



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, June 14, 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 Bureau Director
Chuck Leavens, EOS Crisis Worker
Candace Morrell, MMS Assistant Principal
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Jeff Smith, Resident
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant
Sevan Angacian, Ph.D. Student

Guest

Tonya Ohlund

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:01 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from May 10, 2011 were accepted and approved

III. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
 - o Budget referendum is being voted on today; Kevin encourages everyone to vote.
 - o Sandy Baxter, the School Readiness Coordinator, has announced that she is retiring as of October 1, 2011.

- The department was awarded a grant to purchase a handicap accessible van for seniors and those with physical disabilities. Volunteer driver/staff with the appropriate class license will be driving the van.
- Coordinator's Report - Patricia Michalak
 - **Month's summary** – As the school year is coming to an end we are receiving more referrals and calls about families. We have been working on camperships and summer programs.
 - **Tonya Ohlund** will be joining the YSB and working with Pat.
 - **Boys Counsel:** The Boys Group was a successful new program that was supported by volunteers from EOS and UConn. This was a new initiative focused on promoting boy's safe and healthy development with male mentorship. This program took place throughout the whole year and was facilitated with the help of graduate students and high school mentors.
 - **Woman's Auxiliary Program:** Eagleville Fire Department Women's Auxiliary hosted a dinner to benefit Mansfield Special Needs program. It was designed to provide financial assistance with emergency expenses. The planning was wonderful; the women hosted a wonderful dinner with the help of the Explorers who are a group of high school students aiming to be future fire fighters. We thank them for their hard work.
 - Several YSB Board members mentioned they would have liked to be informed about this event.
 - **UConn Give-and-Go Program:** The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren received household items from the recycling "student move out" program. They received fewer items than previous years; the committee is evaluating ways to improve UConn student participation in the program.
 - **Rectory Day Camp:** YSB coordinated with the Bishop Fund to sponsor three students to attend the Rectory Day Camp in Pomfret, CT for this summer.
 - **Psychological Service Clinic of UConn:** This organization averages eighteen clinical families of Mansfield whom we have referred free of charge. YSB staff meets monthly with the director of the clinical program, Dr. Marianne Barton, to collaborate on the cases. This partnership provides the town of Mansfield with over a thousand hours a year of clinical services. YSB is collaborating with Psychological Services to find a liaison figure to help with note taking.
 - **Goodwin Running Club:** This program was started in May and is conducted after school. Kathleen McNamara, MSW and Jane Griffin, EOS senior, are

participating weekly with this group at Goodwin Elementary School. YSB provided t-shirts for the participants of the Running Club. It allows YSB to reach out to students in the schools and promote healthy habits.

- **Mansfield Middle School Hiking Program:** Each week, Kathleen participates in a school hike with over 30 8th grade students and the gym teacher at the Mansfield Middle School. This is an outreach effort to allow for healthy habits and knowledge of YSB as a resource.
- **Leap Lunch:** School guidance counselors and Cope facilitators met with Middle School kids who had previously participated in Cope to begin a new mentoring program. This group will start mentoring the younger Cope students to assist with the transition to the Middle School. The group will be meeting in late August to do a lunch with the guidance counselors, the Cope students entering 5th grade, and the student mentors from the Middle School. Because we know transitions can be difficult for some students, this is an effort to facilitate this transition and support the new students as they enter the new school.
- **Summer Wilderness Challenge Program:** Everyone has been invited but we are waiting to hear about an update on the final participants.
 - Chuck updated the Board saying that the group is set and that sixteen students are participating, starting the trip on Sunday, June 26th.
- **Regional YSB Meeting:** Coventry, Willington, Ashford, and Mansfield YSBs are together working on the juvenile review board and diversion program.

IV. Old Business

- Challenge update – Kevin said that \$500 has been received in donations; we are still short another \$700. Kevin provided a list of contributors and said that letters will be sent out to families who have had students participate in Challenge last year.
- Juvenile Review Board – Kevin has received an outline of what constitutes a Juvenile Review Board.
- Community Center use by YSB – Kevin spoke to Curt Vincente about YSB use of Community Center space.
- Update - The State does not mandate any follow up on home-schooled students. There is no legal requirement for schools to test students who are home-schooled. The language “suggests” steps to be taken for home-schooling.
- Universal intake spreadsheet – Kevin did not have this prepared.

V. New Business

- Goals for next year:
 - o Advocate for an expanded budget for programming for youth and families with the possibility of a part time position for a volunteer coordinator
 - o Reestablish police representation on the Board
 - o Support cooperation with the Regional YSBs of Willington, Ashford, and Coventry
 - o Continue to expand clinical programs for young adolescent boys and girls
 - o Explore the idea of a Regional Juvenile Review Board

VI. Other

- Tonya Ohlund and YSB Volunteer Coordinator position – Kevin and Pat will look at grant funds and other budget options to hire Tonya part-time as a potential volunteer coordinator at YSB.
- Youth work employment program is now limited to high school students (cannot include middle school students due to their age)
 - o Pat will try to get specific legal rationale/paperwork from Marie (Assistant to the Town Manager) for why this is the case as of late. Pat will provide this information to Jeff.

VII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 13, 2011
- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM
- Minutes submitted by Sevan Angacian