



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathleen McNamara, YSB Social Worker
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Kelsey Campbell, Social Work student
Eileen Griffin, Resident
Jerry Marchon, Retired Police Officer
Teri Hebert, Educational Consultant

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from December 13, 2011 were accepted.

III. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
 - o Delivered in writing.

Adult Services:

- o 133 Mansfield families received holiday assistance from Thanksgiving through Christmas of 2011. Staff assisted the Mansfield Holiday Fund in distributing more than \$12,000 to residents that was received from local donors.
- o We are currently working on the first draft of a "current services" budget for Fiscal Year 2012/13. Budget narratives for this year will include measurable departmental goals.

- At this time proposed departmental goals include completion of a department-wide management study and development of an emergency protocol to respond to natural disasters.

Senior Services:

- Contracts have been received from the DOT to purchase a passenger van to be used for seniors and residents with disabilities. Staff and volunteers have been securing public service licenses required to drive the van.
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Early Childhood Services:

- An “Interim Report” has been submitted to the Graustein Fund for the current program year. We will be submitting an application for a \$12,500 bridge grant by the end of January to cover the period April-June, 2012. The next program year will begin on July 1, 2012.
- Mansfield Advocates for Children will be conducting a member retreat to update Mansfield’s Plan for Young Children and to revise indicators and strategies.

- Coordinator’s Report - Patricia Michalak

Children’s Grief Group:

We are working on formulating the new participant group for the 5 week Grief Matters program starting March 5th. We have 9 volunteers to assist with this group.

Girl’s Group: The girl’s group has developed into a multi layered mentoring program including middle school, high school and college girls. The girls solicited donations from their family members who work both at the Mansfield Board of Education and Uconn’s registrar’s office. The BOE office contributed money to support our summer campership program for the girls and Uconn donated beautiful baskets including movie tickets the Mansfield Theater for two along with snacks to enjoy at the movies. The girl’s gave a lot of thought to a gift which would give the girls a social experience to enjoy with another family member.

Holiday Cards: This year we sent holiday cards from YSB to people who supported us throughout the year. We are appreciative for the number of volunteers who donate their time to make YSB a success.

Boy’s Counsel: Is an open group that is continuing to develop focusing on socialization and leaderships skills for middle school boys.

Psychological Services: Monthly Case Management meeting with Dr. Barton has helped facilitate clinical treatment of our shared families. They are starting a men’s group and we will be helping them connect with many of our single dads.

Stuff a Cruiser: Participated with Tolland YSB to help organize the toys collected by state troopers and we distributed toys to our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren's group.

Legislative Breakfast: Met at Vernon YSB this year and we had very good attendance which allowed us to talk about the work of the YSBs and ask for their continued support and spare us when looking at budget cuts.

PAWS: We are planning for the March leadership Conference. We will be bringing middle school students from both our boys and girl's groups to Manchester Community College in March.

New Year's Resolutions: The Cope kids discussed New Year's Resolutions and we talked about what a resolution meant. Themes included, being a better friend, being more helpful at home, listening to my mom and being nicer to others.

IV. Old Business

- **Police Representation on YSB Advisory Board-** Trooper Andrea Cloutier has been transferred. We welcomed Trooper Mainiero to the committee.
- **Grief Matters Referrals-** The Grief Matters potluck met Sunday, December 4th. The potluck was organized to reunite past members and welcome future members to the group. Thirty people were in attendance. The five week program will begin in February and are open to accepting new families who have sustained a loss of an immediate family member.
- **Northeast CT Juvenile Review Board Update:** A Juvenile Review Board serving Northeastern Connecticut will be operating through the United Services. They will begin the process of recruiting board members, training and outreach immediately so that when funding for a case manager position becomes available, they can then begin to take referrals and JRB cases.

V. New Business

- Youth Service Bureau Goals and Objectives for 2012-2013
 - o The budget narrative was discussed, and the committee asked when the narrative was due. The committee wanted to ensure that Youth Services was presented in the best light as the services are essential and children are unable to voice for themselves. The committee does not feel that we can depend on volunteer services and that an additional staff member is essential to meet the demand.

VI. Other

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 14, 2012
- Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM
- Minutes submitted by Kelsey Campbell