



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

**Mansfield YSB Advisory Board
Minutes**

Tuesday, April 12, 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
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Jerry Marchon, Police Officer
Chuck Leavens, MMS Guidance Counselor
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant
Jeff Smith, Resident
Sevan Angacian, Ph.D. Student

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes: March 8, 2011

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

III. Reports

Director's Report – Kevin Grunwald

- Human Services department is sponsoring an Easter program for families mainly with the Storrs Congregational Church
 - o Food baskets are being provided to about 45 families over Easter
 - o Possible contributions from Big Y
 - o Ethel asked how we determine who gets this service:
 - Kevin says staff coordinate and come up with names

- Grant from an early child initiative: Community Conversations event
 - o Event took place on March 26th
 - o Follow up conversation will take place on Saturday, April 30th
- Town Budget meetings are taking place
 - o May 10th is the town meeting so council will likely adopt the budget before that date

Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

Grief Group: Completed our 5 sessions Grief Matters program. Two new families joined our group bringing our number up to 29 participants plus seven professional volunteers and 4 student volunteers. We are very pleased with the model we have created, this was our 5th year and we are now working on an evaluation/feedback questionnaire to further evaluate the program. We will share with you the results.

Presentations at UConn's Annual Human Services Career Night and at Eastern University's Introduction to Social Work Class: Both schools had invited us to speak with their students. We were pleased to see that we are developing recognition with both of these universities as great learning opportunities for their students. We were able to recruit a number of students to work with us next academic year and this summer.

Boy's Council and Girl's Groups: Solid group of participants. These continue to be great afterschool multi-layered mentoring groups we plan to continue. Mansfield Patch wrote an excellent article about the program. Our trip to the Paws conference was cancelled, as the town van was not operating properly. Students stayed in school and the mentors used the time to program plan future events. I did attend the High School Paws event the day before to assist, EOS was present and it was again an excellent conference for students to learn about leaderships and positive development on issues relevant to their stage in life.

4 H Camperships: We have received a few applications from families and we are waiting to hear back from 4 H on the status of these applications.

UConn Baseball Team Game: We are postponing this event until next spring. We realize that this event requires more lead-time to coordinate.

Leap: Guidance counselors from MMS attended for the first time the Cope groups in each of the elementary schools. This was a great initiative by Kathy and Sevan. Notes were also sent home to all parents to keep them involved and informed of Cope's curriculum and progress.

Kathy's Annual Review: Kathy's anniversary month and she received an excellent evaluation. She accomplished all her stated goals from her last annual review and she has been instrumental in expanding our clinical and youth development/leadership programs. Most importantly Kathy

can be counted on to initiate original ideas for work solutions and problem solving with clients and program initiatives.

Region Youth Service Bureau Meeting: Group met to discuss common issues and possibility of sharing a position for a regional Juvenile Review Board. A representative from the Regional List Committee, Richard Szegda, met with Town managers in the area and presented how effective youth programs make good fiscal sense and the financial impact of juvenile delinquency. He spoke of the effectiveness of Youth Service Bureaus and identified the best approach in dealing with juvenile delinquency is through Community-based programs. Juvenile Review Boards are proven cost-effective alternative to imprisonment and/or court involvement.

- Discussion ensued about what resources would be needed from schools and how many juveniles would likely be served through this Juvenile Review Board

Woman's and Men's Groups: Woman's Group is meeting in the evening at town hall and is growing and new members are being added. Men's group will be meeting at Psychological services and has not yet started as they did not have enough interested members.

JOY: We continue to reach out to new families to introduce them to cultural experiences. This month they attended Ferdinand and the Bull.

Parent's Group – Special presentation this month on budget coaching, members appreciated it and asked for follow up services.

Multi-Family Group: Guest Lisa Holly, pharmacy at UConn, came to observe our program. She was impressed with our level of commitment and the services we are offering families in Mansfield. She is interested in working with us. We will be meeting in May to discuss possibilities.

Grandparent's Group: Guest speaker, Marion Donato, from Senior Resources: Area Agency on Aging presented to the Grandparent's Group this month regarding resources.

Challenge List: The middle school and YSB are working jointly to finalize the Challenge list and hope to be able to have some of these students participate in the Jump program with Ken Caputo.

IV. Old Business

a. Universal Intake Form:

- Final version of the intake form was passed out
- Kevin stated that he will put together a spreadsheet for intakes identifying where referrals are coming from and other trends/patterns

b. Human Services Food Pantry – Update from Frank Perrotti:

- Frank went in and checked out the pantry and they had rotated it

- Frank said that his offered help was not necessarily required at that time

c. Human Services Advisory Board:

- The group is having its first meeting next week, on Wednesday, April 20th
- Ethel and Frank are both on the committee. Ethel represents YSB and Frank is an at-large member
 - o In answer to Ethel's question about who would attend, Kevin answered he would like to have the committee meet all of the staff members

d. Challenge Money:

- Letters went out last week to former Challenge participants asking for funds
- Passport services revenue can go towards Challenge
- Challenge will take place this coming year

e. Juvenile Review Board update (Kevin) number of youth arrested:

- No update on numbers reported
 - o Kevin states that the Review Board is particularly effective despite numbers and regardless, there is probably a critical mass to do this
- Pat, Kathy, and Ethel made the point that finding the numbers are important and it is likely possible to obtain these numbers through town resources
 - o Jerry clarified how the town can obtain these numbers about number of juveniles by putting in particular parameters into the data system
 - o Ethel suggested we could get these numbers from the Juvenile Court system
 - Frank suggests Pat goes in person to ask
- Frank asked about Mansfield YSB capacity to manage this new project without new staff members

f. Camperships:

- See above notes from Pat's Coordinator's report

V. Other

- Jerry asked about the Community Center and charges that were mentioned in last month's Advisory Board meeting minutes
 - o Pat had met with Curt about this and having our students use the center with a group rate
 - o Jeff recommends using a budget line for this membership through the Council
 - YSB should talk to the town manager about this at this point in time (as it is probably too late to put in the budget for this year); could we arrange a fixed fee one time to pay the Community Center for student use?
 - o Kevin will talk to Curt from the Community Center and Matt, the Town Manager

- Scheduling of YSB room for Mansfield Police to use in preparation for Spring Weekend at UConn
 - o Can we talk to Matt about this? Kevin said he will talk to Matt about this
 - o YSB has programming in the office but the Police asked to use the space without warning or understanding of the YSB programs that need to take place here

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Sevan Angacian