



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Social Worker
Kevin Grunwald, Human Service Director
Chuck Leavens, EOS Counselor
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Kelsey Campbell, Social Work student
Candace Morell, Assistant Principal of Mansfield Middle School
Eileen Griffin, Resident
Jerry Marchon, Retired Police Officer
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant
Daniel A. Mainiero, State Trooper

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from October 11, 2011 were accepted.

III. Introduction of Kathleen Krider, Early Childhood Services Coordinator.

IV. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
 - o Kathleen Krider has begun worker full-time as an *Early Childhood Services Coordinator*.
 - o The sub-committee for Mansfield Advocates for Children is in the process of planning a playground to be built for Mansfield families behind the Mansfield Community Center.

- 56 Mansfield families received holiday meals this Thanksgiving. Approximately 70 families will be receiving gifts or meals for the winter holiday. Human Services are appreciative for the many donations and sponsors.

- Coordinator's Report - Patricia Michalak
 - YSB is primarily a clinical program serving the mental health needs of children and families. Each month we provide you with a highlight of our activities, such as Big Friends, Joy, and Cope. These activities are programs that support our clinical work. Today, I would like to tell you about a couple of our core programs, which meet regularly through out the year.

 - Multifamily Group: Multifamily Group is a core program which meets twice a month with our consulting psychiatrist Dr. Haney. About 30 parents and children are involved. Most of our referrals come from the schools. Our recent initiative is to do consulting for the schools with children who are struggling at home and in school. This is a two-fold program. One is the treatment of children psychiatrically. The other is the psycho educational component teaching parents and children about emotional and psychological needs and how these needs can be met. Families are often involved with us for long period of time. We have had the ability to stabilize individuals and decrease the amount of crises and hospitalizations. The Multifamily Group also includes one pre-medical student and a pharmacy student. Our graduate social work student is meeting collaboratively with families and Dr. Haney. This group is supported by our other positive youth development programs.

 - Psychological Services: Psychological Services is an outpatient psychological counseling center at UConn. This is our fifth year working collaboratively with this agency. They have continued to provide free outpatient psychological testing and counseling to families referred from YSB. We work collaboratively to maintain connections with the community and schools.

 - Girls & Boys Group: These groups have been put in place to create a safe environment for at-risk middle school students to meet weekly after school to receive support and encouragement and learn coping skills. Members are always excited to come to group meetings and have enjoyed the opportunity in building relationships with E.O. Smith, UConn, and Eastern students.

 - Youth Work Employment: Our youth work employment students at the middle school have started receiving their pay and are very excited about the opportunity to serve as mentors. Since being employed, these students have showed a tremendous amount of maturity, responsibility, and dedication to group meetings.

- Emergency Shelter Management: YSB provided support at the shelter during Storm Alfred. We will be following up with some of the families with identified concerns.

V. Old Business

- Police Representation on YSB Advisory Board- Trooper Andrea Cloutier has been transferred. We welcomed Trooper Mainiero to the committee.
- Grief Matters Referrals- The Grief Matters potluck met Sunday, December 4th. The potluck was organized to reunite past members and welcome future members to the group. Thirty people were in attendance. The five week program will begin in February and are open to accepting new families who have sustained a loss of an immediate family member.
- Northeast CT Juvenile Review Board Update: A Juvenile Review Board serving Northeastern Connecticut will be operating through the United Services. They will begin the process of recruiting board members, training and outreach immediately so that when funding for a case manager position becomes available, they can then begin to take referrals and JRB cases.

VI. New Business

- None

VII. Other

- None

VIII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January, 10, 2011
- Meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM
- Minutes submitted by Kelsey Campbell