



**MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

Wednesday, December 1, 2010  
5:00-6:30 Team Meetings, 6:30-7:30 MAC Meeting  
Buchanan Center- Mansfield Public Library

**Present:** J. Higham, P. Braithwaite, G. Bent, J. Stoughton, S. Baxter, K. Grunwald, E. Gresh, V. Fry, E. Soffer Roberts, J. Suedmeyer, M. LaPlaca, J. Goldman, C. Laughran, L. Young, M. Barton, D. Crane, Rachel LeClerc

**Regrets:** D. McLaughlin, S. Conrad, B. Tanner, L. Dahn, A. Bladen, M.J. Newman, F. Baruzzi

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
<p><b>Actions needed and Announcements</b></p>	<p>-Welcome -G. Bent called the meeting to order, all in favor to adopt minutes</p> <p>S. Baxter announced that the Community Conversation will have a proposed date of March 26<sup>th</sup> 2011. We still however need a location, as MCC is out, if anyone can suggest a place where small groups as well as a large whole group can meet please let Sandy know. March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be penciled in as the Training date for the Moderators and Recorders.</p>	<p>A primary Coordinator and other roles still need to be filled.</p>
<p><b>Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>At our next MAC meeting we will need to have made progress on putting a PowerPoint together of the program before we can get started. Training will be mandatory; to teach us how to talk to the large group and encourage conversation with open ended questions, and encouragement. There is no time set at this point, and childcare will be available.</p> <p>K. Grunwald will work in a small group on the PowerPoint for the event with help from L. Young and S. Baxter. J. Higham will make final touches. If you are interested in helping please contact Kevin, as a broad PowerPoint will be made and groups will fill in the details.</p> <p>V. Fry has found a Graphic Artist, yet the culinary aspect is still needed. G. Bent will look into asking E.O. Smith Culinary Arts Teacher, and perhaps even the culinary program at the Bergen Prison. If anyone has ideas or suggestions please let the group know.</p>	<p>If you have any further ideas or suggestions please contact K. Grunwald or S. Baxter</p>
<p><b>Interim Report</b></p>	<p>-Due December 15, 2010-Discovery Interim Report -Team Leaders reported any challenges their team had completing the Team related questions. -Total MAC group brainstorm answers to the general questions # 1 d. #2 a. #5 a, b.</p> <p>1d. The upcoming Community Conversation and the Successful Learners Focus group with parents about literacy is a way of getting</p>	<p>Executive Council and Coordinator will be working on this until due 12/15/10</p>

	<p>feedback out to the community.  Survey and meetings with the Downtown Partnership, with the Connectedness Team was another way to get the project out into the community and work with Partners. The Health Team has been to Board of Ed and PTO meetings, collecting information from parents, and filling them in on what it is they are doing with the PLAN.</p> <p>J. Suedmeyer adds that the Farm to Table event was definitely a great way to show the community what MAC stood for, making residents aware of what it is we do, and our priorities for young children.  She said that some other Communities are doing what they are calling a “report card” to show where the town stands in comparison to the state on certain issues, and what they have done with their plan with a profile of the community. “This would paint a picture of Mansfield.”</p> <p>Community Connectedness Survey results are in. 590 surveys were returned. These will include vital information about the town, and is an example of report card material. We have to keep in mind that we are the only town in the state that experiences such a population difference because of the University of Connecticut.  We can use this survey as a baseline and repeat it in a few years to measure improvement.</p> <p>Transportation seems to be the real issue affecting each of the focus groups’ initiatives. Many families cannot get to the store, the library, the playground due to lack of transportation and thus having a negative impact on the learning process for children. A transportation focus is needed. K. Grunwald mentions that the town does have a committee and that if a MAC member wanted to take on this initiative they could work with that Town committee.</p>	<p>We need to make sure that we are able to tie everything back to our plan, as we are responsible for making sure what we are doing matches what we said we would be accomplishing</p>
<p>Team Updates</p>	<p>-Team Leader share Action Plans with the group and take 10mins. to update the whole MAC group assembled</p> <p>S. Baxter will be sending out questions to each group.</p>	<p><u>C.Connectedness</u> – working on Survey, <u>Health-</u> working on Pre-Natal Care Stories behind the data, <u>Successful - Learners</u> working on the K Intake Inventory</p>
	<p>Work on Action Plans –be specific  Story behind the numbers must come first  *Note: Team leader up-date Plan electronically and send to Sandy*</p> <p>Meeting ended at 7:37 per G. Bent</p> <p>Next MAC Meeting January 5, 2011 –Council Chambers- 6:30-7:30</p>	

Respectfully Submitted, Emily Gresh

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