Minutes
Topic: February Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting
Time: Feb 8, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/82481992938
Meeting ID: 824 8199 2938
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 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 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
Chelsea Ngo, Youth Services HDFS Intern

I. Call to Order
   • Meeting called to order by Ethel Mantzaris at 12:02 pm

II. Introductions
   • Introductions completed with members, staff, and new intern

III. Approval of minutes: January 11, 2022
   • Minutes approved by consensus at 12:06 pm
IV. Reports

- Youth Services Report – Katie Bell (12:06 pm)
  - New HDFSS intern has started working with Sarah Dufresne. Chelsea will help cover new lunch group programs and upcoming event planning.
  - Mentoring programs will be shifting to virtual modalities in after-school hours for middle and elementary school youth.
  - YSB staff will host “Grub Club” groups during typically scheduled Cope times to support youth for in-person elementary school programs.
  - January service numbers are low due to various scheduling disruptions of weather, staff illness, and after school club cancelations due to mask and COVID-19 test kit distribution.
  - The Mansfield Town Council voted to approve Memorandums of Agreement to create the collaborative Willington Ashford Mansfield Restorative Diversion Team (WAMRDT) at the end of January. Members of the team participated in orientation on January 13, 2022 and the diversion program is now eligible to receive referrals.

- Human Services Report – Pat Schneider (12:11 pm)
  - Applications for the department’s Agency Grants are open and will be reviewed by the Human Services Advisory Board at the end of February.
  - The YSAB’s letter was included as part of the Human Services’ budget presentation for consideration of adding an additional Youth Services Social Worker. The budget process is ongoing.
  - Final federal rulings on ARPA funds have been released, Town Council will make final determination of designations of these funds.
  - The Town of Mansfield is working across departments to help agencies conducting essential services and at-risk residents access COVID-19 testing kits as needed.
  - The Senior Center and Mansfield Public Library are offering support for individuals needing help and access ordering the federally distributed test kits.

V. Old Business

- Sector reports (12:18 pm)
  - Lisa Girard reports an increase number of youth concerned about other youth engaged in alcohol use and vaping both regionally and from Mansfield youth.
  - Henry Christenson reports observing increase in vaping by students at school after a decrease during the 2020-2021 school year.
  - Larry Barlow reports that Mansfield Middle School has not seen evidence of vaping behaviors increasing this year but is aware of the general trends and possibilities of this occurring.

VI. New Business

- Sustainable CT initiative (12:25 pm)
  - Announcement of and invitation to upcoming joint commission and committee meeting for the Sustainable CT initiative scheduled for 2/9/22 at 7pm via zoom.
  - Review of task list that YSB has past/future engagement around including upcoming Spring event with a focus on sustainability.
    - Debra Hultgren expressed interest in helping support the event with connections to the gardening club.
VII. Other

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment
- Email from Region 19 Superintendent from E.O. Smith Counseling staff outlining service needs for high school aged youth and families in support of additional staffing service improvement request including individual and family supportive counseling, family support, community education, and partnership with the WAMRDT program. (12:35 pm)

IX. Adjournment
- Adjourned at 12:38 pm

Next meeting: March 8, 2022 at 12 pm