



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Senior Center
MINUTES

Members Present: Sara Anderson (staff), Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron, Jane Goldman, Cindy Guerreri, Katherine Johansen, Rachel Leclerc, Jen Scanlon, Judy Stoughton, Lisa Young, Ana Zeller and Kelly Zimmerman

Guests: Marie Hodrinsky, Amy Sevell-Nelson

Regrets: Kathy Ward, Ben Wiles

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>OUTCOME</i>
CALL TO ORDER	Sara Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2015 meeting.	<i>The March 4, 2015 Minutes were approved by consensus.</i>
STAFF REPORT	<p>School Readiness RFP: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Labs has chosen not to apply for the School Readiness Grant for 2015-16. Educational Playcare has also chosen not to apply for this year. • A Review Committee will review the local RFPs in the coming two weeks. The committee will consist of Jen Scanlon, Kelly Zimmerman and Sara Anderson. • Sara also passed out the rubric for scoring the local RFP applications and it was approved. <p>Communications Consultant: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signature Brand has scheduled a Webex presentation for Thursday, April 2 at 4:00pm. <p>Child Advocacy Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Advocacy day will be April 15 in Hartford in the morning. All are invited and encouraged to attend and speak out for Early childhood Education. <p>Graustein Extension: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This grant will be an extension of the current Graustein Grant rather than a new grant. <p>Kids Garden at the Library: Sara Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Dorfer has been talking to the Library about creating a Kids Garden for this spring and summer. 	<i>For those interested, contact Sara Anderson for more information.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are needed to weed and water the garden over the summer. <p>April 10 Event at MCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an event at the Community Center on Friday, April 10 from 4:00-6:00pm. Children will have an opportunity to play with JumpStart volunteers from UConn's Community Outreach. Parents will have a chance to learn more about MAC and what it does. MAC volunteers will be on-hand to answer questions and explain MAC's purpose. 	
TEAM UPDATE	<p>Successful Learners: Team Meeting Notes attached</p> <p>Community Connectedness: Team Meeting Notes attached</p> <p>Health: Team Meeting Notes attached</p>	
CLOSING	<p>Plus/Delta or Pros and Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short survey was handed out and people were asked to respond about the meeting in general and asked to give specific feedback. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.</p> <p>Next Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, April 9, 2015, 10:00am – 11:30am, Conference Room B.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Senior Center Cafeteria</p> <p>Agenda topics: Please send to Sara Anderson at AndersonSD@mansfieldct.org</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Sarah Delia Assistant to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.

Successful Learners Team Meeting Notes (4/01/15) with Amy Sevell-Nelson

1. Introductions were made among the members present
2. Amy Sevell-Nelson reviewed the previous discussions regarding Kindergarten Transition
 - a. The MBOE is actually in charge of the Kindergarten transition document and any decisions made regarding K-Transition.
 - b. The Community and MAC can make suggestions or recommendations, but all; final decisions rest with the BOE.
 - c. Goodwin Elementary School has formed a Planning Learning Committee (PLC) to explore Kindergarten Transition.
3. MAC may be able to help to support what the schools are doing.
 - a. Create Kindergarten promotional materials to give to parents and the community so that they know what the kindergarten registration process entails.
 - b. Each elementary school/public preschool has a different timeline for Kindergarten registration. This can be confusing if parents are not aware of the differences.
 - c. MAC could create a flyer/one pager to inform parents on the what, who and how of Kindergarten registration before the schools begin that process.
 - d. Currently, Kelly contacts the Child Care Centers in December for names of children who are kindergarten eligible.
 - e. MAC could send the informational flyer to homes; post on social media and in public spaces such as the Library, Community Center, Child Care Centers, MAC website, Facebook etc...
 - f. This flyer could be sent out again when the public schools begin their kindergarten registration process.
4. MAC should review the MBOE Kindergarten Transition Plan.
 - a. It should be discussed and identify what works and what doesn't work
 - b. What needs to be fixed? Do we need the parts that don't work?
 - c. What is missing?
 - d. MAC can offer feedback and recommendations to MBOE.
 - e. Determine who does it.
5. Find out from Goodwin teachers why they are working on K-Transition?
 - a. Would their teachers be willing to share what they have learned?
 - b. Is there an opportunity for shared Professional Development?
 - c. Would they share about their work with ECE to expand clarity and consistency?
 - d. Would they share with other elementary schools?
 - e. Would they share with ECE Centers?
6. Would the Goodwin PLC share findings with Successful Learners to use to
 - a. Inform the Successful Learners Group in reviewing MBOE Transition to Kindergarten and to identify gaps.

- b. Develop recommendations to fill gaps including what and who needs to come together to fix.
- 7. Essential to “think big” about Early Childhood getting ready for school success which equals birth to age 5.
- 8. Agenda for next meeting
 - a. Clarify MBOE and Successful Learners roles and responsibilities regarding the MBOE Transition to Kindergarten Plan
 - b. Goodwin PLC Transition to Kindergarten Team Present
 - i. Why they did this work
 - ii. What they found
 - iii. Now what
 - c. Share actions that were generated on April 1, 2015 related to Successful Learners Transition to Kindergarten Plan work in support of MBOE
 - i. Discuss
 - ii. Expand - Detail out steps
 - iii. What, When, Who and How, deadlines for work and assigning roles.
 - iv. *Sara Anderson will ask Rachel Leclerc for MBOE Transition document.*

Ms. Sevell-Nelson had some concerns about the Successful Learners Group; the group hasn't developed rules for decision making so decisions “stick”. Sara Anderson will look at the By-Laws for decision making protocol.

Community Connectedness Team Minutes – 1 April 2015

The team discussed final plans for the Early Childhood Forum scheduled for 10 April 2015

- Draft posters were reviewed and changes made. Final posters titled as follows:
 - MAC Recruitment/Structure
 - MAC Initiatives
 - MAC Results Statement
 - MAC Website
 - School Readiness
 - Playground Rendering
- Volunteers were identified to stand near the posters and engage with parents
- The system for the toy box drawing was decided upon: parents will receive one drawing slip for each question they answer.

Health Team Minutes for 4-01-15

MAC Event at MCC on April 10th 2015

- **In what ways do you feel connected to your community?**
 1. Your Neighbors:
 2. The Community:
 3. The School:
- **What would help you feel more connected to your community (for example your neighbors, the community, the school)?**
- **What does Mansfield do well for families? What makes Mansfield family friendly?**
- **What additional resources for families with young children in Mansfield would be helpful in the following categories (could be one question or these could be separate questions):**
 1. Health:
 2. Social:
 3. Recreation:
 4. Education:
 5. Other:
- **Before hearing of tonight's event did you know about MAC? If yes, how did you hear about MAC?**
- **What are your biggest concerns/frustrations as parents of young children?**
- **What are your thoughts on the local school system:**
 1. What positive experiences have you had (or what do you think is working well?)
 2. What improvements would you like to see?
- **What are your thoughts on the early childcare system (daycare to pre-k):**
 1. What positive experiences have you had (or what do you think is working well?)
 2. What improvements would you like to see?
- **Regarding your involvement with the Mansfield community (such as MAC, town committees, local politics, schools, volunteer opportunities, etc.):**
 1. What would motivate you to become more involved with the Mansfield community?
 2. What prevents you from becoming more involved with the Mansfield community?

Healthy Refreshment Ideas (based on 50 people- combination of kids and adults):

- Veggies (tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots) with hummus for dip
- Mini Sandwiches (deli meat/cheese on whole grain bread cut into triangles)
- Cheese and crackers
- Fruit (grapes and Clementines)
- Drink- naturally flavored water (add lemon/cucumber), coffee/tea, low sugar lemonade for the kids
- Chocolate eggs to add festivity (even though Easter will be over it's still "Springy" and gives a sweet option in a small portion – maybe put this on the adult coffee/tea table...
- Plates, cups, napkins

Shopping List:

- 2 loaves whole grain bread, to make mini sandwiches cut into quarters (ham/cheese/lettuce and turkey/cheese/lettuce)
- Small container mayo made with olive oil (to put on ½ of the sandwiches)
- 2 pounds sliced cheddar or American cheese
- 1 pound deli turkey
- 1 pound of deli ham
- 2 pints cherry tomatoes
- 2 baggies baby carrots
- 2 cucumbers
- 1 container hummus
- 2 containers Newman's own lemonade
- 2 packages whole grain crackers
- 2 packages pre sliced cheddar cheese
- 1 bag of grapes
- 1 container Clementines
- Tea and coffee (enough to make 2 pots coffee, I would also put out about 20 tea bags)
- Bag of ice
- Chocolate eggs

Paper ware, Serving Plates, etc.:

- 1 large platter for veggies
- 1 large platter for sandwiches and cheese/crackers
- 50 small paper plate
- 20-30 hot paper cups
- 50 cups
- 200 muffin tin liners (I would get the tin foil ones which are sturdier)
- Pitcher for lemon/cucumber water
- Napkins
- Tablecloth for refreshment table
- Little place cards or note cards indicating what is in each sandwich

Setup/Preparation:

- Prepare sandwiches and cut into quarters; place each quarter in muffin liners (start with about 25 out and refill as needed)
- Place grapes into muffin holders (start with about 25 out and refill as needed)
- Place variety of veggies- sliced cucumber, carrots, and tomatoes, in muffin liners (start with about 25 out and refill as needed)
- Place 2-3 cheddar cheese slices and 2-3 crackers in muffin liners (start with about 25 out and refill as needed)
- Put out clementines
- Prep coffee and tea station for adults
- Put the portions of fruit/veggies/sandwiches/cheese and crackers on a platter to be easily grabbed
- Prep 2 pitchers of water with ice, cucumber slices and lemon slices