



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
April 8, 2014
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
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator
Sonya Poulin, MSW intern
Bob Brex, NECASA

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of minutes

- March 11, 2014 minutes were approved.

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Presented the budget last week to the town council: they had questions about the UCONN volunteers and their impact; members were supportive of positive youth development programming and adventure learning training for staff. The public hearing for the budget is coming soon.
 - The Senior Center has hired a part-time BSW Outreach Worker and is looking to hire a Program Coordinator
 - The Early Childhood Coordinator is leaving and there is discussion about filling the position
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Villari's Martial Arts:** – State wide competition was held at Uconn and staff attended the events with some of our middle school students as participants. The opening of the Storrs dojo several years ago has made the opportunity to participate in martial arts more accessible to Mansfield families and easier for us to collaborate with Ken Caputo and his staff.

- **Suicide and Prevention Training:** Kate Bohannon facilitated suicide prevention training for the Safety and Wellness Committee. Staff also attended the grant reporting meeting and was invited to join UConn's monthly suicide prevention and mental health services meeting. Staff will attend this meeting and determine if this is an effective collaboration.
- **PAWS:** Staff took MMS students to the Peers Leadership Conference. Students benefited from the experiences which included workshops on the dangers of drug and alcohol use, stress management, consumer awareness as well as an excellent motivational speaker that the students connected well with.
- **Multi Family Therapy Group:** Dr. Haney provided an in-school evaluation and consultation at Goodwin School in addition to his monthly group meeting with families both at town hall and EOSmith.
- **X-Block:** Staff has received positive feedback from school counselors about the usefulness of YSB's in-school counseling program. This program provides YSB staff an opportunity to see students without delay and to meet with them more regularly.
- **UCONN Baseball Team:** Students were not able to attend the game as it was moved to Hartford due to conditions of the UCONN baseball field. Members of the baseball team have been wonderful mentor to students in the Big Friends program and the "Littles" are looking forward to watching their "Bigs" play at another time.
- **Family Studies Fair:** Staff participated in the program's career fair. We are hoping to be able to use Humphrey Center as a referral source for some of our families. We also recruited a couple of students interested in internships including someone for this summer.
- **Internship Program:** Staff has begun interviews for interns for the 2014-2015 academic year. Our plan is to accept one BSW and one MSW student intern. Our internship placement allows students to participate in all of our clinical and youth development programs as well as assist in case management.
- **Case Review Meeting:** YSB and Adult Services clinical staff had their first meeting discuss shared clients. We plan on meeting monthly to increase communication and collaboration.

IV. Old Business:

- Jared Redmond has been approved as an Advisory Board member.

V. New Business:

- Bob Brex from NECASA conducted a focus group, asking the Advisory Board the following questions and will follow-up with a report:
 - What are the biggest challenges facing those in your community with substance abuse problems?
 - What are the biggest challenges facing those in your community with mental health problems?

- Are people willing to talk about their mental health problems? Why or why not?
- Are people willing to talk about their substance abuse problems? Why or why not?
- How can the community best support its members with mental health and substance abuse problems, especially those at risk of winding up in the prison system?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of your community with respect to caring for people with mental health and/or substance abuse problems?
- If you, or someone you know, had a mental health problem, would you know what resources were available and how to access them?
- If you, or someone you know, had a substance abuse problem, would you know what resources were available and how to access them?
- Has the Sandy Hook school shooting and the resulting media coverage changed how you feel, think, or act with respect to mental health issues in your community?
- What kind of impact have you seen in your community as a result of healthcare reform (otherwise known as the Affordable Care Act or Obama Care)?
- If you were responsible for mental health and substance abuse services in your community, what kind of changes would you make?
- How are mental health, substance abuse, and medical problems intertwined in your community?
- This is Sonya Poulin, second year graduate intern's final Advisory Board
- Volunteer recognition is tomorrow, April 9, 2014 from 5:30-6:30
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant: librarian is applying for this grant to possibly have an in-school counselor; the grant is aimed to reduce the number of behavioral referrals to the principal; this would be a one-year grant
- Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund: there has been \$2560 in funds received in about a week and \$1800 rolled over from last year; staff is reviewing the application process

VI. Other:

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. May 13, 2014 is the next meeting.