages birth through eight, are healthy, successful learners, **and their families are connected to the community.***”

Strategies (for now):

1. Transportation
 - Utilize data compiled as a result of the Holinko survey
 - Develop and submit a proposal to WRTD for a pilot bus program to selected apartment complexes. In the proposal, specify data that will be collected, and how this will be used to develop the transportation infrastructure for young families in a way that supports community connectedness. Also, revisit the Safe Routes to Schools funding.
2. Communications
 - Develop a clear and consistent message both about Mansfield’s Plan for Young Children, and about MAC. Use recommendations and data from the CCEA report regarding messaging.
 - Follow through on plans to present the analysis of the Community Connectedness survey to the Town Council and the BOE.
 - Revisit the Family Resource Guide, and explore methods of disseminating this information through the Town’s website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).
3. Playground
 - Support the work of the playground committee, and ensure that the importance of the playground is communicated in the larger context of community connectedness.

Strategy (for later):

4. Redo the survey.