

4 South Eagleville Road
Conference Room B
Mansfield, CT 06268

Minutes Hybrid

Topic: September Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting - Hybrid

Location: Conference Room B or virtual

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/83155934145>

Meeting ID: 831 5593 4145

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 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, Debra Hultgren

Virtual: Ashley Fillian, Laura Wright

Staff Present:

Katie Bell, Youth Services Supervisor

Marangely Diaz, Youth Services Social Worker

Robin Kraemer, Youth Services Social Worker

Jocelyn Santiago, Youth Services Social Worker

Henry Willis, Youth Services Intern

Staff Virtual: Allison Maynard, Human Services Director

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Ethel Mantzaris at 12:03 pm

II. Introductions

- Introductions 12:03 pm – 12:05 pm

III. Approval of minutes: June 13, 2023

- Minutes approved by consensus at 12:05 pm

IV. Reports

- Human Services Report – Allison Maynard (12:06pm – 12:08 pm)
 - This summer there were approximately \$19,000 of campership awards given to Mansfield youth

- 78 youth participated in the Back To School Program including gift cards, backpacks, and supplies
- The upcoming Holiday Program is in the works and is anticipated to include both gift cards and toy donations in partnership with the Resident State Trooper's Stuff-A-Cruiser event
- There is a current memorandum of agreement being reviewed by the town's liability assessment agency to be able to become an outreach site for Mansfield residents to apply for Energy Assistance
- The Fair Rent Commission ordinance has passed and is awaiting various membership reviews by the Committee on Committees. The Commission will hear complaints from residents and assess for unfair/unreasonable rent increases and help make determinations. It is anticipated to begin meeting in October 2023
- Youth Services Report – Youth Services Staff (12:08 pm – 12:20 pm)
 - The Connecticut Department of Children and Families has extended the grant period for the current YSB base and YSB Enhancement grants for an additional year, only requiring budget updates rather than a full reapplication. The grant remains robustly funded.
 - The Willington Ashford Mansfield Restorative Diversion Team (WAMRDT) reapplied for the Juvenile Review Board Mini-Grant through the Connecticut Youth Services Association for the current year and was awarded \$1,500 for use in the diversion program. This is the same amount previously awarded in the 22-23 year. Not all of that previous grant was spent down in the last fiscal year and part had to be returned to the CYSA but there is anticipated increased service utilization and referrals as the program continues to grow.
 - The Local Prevention Council (LPC) grant is due at the end of the week to SERAC and is again being required to focus on vaping prevention. Given previous interventions around youth-directed prevention messaging and programming, the current proposed budget will include indirect support for vaping prevention and early intervention with various staff training opportunities including the national CADCA conference registration and SMART Recovery training.
 - Summer programming at YSB was well attended and well received.
 - The Mustangs service learning program ran twice weekly at capacity
 - GOAL ran once per week with 7 registered participants preparing to enter high school
 - The Covenant Soup Kitchen Volunteer program ran once per week at capacity and was open to both high school and middle school youth this summer
 - YSB participated in numerous outreach and engagement activities throughout the summer including the DIY-Take-and-Make-Family-Pizza Kit Summer Kick-Off give away, support for the MMS ropes course summer school sessions 1 and 2, Moonlight Movies crafts, Youth Day at the Farmer's Market, and in the current start up to the school year attending MBOE Open House Events.
 - School year programs are in the process of recruitment including the large Cope and Big Friends mentoring programs, 5th grade lunch check-in group, and MY Pride groups that have previously run. YSB is working on additional program development to include the expansion of the Mansfield Mustangs service learning program for a project-based school year after school group to run opposite weeks of MY Pride, a new potential Social Emotional Learning and movement once per week after school program for elementary aged youth grades 3 & 4, and an early childhood services family play group drop-in series taking place at the Mansfield Community Center Playground.

- There is ongoing discussions and planning on service expansion opportunities with the high school aged population at E.O. Smith High School. That collaboration is in progress with the administrative team there to identify services needs and logistics to best serve the community. We anticipate most interventions will be group based and open to the general E.O. Smith community but that individual counseling and case management services would still remain only available to Mansfield youth (with other youth being referred to their town's Youth Service Bureau for the more individualized supports, interventions, and referrals).

V. Old Business

- Sector reports (12:20 pm – 12:33 pm)
 - Debra Hultgren shared about updates in E.O. Smith curriculum and teaching methods to be more inclusive and equitable as a result from the work of their Diversity, Equity, and Justice Committee. They are currently looking for increased community participation in identifying areas of need for growth. The committee meets 4-5 times per year with next meeting scheduled for October 24, 2023 at 6pm in the E.O. Smith Library
 - Trooper Fillian shared updates on DARE programing at MMS moving to the fall semester with the incoming fifth graders to increase connectivity and relationship building with the Resident State Trooper's Office and earlier intervention to support healthy decision making. Trooper Fillian has been able to attend/plans to be in attendance at both Mansfield BOE Open Houses this month. She is working with MMS to consider expanding grades served by the DARE program

VI. New Business

- No new business

VII. Other

- Allison Maynard (12:33) shared that the First Baptist Church of Mansfield has reached out to the Human Services Department to make them aware that they have space at their building for community use if there are local groups looking for places to meet.

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public comment received

IX. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Next scheduled regular meeting: October 17, 2023 – Hybrid Meeting