

Minutes Hybrid

Topic: Youth Services Advisory Board Meeting - November
Time: Nov 14, 2023 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
<https://mansfieldct.zoom.us/j/88416491369>

Meeting ID: 884 1649 1369
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: Ashley Fillian

Virtual: Debra Hultgren, Lisa Girard, Laura Wright, Danielle Vliet, Allison Maynard (staff – Human Services Director)

Staff present: Katie Bell, Youth Services Supervisor

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Debra Hultgren at 12:03 pm

II. Introductions

III. Approval of minutes: October 17, 2023

- Minutes approved by consensus (12:04 pm)

IV. Reports

- Human Services Report – Allison Maynard (12:05)
 - The Human Services Season of Giving Campaign is underway to highlight the different programs and ways to give back to community during the holiday season. The Human Services department will be partnering with the Resident State Troopers' Office for the Stuff a Cruiser campaign at the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Winter Welcome event, at the Mansfield Town Hall, the following week, and then at the Eastbrook Mall. The Season of Giving campaign highlights the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, the Holiday Fund, the Campership Fund, the Back To

- School Fund, along with the Stuff-A-Cruiser events and the new “Warm & Cozy Senior Holiday Drive” to provide cozy items for Meals on Wheels participants.
- The recruitment for open positions of Senior Center Supervisor and Senior Center Program Assistant are underway with interviews taking place for both positions in the next two weeks. Human Services staff have been providing substantial coverage at the Senior Center to help during these vacancies.
 - Youth Services Report – Katie Bell
 - Mentoring programs have been robustly attended and positively received by youth and mentors. Both Cope and Big Friends will be winding down for the semester at the start of December in alignment with the UConn exam schedule and will resume in February following the recruitment of spring semester mentors.
 - Tiger Strong at Mansfield Elementary School has started and is now up to 11 participants and been going well. This is the first after-school elementary aged program that has been provided by Youth Services and it has been a positive partnership so far.
 - After school programs at Mansfield Middle School including MY Pride, Mustangs, and Big Friends continue to be well attended. The Mustangs group has identified food waste as the project they wish to learn more about and identify interventions around for the coming year. Virginia Walton, the Town of Mansfield recycling coordinator has agreed to help consult on the project as well.
 - There are not currently diversion circles scheduled for the month of November as the latter scheduled date would conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday, but we do anticipate circles resuming in December with new referrals received during November and pending case closures. The Town of Willington has filled their Human Services Director position who will be doing the case management services for the WAMRDT for any referred Willington youth and families.
 - All grants for the 2023-2024 program year through the DCF Youth Service Bureau base grant and enhancement grant, as well as the SERAC Local Prevention Council grant have been approved and funded. Through the Local Prevention Council grant, YSB staff will be training in the SMART Recovery model for early intervention and thoughtful decision making for substance use. This was an area identified by E.O. Smith of services that would be helpful to their population with the plan to be able to run groups during lunch waves. Additionally staff will be training in the “4 What’s Next” curriculum. By cross training staff in these models there is opportunity for program coverage as needed as well as program expansion opportunities and availability.

V. Old Business

- Sector reports (12:18 pm)
 - Danielle Vliet provided updates on continued after school club programming at MMS and efforts to keep youth positively connected to the school community through robust after school programming as well as making sure youth feel connected to at least one staff member in the building. The Mansfield Middle School in partnership with Trooper Fillian of the Resident State Troopers’ Office have shifted the timing for the DARE Good Decisions curriculum to take place for fifth graders early in the school year rather than later to increase engagement and early interventions. She reports they’ve seen a positive increase in youth expressing concerns when they see something happening in the school community that is cause for concern.
 - Debra Hultgren reports the budget cycle for the Region 19 Board of Education has begun it’s process of proposing its budget for the coming year. She remains active in the work of diversity, inclusion, and equity that the Region 19 Board of Ed has been working on. She identified the

issues of equity around financial status for youth wishing to participate in sports and having uniforms/equipment as a potential barrier for equitable participation and is hopeful to identify ways to make it more accessible for any member of the E.O. Smith community to participate in these activities.

VI. New Business (12:27 pm)

- Youth Services Staff will participate in the upcoming MMS College and Career Day to talk with students about social work, psychology, human services, and youth service bureaus as potential career paths.

VII. Other

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public comment received, no public present

IX. Adjournment (12:28 pm)

Next scheduled regular meeting: December 12, 2023 – Hybrid Meeting