



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

February 10th, 2015
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Makayla Lamson, E.O Smith Student Representative
Larry Barlow, MMS Assistant Principal
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Sara Anderson, Early Childhood Coordinator

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:10 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- 1/13/14

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Pat was unable to attend.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **Kindergarten Transition Meeting:** A group of stakeholders (MBOE, public school teachers, private school teachers, parents, etc.) came together to with a facilitator to assess the current plan for children transitioning to Kindergarten, and discuss possible areas of improvement. These meetings will continue with the goal of establishing an effective and inclusive transition plan.
 - **Communications Consultant for MAC:** A selection panel interviewed three candidates for a communications consultant to develop a website and comprehensive communications plan for MAC. Signature Brand Factory was selected as the consulting firm and will begin work in February.
 - **PAWS Conference:** Planning has begun for the March event. Exciting key note motivational speaker and many new workshops. We will be assisting with the event as well as bringing participants from the Winters Adventurer program to the conference.

- **Cope Volunteer Orientation:** New and returning UCONN volunteers participated in orientation in preparation for the spring semester. Volunteers are planning new and exciting activities. We have new elementary school students signing up including a first grader whose father passed away suddenly last month.
- **Parks and Recreation Collaboration:** We met last month to discuss Winter Adventurers and decided to expand the program into a Spring Adventurers program. This program will be advertised in the Parks and Recreation spring flyer. We will be meeting regularly to discuss joint programs and look at areas in which we can expand collaboration.
- **Program Planning:** We are working on a number of new programs which we will discuss as part of today's agenda.
- **Women in Transition Group:** Group has expanded to include more mothers. This is an important support group for mothers who are experiencing a variety of changes in their lives and has been welcoming to new members.

IV. Old Business:

- Winter Adventure Program- The program has been off to a difficult start because of the snow and cancellations.
- Playground Update: Early Childhood Development received costs for the alternate placement of the playground. The alternate placement will cost half of what the original site cost and will be located closer to the Community Center.

V. New Business:

- Collaboration with Area Association for Religious Communities- YSB is working on forming relationships with local Churches to assist in their pantries and need based drives.
- Mansfield Advocates for Children Communication Consultant- MAC interviewed a selection panel of three candidates for a communication consultant to develop a website and communications plan for MAC.
- Mommy and Me- A pre-school group offered at the Community Center will now be offering music enrichment classes for children.
- Leo Partnership- Members of the E.O Smith Leos club will be helping recycle the Lost and Found clothes from the Community Center, and will be helping with the Hope Lutheran Church food pantry.

VI. Other:

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50. March 10th, 2015 is the next meeting.