



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

DRAFT

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 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
Sgt. Richard Cournoyer, Mansfield Resident Trooper Sergeant
Andrea Cloutier, Mansfield Resident Trooper
Candace Morell, Assistant Principal of Mansfield Middle School

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 Sergeant Richard Cournoyer

- Trooper Andrea Cloutier has been appointed by Sergeant Richard Cournoyer to the Advisory Board.

IV. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
 - o An emergency shelter was operated at the Mansfield Community Center October 30th through November 7th for individuals and families without power. The Red Cross,

University of Connecticut, Mansfield Human Services, and community volunteers worked hard to help provide food, water, and cots to those in need. Approximately 25 cots were filled each night, and E.O. Smith provided approximately 200 meals each night.

- There has been a good response in donations to the Special Needs Fund. So far, we have received \$2,700.
- Kathleen Krider, Sandy Baxter's replacement, will begin working full-time on November 28th.
- Coordinator's Report - Patricia Michalak

Big Friends Mentoring Program: Mansfield students and their mentors went on a field trip to Edmonds Pumpkin Patch. Uconn provided 3 vans and paid for the drivers - this event would not have been possible without their support. Each child and mentor took home a pumpkin. Uconn students highlighted this as their favorite mentoring event. Parents stayed at town hall and participated in a parent support group facilitated by our Social Work Graduate student.

Northeast CT Juvenile Review Board Update:

Right now the next steps are in the hands of DCF to see if they are serious about funding these projects. What remains unclear is how much funding will be made available, if the funds can go directly to a YSB, and what if any restrictions will be placed on the funding. They are asking if Mansfield would be willing to supervise the case manager position.

Soccer Tickets: People's United Bank donated 240 Uconn Men's and Women's soccer tickets to Mansfield YSB. We shared these tickets with the middle school and families in our programs. Parents and children alike enjoyed the opportunity to be on campus.

COPE: Cope, our program which addresses the issue of loss, has started and meeting weekly in each of the three elementary schools. We currently have approximately 60 children in this program. Our curriculum this year is based on teaching responsibility. We have five boys from the Uconn baseball team plus 5 additional Uconn students volunteering each week.

Girls Group: The Girls' Group has been meeting weekly after school. Attendance is growing, and the girls are excited about building relationships with each other and the college students.

Community Mentoring: We have started a community mentoring program for students with specialized needs. Right now we have three of the Uconn baseball boys meeting with young boys in and outside the middle school.

Joy Program: UConn created this program as an outreach to youth and families. Jorgenson donated 25 tickets to Youth Services giving students and their parents the opportunity to attend the performance Sylvester and the Magic Pebble.

V. Old Business

- Police Representation on YSB Advisory Board- The Advisory Board is excited to welcome a new member, Trooper Andrea Cloutier. The presence of an officer on the committee enhances the collaboration of Youth Services and law enforcement in serving the Mansfield youth and families.
- Juvenile Review Board-The Juvenile Review Board for Mansfield, Coventry, Ashford, and Willington is still under consideration. It is still to be determined if DCF will provide funds for a case manager position. The advisory board is in agreement they do not feel Mansfield YSB can take on the additional work load of managing the case manager for the region. However they are open to Mansfield working with another YSB in the region.
- Community Center Use by Youth Service Bureau- The town manager will designate money in next year's budget to cover the cost of day passes for youth from Youth Services to attend the community center.

VI. New Business

- Grief Matters Referrals- Youth Services offers a 5 session grief group beginning in February for children who have experienced the loss of a parent, sibling, or loved one. Patricia Michalak has asked the group to refer students they believe would benefit from Grief Matters. Individuals outside the Mansfield community are welcome.

VII. Other

- None

VIII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 13, 2011
- Meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM
- Minutes submitted by Kelsey Campbell