Minutes - DRAFT
Topic: YSAB - September Meeting
Time: Sep 13, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/84055350519
Meeting ID: 840 5535 0519
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, Chair
Larry Barlow, Vice Chair
Laura Wright
Lisa Girard
Debra Hultgren
Henry Christensen
Ashely Fillian (appointment pending)

Staff:
Katie Bell, Youth Service Supervisor
Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services
Sarah Dufresne, Early Childhood Services Coordinator and Youth Services MSW Intern

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

II. Introductions
   • Introductions 12:02 pm – 12:04 pm; Ashley Fillian is joining YSAB pending her official appointment. She will be in the role of representing local law enforcement as the designee of the Resident State Troopers’ Office. She will be taking the place of Joe Csiki who has been the former designee. Trooper Fillian is assigned the “admin schedule” with the Mansfield Resident State Troopers Office, a position added to the 2022-2023 budget year. She has already connected with the YSB office as part of the diversion team.
III. **Approval of minutes:** May 10, 2022 & June 14, 2022
- Minutes approved by consensus at 12:05 pm

IV. **Reports**
- Youth Services Report – Katie Bell (12:06 pm – 12:23 pm)
  - Mansfield YSB starts the current school year down social work staffing due to the departure of Imoni Petgrave at the end of the summer and the vacancy in the new YSB Social Worker position added to the 2022-2023 budget year that had not yet been recruited since its addition. Staff are working together as a team to try and support core programming while being down staff.
  - YSB participated in several successful events over the summer including the Celebrate Pride event that it organized in June with approximately 200 attendees which was well received. Sarah Dufresne supported the Mansfield Downtown Partnerships’ Moonlight Movies events throughout the summer. Kelly McKenney hosted several middle school-aged crafting workshops as well.
  - YSB programming was busy through the summer months with service learning programs and adventure programs. Mansfield Mustangs, led by Sarah Dufresne and Imoni Petgrave was held twice a week for six weeks and was also supported by volunteer to the program and advisory board member Henry Christensen. An additional volunteering program for high school aged youth connecting them with the Covenant Soup Kitchen was led by Sarah Dufresne and Kelly McKenney for the summer and had a successful first summer of program.
  - The Great Outdoor Adventure Learning (GOAL) program returned for the summer led by Kelly McKenney and Katie Bell. It was challenging to recruit youth to this program with a shortened timeline due to external vendors as well as transportation limitations with having to hold Mustangs and GOAL on the same days due to sharing vans with Parks and Rec who have historically utilized buses rather than the vans. YSB is hopeful that next summer will be easier to recruit and have fewer transportation limitations.
  - YSB will have two interns this school year, Sarah Dufresne will be completing her first year MSW internship with YSB under the field supervision of Pat Schneider and Sophia Maselli will be joining the YSB team as a BSW intern from ESCU under the field supervision of Kelly McKenney.
  - Cope and Big Friends mentoring programs will return to in-person this fall in partnership with the UConn office of Community Outreach. Organizational duties and programmatic duties are being split between Katie Bell and Sarah Dufresne. Kelly McKenney will also support the Big Friends Program.
  - X-block check-in groups will on Thursdays for fifth graders again this year, run by Sophia.
  - MY Pride will be held at MMS, facilitated by Katie Bell, on 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.
  - Kelly McKenney and Sophia Maselli are recruiting for the Mother-Daughter Circle to run again this year. If there is not sufficient interest from the community to run the group this year then YSB will look at the additional availability created in counseling schedules for staff and interns during the time that group would typically run.
  - MY Voice will be paused until later in the year when staffing is less tenuous. Additional options being explored for the Local Prevention Council grant funding which is required to be spent on vaping prevention for the 3rd year in a row.
• Human Services Report – Pat Schneider (12:23 pm – 12:32 pm)
  o The Human Services department has several vacancies within the department including the Adult Services Social Worker position, the food services coordinator, a food services assistant position, and a driver position.
  o The R.A.RE program which has previously been reliant on the adult services social worker position for much of the processing of applications is currently being triaged to Pat Schneider’s workload and was supported throughout the summer by YSB staff for coverage as well. There have so far been 8 applications processed and 3 awards granted to qualified applicants in arrearage for utilities and rent.
  o The final Farms to Families distribution occurred on 9/6/2022 and Dorothy DeValle is still working with local farmers and residents for a new food program anticipated to last approximately 18 months in collaboration with the Willimantic CLICK Kitchen.
  o The Back to School gift card program assisted 37 households and a total of 96 youths returning to school to purchase school supplies and clothing needs.

V. Old Business
• Sector reports (12:32 pm - 12:45 pm)
  o Ethel Mantzaris shared updated information regarding the Human Services Advisory Committee that has been asked by Town Council to develop an RFP for ARPA funding for local organizations to apply for. The identified priorities are for organizations that serve the needs of residents in the areas of food insecurity, affordable housing, and mental health. The HSAC is hopeful that this RFP development process will also help inform future applications for Agency Grants from the Town of Mansfield in making determinations about funding awards.

VI. New Business (12:35 pm – 12:51 pm)
• The Local Prevention Council grant administered by SERAC to the Mansfield YSB will again focus on youth vaping prevention this year. The Youth Services Advisory Board which serves as the Local Prevention Council generated ideas for ways that the grant could be spent for the year as there has already been a great deal of interventions in the past two years working with the Mansfield Middle School through the MY Voice public service announcement group. Generated ideas included:
  o Reaching out to E.O. Smith High School for input and potential partnership as the YSB’s expansion of services is pending with hiring for vacancies
  o Creation of additional Public Service Announcements and family premier night events as held in previous years with MY Voice
  o “Hidden in Plain Sight” training with an emphasis on vaping and ways that youth are hiding it
  o Increased bathroom checks at E.O. Smith High School by assigned troopers
  o Parent education on talking to youth about vaping rather than punitive approaches
  o Open/anonymouse dialogues/focus groups and surveys directly with high school aged youth to identify root causes and current social norms. Lisa Girard offered support in facilitating these conversations.
VII. **Other**
- **12:51 pm** Laura Wright asked with the shifting of Big Friends to the after school time at the Middle School if there are currently parent groups that are being offered through YSB as the parent group used to parallel the Big Friends program. While there will be an offering of the Mother-Daughter Circle group, it has proven challenging to find time and gauge parent interest in holding parent groups. Once staffing resources improve there is opportunity to find out what those needs and interests are and how to facilitate those groups effectively either online or in person for those with interest. Lisa Girard shared that parent-led groups have opportunities to apply for funding through FAVOR, CT if they have interest in creating their own groups.

VIII. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
- Emailed, sent via USPS, call-in/video participation at the above link/number
- No public comment received

IX. **Adjournment**
- Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm

Next meeting: October 18, 2022 at 12 pm *Different than usual second Tuesday due to school professional day*