



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
MINUTES- APPROVED

Members Present: Sarah Dufresne (staff), Pat Schneider (staff), Katie Bell (staff), KC Carrancio, Tracy Smith, Kelly Zimmermann, Sydney Clements, Brenda Rivers, Shamim Patwa, Marianne Legassey, Jane Goldman

Regrets: Judy Stoughton, Hanna Brinkhaus

Guest: Carl Asikainen

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>DISCUSSION</i>	<i>OUTCOME</i>
CALL TO ORDER	Sarah Dufresne called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Minutes for the February meeting were approved by consensus. (5:44 PM)	<i>Minutes approved</i>
SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL ITEMS/STAFF REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 School Readiness RFP is available online. To access documents, go to the Youth Services page on the Town of Mansfield website, and click on “Youth Service Bureau’s Document Center.” • A due date for the RFP was approved by consensus. That date is March 29, 2019 at 12:00 PM. • There has been no new information from the OEC regarding the request for extra slots. • Monitoring was recently done at each center and there were no issues. • Eggstravaganza is April 13th. Volunteers needed. 	<i>RFP due 3/29/19</i>
GUEST SPEAKER/ TOPICAL DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were joined by Carl Asikainen from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). • He stressed the importance of a yearly youth count that documents and increases awareness on individual cases of youth homelessness. • Homeless does not mean you are living on the streets. It can mean you are couch surfing, hopping between different houses, and do not have stable housing. • To access services from CCEH, one needs to call 2-1-1. • If you suspect that a child is, or is about to become, homeless, you would reach out to your local McKinney-Vento Liaison. For Mansfield, it is Shamim Patwa, PhD, Director of Special Education Services. • CCEH has partnered with the OEC and have a program called “Be Homeful” which offers services to help children and families. They can often help keep a family in place by providing funds in an effort to avoid homelessness. They can also help in other ways, an example given was fixing a car so that a parent can continue to work. • Resources in our area are scarce for runaway youth. The closest housing provider is in West Hartford. 	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCEH has great information on their website, including information on how to talk to elementary aged children about housing insecurities: https://www.cceh.org/ 	
CLOSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming agenda items: nutrition and transition to kindergarten. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 2019</p>	

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