



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Frank Perrotti, Resident
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Eileen Griffin, Resident
Christine Lee, E.O. Smith, Director STARR Program
Candace Morell

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from April 4, 2012 were accepted

III. Introduction – Nomination for Advisory Board

- Christine Lee, director of the Students Transitioning to Age Appropriate Routes (S.T.A.R.R.) Program.

IV. Reports

- Director's Report - Kevin Grunwald
No report – Kevin Grunwald was out sick.
- Coordinator's Report - Patricia Michalak
Fundraiser in Memory of Mansfield Mother – Over \$20,000 was raised. We will continue to be in touch with their father and work with the children. They will be invited to the next session of Grief Matters.

Small Cities - Mansfield Youth Services may be featured in this year's published by The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families Report. The NLC will highlight strategies that small and mid-sized cities are employing in the areas of early childhood development, education, afterschool, family economic success, youth civic engagement, health and wellness, youth employment, violence prevention and improving outcomes for disconnected youth. The report will also feature a small number of comprehensive local initiatives to strengthen families and enhance child well-being. Mansfield Youth Services submitted information about our Cope program and work with the Mansfield Community.

Cope - Students received Cope t-shirts, ice cream, and good-bye letters from their Cope mentors. Group photos were taken. The fourth graders presented speeches to their group stating what they learned in Cope and what they look forward to at the Middle School. We have been working closely with the middle school to assist these students with transition.

Community Outreach - Volunteer recognition brunch including community partners.

Leap – We are in the process of compiling student names for the Leap program. In the last two weeks of April, all fourth graders went on a tour on the Middle School and spoke with members of the Middle School's sunshine clubs about any questions or concerns the students may have with transitioning to the Middle School.

Enhancement Grant - Provided by the State Department of Education, this grant has enabled us to support our volunteers and reinforce parents' and children's efforts in participation of our programs. Through this grant, we have funded end of the year gifts for our student and professional volunteers, t-shirts for Cope participants, and gas cards for the participants of our Parent Group.

Joy Program – 35 tickets were given the opportunity to see Darwin the Dinosaur.

Grandparent Raising Grandchildren – There are two more meetings before summer and is planning a cook out with members' families for the final group meeting. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren has been staying in contact with Representative Haddad since his visit in March. The group is writing a letter to Representative Haddad concerning a current bill in regards to grandparent visitation rights.

Challenge Program – YSB staff is in the process of collaborating with MMS counselors in selecting potential participants for this summer's program.

Summer Camp - We are in the process of reaching out to families regarding camperships as well as referring families to Kathy Ann for summer camperships at the Salvation Army.

Multi Family - We continue to meet twice a month and we continue to assess new clients.

V. Old Business

- Advisory Board Members Presentation to Town Counsel: June 11th
- Presenters' outline: Board Members will prior to the Town Counsel meeting to identify important topics to be discussed such as town dollars saved with a new position and the possibility of bringing parents to speak as well.
- Alateen Program: Rev. Plumley will be working with YSB on starting an alateen program at her church.
- 25th Anniversary of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will be celebrated at September's Town Counsel meeting

VI. New Business

- Funding for Challenge Program- \$2,500 needed for challenge. To be discussed by Kevin Grunwald at next meeting.

VII. Other

- The Advisory Board is interested in hearing more on Positive Choices Program by Christine Lee at the next meeting.
- Discussed upcoming Board of Education presentation covering the services offered by YSB.

VIII. Adjournment

- Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 12, 2012
- Meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM
- Minutes submitted by Pat Michalak