Minutes

Topic: Mansfield Youth Services Advisory Board April Meeting
Time: April 12, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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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
Debra Hultgren
Joseph Csiki
Lisa Girard
Henry Christensen

Staff:
Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services
Katie Bell, Youth Services Supervisor
Lesley Magarian, Office Assistant

I. Call to Order
   • Meeting called to order by Ethel Mantzaris at 12:01 pm

II. Introductions

III. Approval of minutes: February 8, 2022
   • Minutes approved by consensus at 12:02 pm

IV. Reports
   • Youth Services Report – Katie Bell (12:02 pm)
• Staffing Updates: The position of Youth Services Social Worker (YSSW) has been filled. Imoni Petgrave will join Youth Services on 4/26/22. Ellie (MSW Social Work Interns) last day is 4/14/22. McKenzie (BSW Social Work Intern) is with us a few more weeks. Chelsea (HDFS Intern) last day is coming up quickly.

• Virtual mentoring continued through March and schedule to end before the April Vacation.

• Grub Club lunch group transitioned cohorts at two of the Elementary schools in March. All Grub Club lunch groups are scheduled to end the week before the April Vacation.

• MY Voice and MY Pride programs will continue after school at MMS through mid-June.

• A new YSB and Police Mentoring program is being piloted in collaboration with the Mansfield Resident State Troopers Office with MMS students.

• The addition of the Willington, Ashford Mansfield Restorative Diversion Team (WAMRDT) program to serve E.O. Smith students has also helped connect referrals to the previously existing Windham JRB.
  - Trooper Csiki requested JRB referral forms be made available to the Mansfield Resident State Troopers Office for ease of potential future referrals. Katie Bell to reach out to Pat Calvo at Windham’s JRB to facilitate this request. Lisa Girard offered assistance if needed.

• Mother-Daughter Circle Group held its final session. Attendance had dropped off during the winter due to cancelations related to inclement weather and COVID.

• The WAMRDT held its first two circles and saw two Mansfield cases. Two additional cases will be seen during April meeting: one Willington case and one Mansfield case. Positive feedback has been received from the Administration at E.O. Smith High School.

• Human Services Report – Pat Schneider (12:14 pm)
  - The Town Manager’s Budget was presented last month and Town Council has followed up with its recommendations related to Human Services.
  - A service improvement was been put in for an additional full-time Youth Services Social Worker. It was initially presented in the Town Manager’s Budget as a part time position but has been revised by Town Council to be an additional proposed full-time position.
  - The proposed Human Services budget also includes a budget for translation services to be provided to assist non-English speaking residents, particularly parents with youth receiving services with YSB.
  - The proposed budget also includes a service improvement in the Public Safety budget to create an additional Officer position to serve on an Administrative Schedule (daytime) to prioritize responsiveness and community building with youth in Mansfield BOE and Region 19 BOE schools.
  - Some preliminary results have been provided for future building/space locations in the building study.

V. Old Business
  • No updates from YSAB members. (12:25 pm)
VI. New Business
• Katie Bell advised that the YSAB members will be receiving an invitation for a Virtual Volunteer Recognition event that will take place on 4/21/22 from 5-6 p.m.

VII. Other
• Larry Barlow shared that he had completed a Restorative Justice Training 101 and would encourage others to attend. It was informative and provided practical training that could be applied. (12:25 pm)

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment
• No public comment received

IX. Adjournment
• Meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm

Next Meeting: May 10, 2022 at 12 pm