

## MINUTES

Topic: Youth Services Advisory Board January Meeting  
Time: Jan 11, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/81350274843>

Meeting ID: 813 5027 4843

Passcode: YSAB

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In accordance with PA 21-2 §149 and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually. A video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "MANSFIELD CONNECTICUT STREAMING CHANNEL" (<https://mansfieldct.gov/video>) within seven (7) days after the meeting. Public Comment will be accepted by email at [BellKJ@mansfieldct.org](mailto:BellKJ@mansfieldct.org) or by USPS mail at 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting). Please email [BellKJ@mansfieldct.org](mailto:BellKJ@mansfieldct.org) or call 860.429.3319 by 11:30 AM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

### **Present:**

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair  
Larry Barlow, Vice Chair  
Laura Wright  
Debra Hultgren  
Joseph Csiki  
Lisa Girard  
Henry Christenson

### **Staff:**

Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services  
Katie Bell, Youth Services Supervisor  
Sarah Dufresne, Early Childhood Services Coordinator

- I. **Call to Order**
  - Meeting called to order by Ethel Mantzaris at 12:01 pm
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of minutes:** December 14, 2021
  - Minutes approved by consensus at 12:01 pm

#### IV. **Reports**

- Youth Services Report – Katie Bell, Sarah Dufresne
  - Mentoring programs wrapped up in December. Due to anticipated disruption of availability of UConn volunteers for in-person mentoring given changes in the pandemic landscape, YSB will pivot mentoring programs into virtual programming for next semester for middle school and elementary aged youth. Similarly structured virtual mentoring programs had success last school year.
  - YSB staff will collaborate with elementary school administrators and school psychologists to identify areas where YSB staff can support the schools during the usually scheduled Cope hours.
  - YSB will continue to run after-school clubs alongside Mansfield Middle School clubs following those procedures and protocols for MY Pride and MY Voice.
  - YSB continues to offer counseling services through office, school, and virtual to meet the needs of youth and families.
  - The Willington Ashford Mansfield Restorative Diversion Team (WAMRDT) will orient volunteers virtually on 1/13/2022 in preparation for the diversion program to be ready to begin receiving referrals once the Memorandum of Agreement is signed by the town governances.
    - The Memorandums of Agreement are anticipated to be on the 1/24/2022 Town Council Agenda
- Human Services Report – Pat Schneider
  - Departments are required to submit their proposed budgets to finances by 1/14/2022. Proposed budgets will then be reviewed by the Town Manager who will prepare a Town-wide budget to present to Town Council in the coming weeks.
    - Given the Youth Services Advisory Board’s interest and ongoing support, Pat will prepare a Service Improvement Request for an additional Social Work position for consideration for the Town Manager’s budget.
  - The increased spread of COVID-19 is posing increased challenges for staffing.
  - The Town of Mansfield will be doing a targeted distribution of additional COVID at-home test kits and KN95 masks. This targeted distribution will go to individuals identified as vulnerable populations, agencies in town who offer essential services in order to ensure ongoing staffing, and to the schools to help meet the needs of detection during a time of high spread and low testing availability to minimize disruptions to staff and student attendance.
  - KN95 masks are available to residents at the Mansfield Public Library and the Mansfield Community Center.

#### V. **Old Business**

- Sector reports
  - Larry Barlow reports that Mansfield Public Schools were able to distribute at COVID at home test kits to all MPS staff and some Mansfield families who had submitted requests for test kits. The additional test kits shared by the town will help meet the requests that had previously been unmet.
- Workgroup updates
  - Larry Barlow shared the draft of the letter of support directed to Town Council and the Town Manager’s office to request additional social worker staffing be added to the 2022-2023 proposed budget. Discussion of revisions and edits.
  - 12:35 pm – Laura Wright motioned to send the finalized letter to Town Council and the Town Manager’s office for consideration.

- 12:35 pm Motion seconded by Lisa Girard.
- 12:35 pm Motion passed unanimously

VI. **New Business**

- No new business

VII. **Other**

VIII. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- No public present. No public comment received

IX. **Adjournment**

- Adjourned at 12:39 pm

Next meeting: February 8, 2022 at 12 pm