



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, January 6, 2016
Senior Center
MINUTES

Members Present: Lisa Dahn, Susan Daley, Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron (staff), Jordana Frost, Pat Schneider (staff), Kathy Ward, Lisa Young and Kelly Zimmerman.

Regrets: Jane Goldman, Rachel Leclerc, Pat Michalak, Jennifer Scanlon

Guests: Heather Lasky, Pam Roberts, Sarah Dufresne (Mansfield Social Worker), John Goodman (United Services), Jonathon Watts (Nautchaug Hospital), Althea Neel

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>OUTCOME</i>
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2015.	<i>The December 2, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
GUEST SPEAKER	<p>Mental Health Resources in Mansfield:</p> <p><i>John Goodman (United Services):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Child mental health clinic in Columbia; when people call in they triage the situation to ascertain if they need to be seen in two hours, two days or two weeks. • Specialized focus on trauma, children do better when they are seen ASAP for treatment for severe trauma. • United Services would like to consolidate services for Nautchaug and Columbia; they are seeking to build a clinic in Mansfield. • They also started an Autism Center because they saw a need for those services. <p><i>Jonathon Watts (Nautchaug Hospital)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nautchaug has an inpatient locked psychiatric unit and is the largest health program in CT. • Joshua Centers are about prevention; they accept patients 5-18 years, partial hospital level of care, 20 hours a week. This is a very intensive program often an eight week stay • There is an extended day treatment program that also teaches social skills. This is a six month program rather than eight weeks. It consists of group therapy although the patient will also meet with their individual clinician. • There is mandatory family therapy that goes 	

	<p>along with these programs, the whole family system is treated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nautchaug collaborates with other care givers in the community (pediatricians, psychiatrists) and partners with them to deliver care. They also deal with medicine management. • Joshua Centers provide a high level of care and aims to prevent hospitalization; they can provide a step down from hospitalization to patients moving back into the community. <p><i>Sarah Dufresne (Outreach Social Worker)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She works primarily in the schools and students are referred to her by the schools. • As needed she makes referrals to other care givers, such as psychiatrists and Humphrey Center at UConn. • Human Services deals with the whole family including transportation and housing issues. They are able to meet with students in the schools to make it easier for parents. <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What about a child in crisis outside of business hours?</i> Parents can call 211 for resources, there is a child crisis mobile unit that is less intimidating than a police officer coming to the door. • <i>Do you treat Opioid addiction in pregnancy?</i> Nautchaug will treat the mother, but will not treat the child after birth. • <i>What if you don't have health insurance?</i> United Services will assist you in getting the health insurance to pay for services you may need. • <i>Are there bilingual services available?</i> Yes, Spanish speakers are available and they have resources they can call on for other languages. • <i>What about the Child Care Centers?</i> Lisa Dahn mentioned that they call on the Early Childhood Consultation Project (ECCP) as their go to resource for mental health issues. • <i>What about DCF?</i> DCF also offers voluntary services for children and families to avert more serious conditions later. • <i>Pam Roberts brought up the birth to three providers</i> – they should be trained to recognize mental health issues as well as physical issues. They are the first providers inside the home and can network with other care providers. • <i>What about post-partum mental health?</i> These women can be treated depending on need and level of service required. 	
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STAFF REPORT	<p>Staff Report: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Readiness Slot Allotment Policy: Members approved the Slot Allotment Policy with the change of 60% over income to 40% over income. • The letter to the DOT has been sent to DOT Commissioner Redeker. <p>Chair and Membership Recruitment: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is working on Chair and Membership recruitment. <p>Communications Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is very difficult to change the pictures on the front page of the website. We want to make sure we got what we paid for and what we need. <p>Conversation Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation Club will start again in February and March and will take place at the Community Center. • Volunteers are needed to staff Saturday afternoons 3-4pm at the Community Center. 	<p><i>Maggie will contact Signature Brand Factory for help in changing the pictures.</i></p> <p><i>If you are interested in volunteering, contact Maggie.</i></p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Next Meeting Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OEC Forum will be on February 3. • Possible Kindergarten Transition for March? • Kindergarten Transition will be discussed by a subcommittee of Heather, Jordana, Maggie, Acey and Sarah W. rather than the whole membership. • Definite interest in Week of the Young Child Event in April. <p>Playground Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an Egg Hunt on the Playground in March • More pickets will be going on sale. 	<p><i>This committee will meet to discuss kindergarten transition information for parents.</i></p>
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Town Hall.</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.