

## Minutes

Topic: YSAB - March Meeting

Time: Mar 14, 2023 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/89445382953>

Meeting ID: 894 4538 2953

Passcode: YSAB

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In accordance with PA 22-3, 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  
Debra Hultgren  
Laura Wright  
Lisa Girard  
Ashley Fillian  
Danielle Vliet

### Staff:

Allison Maynard, Human Services Director  
Katie Bell, Youth Services Supervisor  
Robin Kraemer, Youth Services Social Worker  
Jocelyn Santiago, Early Childhood Services Coordinator  
Cathy Pomerleau, Human Services Administrative Specialist

- I. **Call to Order**
  - Meeting called to order at 12:06 pm by Ethel Mantzaris
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of minutes:** February 14, 2023
  - Minutes approved by consensus at 12:08 pm
- IV. **Reports (12:10 pm)**
  - Human Services – Allison Maynard

- Allison has started as the new Human Services Director on 2/27. Pat Schneider has started her retirement after helping provide coverage between her initial planned retirement date and the staffing transition.
- The vacant Youth Services Social Worker position has been re-posted internally and following the required 5-days of internal posting it will move to external recruitment.
- The Human Services portion of the budget will be presented at the April 6, 2023 meeting of the Town Council scheduled to start at 6:30 pm
- Youth Services Report – Katie Bell
  - Counseling services continue to be provided by Mansfield YSB staff. Counseling services are currently at a point of capacity. We are hopeful that the vacant position will be filled soon to be able to offer additional counseling and case management services across the schools and in the office.
  - Spring semester mentoring programs have begun with Robin Kraemer taking over the lead on Cope and Big Friends. Kelly McKenney continues to co-facilitate Big Friends. Volunteers have been oriented and programming has begun. Cope will have a shortened duration of sessions due to the school consolidation transition and scheduling following the April vacation.
  - Fifth grade lunch groups continue to meet at MMS as facilitated by Robin Kraemer.
  - The Willington Ashford Mansfield Restorative Diversion Team (WAMRDT) continues to get referrals that are being seen in circle in as timely a manner as possible. Kelly McKenney continues to run the circles for the Mansfield-referred youth and be the primary case manager for the diversion program.

## V. **Old Business**

- Sector reports (12:28 pm)
  - Lisa Girard asked for clarification of the WAMRDT referral process and procedure to support families who have questions. Discussed the continued shared messaging from time of incident with referring officer/administrator, to WAMRDT coordinator phone call to review program and schedule circle, to WAMRDT case manager scheduling intake and reviewing the process procedure.
  - Lisa Girard shared that families continue to express concern regarding youth social media use and impact on mental health as well as risky/hiding apps that youth are using
  - Trooper Fillian is looking to schedule a social media parent training with Trooper Kate Cummings and is interested in supporting parent education around good decision making as part of the new DARE curriculum. She is currently delivering DARE to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at MMS on a weekly bases as part of their Social Emotional Learning blocks on Fridays. This will be week four of the curriculum. The current model of DARE has been revised over the past several years to be focused on good decision making.
  - Danielle Vliet shared that Mansfield Middle School will be bringing in internet safety curriculum for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders during the school day and hosting a parent training on March 27 at MMS with Scott Driscoll on internet safety. Trooper Fillian expressed interest in helping support that event with information about the DARE curriculum as well.

- Review of Board Composition and Charge (2019 modifications) (12:34pm)
  - Review of recommendations for Youth Services Advisory Board member composition and appointment process from recommendations made by the board in 2018 that had not made it to public record. One change was made to update the grantor from the Connecticut State Department of Education who had previously administered the Youth Service Bureau and Youth Service Bureau Enhancement grants to the current grantor of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. The board composition requirements related to the grant itself have not been changed.
  - 12:36 pm Laura Wright motioned that recommendations be accepted as presented to provide to the Committee on Committees, motion seconded by Trooper Fillian. Vote was unanimous by members to accept these as the continued recommendations for board composition and appointment process for serving on the Youth Services Advisory Board. Katie Bell will share this recommendation to have it heard by the Committee on Committees.

## VI. **New Business**

- Upcoming Events: Hidden in Plain Sight, Volunteer Recognition, Celebrate Pride
  - April 19, 2023 at 5:30 pm at E.O. Smith High School – Hidden in Plain Sight parent/educator training to identify signs that youth are using and hiding substances in a mock-bedroom presentation and how to talk with youth if these warning signs and paraphernalia are found. This training is open to members from any community (adults only) and is free of cost. We are using Local Prevention Council grant funding provided by SERAC to sponsor this training event that is put on by the Connecticut Association for Prevention Professionals (CAPP)
  - April 26 at 5:30 pm at the Mansfield Senior Center – Volunteer Recognition banquet honoring mentor volunteers and board volunteers
  - June 9 at 7 pm at the Betsy Paterson Square – Celebrate Pride! Activities and movie screening of Bohemian Rhapsody at the downtown square
- April 11, 2023 meeting - school vacation week; members agreed to maintain meeting as scheduled. Members had questions about possibility of offering hybrid meeting options in recognition that zoom is often easier to obtain a quorum but that some individuals might enjoy attending in person. Katie Bell agreed to follow up with IT and Town Clerk's office about any specific tech or Freedom of Information Act requirements for the board to consider next meeting to determine if it would like to move to a hybrid meeting format.

## VII. **Other**

## VIII. **Opportunity for Public Comment – no public comment received**

- Emailed, sent via USPS, call-in/video participation at the above link/number

## IX. **Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm**

Next scheduled regular meeting: April 11, 2023