

## Mansfield YSB Advisory Board

### Minutes

Tuesday February 9, 2010  
12:00pm at Mansfield Town Hall  
Conference Room B

#### Board Members

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Frank Perrotti, Co-Chair  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Senior Social Worker  
Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services  
Eileen Griffin, Social Worker  
Jerry Marchon, Police Officer  
Jen Abele, EO Smith Student  
Amber Hoyt, EO Smith Student  
Lauren DiGrazia, Graduate MSW Intern

Guests: Jeff Smith (Former Head of Finance for the town of Mansfield), Teri Hebert (Special Education Teacher), & Addie J. (EO Smith student)

#### Proceedings

- *Meeting called to order* at 12:01pm by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris
- January 12, 2010 meeting minutes were accepted and approved
- *Student Report:* Addie J. (EO Smith student) & Jen Abele (E.O. Smith student)
  - Addie spoke about her individual experiences and interactions with the Youth Service Bureau.
  - Jen spoke about how she is doing in school since joining the advisory board
- Report from the Director of Human Services, Kevin Grunwald
  - Kevin spoke about the mini-grant for underage drinking that he and Jerry Marchon, Police Officer, worked on getting for the Challenge Program. The grant was awarded for one student for \$660.00 to attend Challenge. The coalition also offered \$500.00 to the Challenge program to work on evaluation of the program.
  - Kevin has submitted the current services budget.
  - Kevin also spoke about his office moving to the senior center. He informed the group that at this point there are no plans for this move.
- Report from YSB Coordinator, Patricia Michalak

-Patricia Michalak discussed the recent activities of the YSB.

-Activities include the following:

- Connecticut Youth Service Bureau Association: YSB has been participating in monthly planning meetings with area Youth Service Bureaus to share ideas, investigate regionalization, grants and alternative funding sources. In the past three years the YSB has received \$5,000.00 in Enhancement Funds which has allowed us to run the Grandparents group and Positive Youth development program. These funds came from the lobbying efforts of the CYSA group.
- Multi Family Therapy Group: The group has successfully assisted the high school students to EO Smith. YSB provided a transition group from September through December and the group now meets with Dr. Haney and Chuck Leavens at the high school. All involved are pleased with the successful transition and hope the group will be able to extend through the 4 years at EO Smith.
- Children's Grief Group: We are working on formulating the new participant group for the 6 week Grief Matters program starting February 28<sup>th</sup>. We have 9 volunteers to assist with this group. We have collected a total of \$1,713.00 from donations resulting from a previous members passing.
- NEAG School of Education: We have been working with two professors from UConn. Dr. Surgai, Ph.D. and Brandi Simonsen Ph.D. whose expertise is in behavior analysis, classroom and behavior management, school wide discipline, function-based behavior support, school-wide positive behavior supports, and educating students with emotional and behavioral disorders. We are receiving consultation from these individuals in regards to Cope and Results Based Accountability.
- Collaborative Assistance Network Meetings: Youth Services has been participating in quarterly Collaborative Assistance Network Meetings (CANN) with the Mansfield Advocates for Children. The group rotates through each of the three elementary schools and includes Mansfield's Director of Special Education, school psychologist and day care providers.
- JUMP: Leadership group for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is continuing to meet at the Villari's Martial Arts studio in Storrs. The group is planning a trip in March to the PAWS leadership conference.

- *New Business:*

- Town Council Presentation*

- The Advisory board was asked to review the fact sheet that will be distributed at the town council meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator, explained the layout of the presentation and received feedback from the advisory board members.

- *Old Business:*  
*Advisory Board Member Update*
  - Jeff Smith, Former Head of Finance for the Town of Mansfield, and Teri Hebert, Special Education Teacher, were submitted for appointment to the Youth Services board.
  - Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services, has submitted a letter to the committee on committees for their appointment to the YSB advisory board.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 16, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm

Minutes submitted by Graduate MSW Intern, Lauren DiGrazia