



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

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Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes  
September 10, 2013  
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall  
Conf. Rm. B

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker  
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Eileen Griffin, LCSW  
Stephen King, Police officer

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Approval of minutes**

- June 11, 2013 minutes were approved.

**III. Reports**

**Social Worker Position:** Kate Bohannon MSW was hired. She received her degree from the University of Vermont. Kate has both clinical and school social work experience.

**Social Worker Students:** Sonya Poulin and Leigh Stearns are both interns from the UCONN School of Social Work. They will be assisting in clinical work and school programs.

**Undergraduate Interns:** Nicole Flynn is a BSW student from Eastern; she will be with us for the fall semester. Abigail Lowry is a senior at UCONN majoring in English and Urban and Community Studies.

**Continuing Students:** Amber Hoyt is now a senior at Eastern, majoring in social work. Genevieve Rigler is a freshman at UCONN who has been awarded work study. She has chosen to train

incoming volunteers and students, in addition to helping with program development.

**Suicide Prevention Grant:** YSB was awarded the SERAC suicide mini grant which is funded through the CT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS). The goal is to strengthen mental health promotion and suicide prevention capacity and infrastructure of higher education campuses and or communities throughout the State. Ten select staff will be required to complete Suicide Prevention Training on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Psychological Services:** We covered Mansfield family clients receiving psychological services during the month of August while the PhD students were on break.

**Camperships:** The Lions Club granted YSB three hundred dollars, enabling children to attend Mansfield Camp, Holiday Hill, Tolland 4-H, and Channel 3.

**LEAP** – All fourth grade COPE participants were invited to a school orientation event this summer to help transition to the Middle School.

**Challenge Summer Wilderness Program:** Successfully completed their 37<sup>th</sup> year, 16 students attended the week long adventure including rock climbing, canoeing and hiking.

**Office Furniture:** Three of the offices are receiving new furniture with the funds saved from the vacant social work position.

**Kidtrak Computer Software:** We are purchasing software to track and evaluate our services and programs; many of the YSB's are using the same technology. This is being funded in part through the State Department of Education enhancement grant.

**Grief Matters Support Group:** A new initiative started in June to help grieving families throughout the year. It is being facilitated by Janet Romayko, supported by funds from the Suicide Prevention grant.

#### IV. Old Business:

- Staff will be discussing camperships and fundraising with the new director. The recommendations will then be presented to the advisory board.
- Discussed the possibility of a juvenile review board. The board does not recommend that Youth Services be involved.

**V. New Business:**

Chuck Leavens showed the 2013 Challenge video, shared highlights, and discussed the program. Staff will be meeting with Chuck and Parks and Recreation regarding the future funding for Challenge.

**VI. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. October 8, 2013 is the next meeting.