



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

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Patricia Michalak, MA  
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes  
May 13, 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  
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker  
Eileen Griffin, LCSW  
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services  
Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator  
Kathy Ann Easley, Adult Services Social Worker

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Approval of minutes**

- April 8, 2014 minutes were approved.

**III. Reports**

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
  - Kathy Ann Easley, Adult Social Worker, explained her role in the department and the services she provides.
  - Department is in the process of interviewing for the Senior Center program coordinator position. The job description for the vacant Early Childhood Education position is currently being worked on.
  - Expressed appreciation on behalf of the department for the volunteers who have assisted with the Besty Hamill Memorial Scholarship fund.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
  - **Volunteer Recognition:** Volunteer recognition was well received. The UCONN students really enjoyed the more casual atmosphere. Overall we felt like the volunteer program was successful this year and many of the students said they will be returning next year. Some of our current volunteers will be moving up in to leadership positions. We are excited to

see the interest the students are taking in our community and in our programs.

- **Community Outreach:** Community Outreach has also recognized the growth in our program and has awarded us another leadership position. We will now have two program coordinators and three program leaders. These students are responsible for recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers as well as program planning and evaluation. YSB staff was part of the weekend long interview process for these positions.
- **Suicide and Prevention Training:** Participated in UConn's monthly suicide prevention and mental health services meeting. It was an informative meeting and a good collaborative opportunity for us.
- **High School referrals:** YSB staff has been contacted by a number of families with high school students for counseling services.
- **X-Block:** Leigh Sterns, social work intern, who will be continuing to provide X-block counseling throughout the school year through grant funds.
- **UCONN Baseball Team:** Attended a home game against Yale to support our Big Friends mentors who are on the team. UCONN won!
- **Family Studies Fair:** YSB staff participated in the fair and we recruited a number of interested volunteers for next year.
- **Parent Group:** This group meets monthly to support parents with children on medication and will continue to meet over the summer.
- **Grief Group:** YSB staff has decided to fund this group through our Enhancement Grant now that the Suicide Prevention Grant. This group has been well received and utilized by the community.
- **MMS Student Volunteer:** YSB staff is assisting a sixth grade student from the middle school with weekly service learning at the Senior Center.
- Teen Center Update- Jared Redmond
  - Talked about upcoming events at the Community Center for teens including a Friday night movie night and a 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

#### IV. Old Business:

- Challenge
  - Town Council put \$5,000 into the Parks and Recreation department to fund a therapeutic adventure program.
- Volunteer Recognition – April 9, 2014
  - It was a great night attended by over 70 people.
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant
  - The grant application has been submitted.
- Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund
  - This fund has raised over \$4,000.

**V. New Business:**

- Carolyn McAuliffe, BSW, Senior Outreach Worker, will be attending next meeting

**VI. Other:**

- None

**VII. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. June 10, 2014 is the next meeting.