



Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**Mansfield YSB Advisory Board  
Minutes**

Tuesday March 16, 2010  
12:00pm at Mansfield Town Hall  
Conference Room B

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Senior Social Worker  
Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services  
Eileen Griffin, Social Worker  
Jerry Marchon, Police Officer  
Jay O'Keefe, Parks & Recreation  
Amber Hoyt, EO Smith Student  
Lauren DiGrazia, Graduate MSW Intern

Guests: Jeff Smith (Former Head of Finance for the town of Mansfield) & Sam P. (MMS student)

**Proceedings**

- *Meeting called to order* at 12:06pm by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris
- February 9, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted and approved
- Report from the Director of Human Services, Kevin Grunwald
  - Kevin Grunwald handed out the quarterly report
  - He also discussed the early childhood grant which funds Sandy Baxter's position. He should be hearing back the end of the month if the grant will go through.
  - A new part-time social worker, Barbara Lavoie, was hired to work at the senior center.
  - The budget is set to go to the town council at the end of this week or the beginning of next week. There are no changes, as of right now, to the Human Services budget.
  - Frank Perotti had asked for Kathy Ann Easley, Human Services Adult Social Worker, to attend the advisory board meeting. Kevin informed the board today that she was in training every Tuesday in March but should be able to join the board at the next meeting.
- Report from YSB Coordinator, Patricia Michalak
  - Patricia Michalak discussed the recent activities of the YSB.
  - Activities include the following:

- Grief Matters winter session has begun with 12 families, 23 participants and 7 community volunteers. Thank you to Frank Perrotti for donating paper plates, hot cups, and utensils. These supplies were needed since we are providing dinner for all the participants.
  - The Town Council presentation was a success. We received positive feedback from council members and the community.
  - YSB Coordinator, Patricia Michalak, is participating in the first year of the LIST, Local Inter Agency Team Meeting. This program serves the catchment area of the Willimantic Juvenile Court district serving 23 towns. It is designed to evaluate and coordinate prevention, early intervention and treatment programs for youth in an effort to reduce court system involvement of youth.
  - UConn's department of Community Outreach conducted an end of the semester survey of all of the participants in our mentoring program, Big Friends, This was done via an on line survey instrument. The YSB received an over all excellent rating. Most students were extremely satisfied with the volunteer opportunity Youth Services provides them.
  - Youth Services will once again be participating with UConn's Give and Go program and Mansfield families will receive goods including, food, toiletries, cleaning supplies and clothing from this program.
  - The YSB is excited to announce that we initiated a new program this month. This program is for girls who are not living with their mothers. The participants are middle school girls. We also have a college and high school student who will help mentor the girls. The group will meet weekly after school.
  - Seventh and eight grade students completed the 6 week leadership program with Ken Cupto at Villari's of Storrs. Some of these students will be attending the paws leadership conference at Manchester community College with us on Thursday.
  - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group is calling legislators for support of the House Bill 137 "visitation Right of Grandparents". The group will be inviting Probate Judge Claire Twerdy to the April meeting.
- *Student Report:* Sam P. (MMS student)  
-Sam spoke about her different life experiences and interaction with the Youth Service Bureau.
  - *Old Business:*  
*Advisory Board Member Update*  
-Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator, has sent emails to check on the status of the two new advisory board members. Jeff Smith has spoken with the town managers office today and they will be looking at the request shortly.  
-After Sam P. spoke a discussion on transition to High School was opened up. This is an area that needs to be looked at and evaluated.
- Town Council Presentation*

-Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services, wanted to note the achievement of all those involved in the presentation. He stated that it was personal and powerful.

- *New Business:*  
*Graduate Internship Program*
  - Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator, discussed the achievement of this program. This was a new initiative for the YSB this year.
  - Lauren DiGrazia, MSW Graduate Intern, spoke about the profound effect this internship has had on her and the lessons she has learned from working at the YSB.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm

Minutes submitted by Graduate MSW Intern, Lauren DiGrazia