

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Present: Sarah Dufresne, Katie Bell, Pat Schneider, Lisa Dahn, Miguel Colon, Jane Goldman, Denise Kegler, Shamim Patwa, Tracy Smith, Kelly Zimmermann, Judy Torres, Adrienne McPherson, Kimberly Christenson, Jaclyn LaPointe, Tim Schlehofer, Carl Asikainen

Katie Bell recognized Sarah Dufresne for her work during staff transition within Youth Services and for her coverage and support.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 2, 2022 Minutes were approved by consensus at 5:49 PM

4. Carl Asikainen – Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

- a. CCEH is a membership organization focused on the crisis side of housing.
- b. “Reaching Home” is a campaign active at the State Capitol that calls to increase funding to those working on the front lines to prevent homelessness and that the people in these positions are essential workers.
- c. They have also introduced a bill that declares housing as a basic right at the state level, making CT the first state to do so.
- d. There is a pilot program in place in CT that would help teens who are unhoused/unsheltered or have unstable housing.
- e. Best ways to get help is to call 2-1-1 in CT, or reach out to your local Community Access Network (CAN). For Tolland and Windham counties, this is the Access Community Action Agency located at 1315 Main St in Willimantic, (860) 450-7400. They can help with Rapid Rehousing, youth homelessness, and homelessness diversion.
- f. Shamim Patwa, Mansfield’s McKinney Vento Liaison, noted that schools could be more proactive to educate staff on what to look for to help families avoid homelessness. In most cases, they find out after a family has been displaced.
- g. Mr. Asikainen stated that the best way to be proactive is to share this information with the students. He has seen that they sometimes know more about family situations and kids trust each other more.

- h.** Information and resources on homelessness have been added to the Mansfield Advocates for Children website: <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/387/Mansfield-Advocates-for-Children>

5. SCHOOL READINESS COUNCIL ITEMS/STAFF REPORT.

a. MAC Recruitment Initiatives

- i. They are working as we were joined by many new members for the March meeting.

b. FY23 Grant Updates

- i. Due to the OEC May 8, 2022
- ii. Not a continuing grant year – RFT must go out to bid publicly
- iii. Lisa Dahn made a motion “for the Local School Readiness RFP to be due to Sarah Dufresne on Thursday, April 14, 2022 by 6:30 PM. Denise Kegler seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus at 6:19 PM.

6. CLOSING/ UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- a.** MAC will meet virtually in April. It will be discussed then to continue meeting virtually, or move to a hybrid option.
- b.** The current MAC charge does not reflect changes made by the OEC on SR Council membership. Proposed changes will be looked at for the April meeting.
- c.** Next meeting is Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.