



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

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Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes  
October 8, 2013  
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall  
Conf. Rm. B

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor  
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator  
Eileen Griffin, LCSW  
Trooper Stephen King  
Candace Morell, MMS Vice Principal  
Christine Lee, Director of STARR Program  
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services  
Sonya Poulin, MSW intern

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Approval of minutes**

- September 10, 2013 minutes were approved.

**III. Reports**

- **Overview:** September has been a busy enrollment and planning month for our programs. We also welcomed the largest number of interns and volunteers we have ever had! We are looking forward to the energy and enthusiasm they will be bringing to all our programs.
- **Cope:** Flyers were sent home to all the elementary school families. Parents are beginning to send in permission forms and we have been working closely with school psychologists and nurses to identify students who may benefit from the program.
- **Big Friends:** Currently we are close to capacity with only a few openings left for students. Big Friends will be collaborating again with Carrie Holman, Special

Education Teacher at MMS, as well as UCONN's Community Outreach Office. The Parent Group will continue to meet concurrently.

- **Grief Matters:** The group met and they are becoming more comfortable together.
- **Suicide Prevention Training:** We coordinated the required Suicide Prevention Training for the SERAC suicide mini grant. The training was well-attended and enabled us to receive the \$2,500 grant. This money will allow us to continue the Grief Matters support group and to buy books for our library to aid families in grief.
- **Psychological Services:** We met with Dr. Barton to discuss our continued collaboration and the families that are receiving treatment at psychological services.

#### **IV. Old Business:**

- Members discussed fundraising with the new human services director. Members were concerned that the letters for the holiday programming did not go out early enough last year. Pat Schneider agrees that holiday funding should be a priority and will be having a meeting soon to plan this. She would also like to come up with more guidelines for receiving services.
- Members discussed Challenge and the problems with funding. Members expressed support for the program. Pat Schneider will be meeting with the Recreation Department regarding funding.
- Discussed the possibility of a juvenile review board. Chuck Leavens said that he will be visiting a meeting at the JRB in Columbia and will report back.

#### **V. New Business:**

- Mansfield Middle School In-School Program – meeting weekly during x-block to provide in-school hours; YSB staff will be assessing past Cope students, seeing clients we are working with, and is waiting for referrals from the Middle School.
- Volunteer Orientation will be held in each of the schools for Big Friends and Cope Programs to familiarize volunteers with each school's safety plans.
- Police Explore program – Sgt. Cournoyer is initiating this program and is seeking cooperation from Youth Services, the high school, and the middle school. Chuck Leavens agreed to serve on the council and assist with establishing the program at the high school.
- Members asked Pat Schneider questions about her previous experience and shared their enthusiasm for our community.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

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