



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**Mansfield YSB Advisory Board
Minutes**

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Youth Services Office

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, LCSW
Candace Morrell, Vice Principal of MMS
Sevan Angacian, Ph.D. Student

Guests

Matthew Lawrence, Social Work Student

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:02 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes: February 8, 2011

- Meeting minutes from February 8, 2011 were accepted and approved

III. Reports

Director's Report – Kevin Grunwald

- Human Services is forming a Management Team, as recommended by Matt Hart, the town manager. The team consists of Kevin, Pat and Cindy Dainton. This is in line with initiatives for a universal intake form and the department working together.
- Kevin went to a meeting in Windham regarding a juvenile review board. Kevin is trying to get more information about the statistics regarding the number of arrests. Discussions are taking place about the potential for a regional juvenile review board, but this is still in the discussion phase. More information is needed to explore this issue, such as how

many individuals this would address and the need for this. There is the issue about where the arrest took place versus where the individual is from and how the stats are recorded. Kevin will look for these numbers regarding Mansfield juveniles and report at the next meeting.

Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

Grief Group: We had 21 participants and 11 volunteers at Grief Matters on Sunday. There were again families with 3 generations present, appreciating the opportunity to gather and honor their loved one while the children were also receiving the message that grieving does matter. The Mansfield Patch published an article about the group on Saturday. We are thinking about ideas for fundraising for the dinner portion of the group.

Board of Education Presentation: We presented on services we offer the community and that we are here for all children and families of Mansfield to the board with Sevan and a family member from Grief Matters. It was well received and we were asked about ways in which more people could become aware of our services. We are working with IT on our Web page and linking it to the BOE and the schools.

WAIM: Kathy and Pat met with the WAIM coordinator to discuss ways to better serve families that we are both working with. Discussion of leaving a box for clothing donations in YSB and coordinating the pick-up from WAIM.

Boy's Council: There is great demand for this group. Every week new members are being added. We now have 9 5th and 6th grade boys in the group. Matt will be assisting the boys with signing up for the teen center so that they will be able to use it through high school, helping to facilitate their independence. The Community Center wants to charge YSB for using the gymnasium.

Girl's Group: We have a solid, core group of both participants and mentors. Girls will be attending the PAWS leadership conference this month at Manchester Community College.

4 H Camperships: We are in touch with the 4 H camp registrars office and we are attempting to get 16 slots for week long over night camp. Kathy has been in contact with the staff there and said that parents need to write a narrative about their kids. Kathy has some college students who will help the parents with the writing and application if needed.

Uconn Baseball Team: We are coordinating a varsity baseball game watch in April for the COPE program participants. The game will be dedicated to our families and children will have the opportunity to go out onto the field, take photos with the players. Preliminary calls were made and people seem very interested.

Leap: Kathy and Sevan met with Eileen Melody, the new MMS guidance counselor. We are very excited about her willingness and enthusiasm to put programming together for upcoming 5th

graders. She will be attending COPE at each of the elementary schools in the coming weeks to get to know the students and understand our programs.

IV. Old Business

- a. Universal Intake Form:
 - Kevin handed out a draft to the Board
 - Eileen mentioned the confidentiality piece – a scanner will now help with this process as it will be digital
 - A finished project will be ready by next month
 -
- b. YSB Budget:
 - Nothing new to report
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- c. Human Services Food Pantry – Update from Frank Perrotti:
 - Frank is not present to discuss further
 -
- d. Human Services Advisory Board:
 - Kevin will check with Mary to find out about progress on this
- e. Challenge Money:
 - Money is still needed for Challenge program

V. New Business

- a. NECASA funding request:
 - Kevin said we have given them about \$800 for several years (out of the town's general fund)
 - The town council is the group that makes the ultimate decision about the amount for this year – Ethel moves that we give them \$800 again.

VI. Other

- Kevin brought up the Community Conversation taking place on Saturday, March 26, 2011
- Invitations were passed out and an information sheet distributed amongst Board members.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM
Minutes submitted by Sevan Angacian