

**Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership
Minutes
August 3, 2007**

Members in attendance: Colin Brennan, Maria Capriola, Chris Casa, Julie Elkins, Ruth Freeman, Matt Hart, Jim Hintz, John Jackman, Sgt. Kennedy, Carolyn Lin, Mike Ninteau, Betsy Paterson, Tom Riba, Robert Yanez

- 1) Conference Update, sharing of materials by Betsy from conference on Community-Campus Partnerships.
- 2) Grant Updates
 - a. Professor Carolyn Lin- UCONN- talked about the recently awarded grant to Reducing College Student High-Risk Drinking Behavior via a Comprehensive Prevention Program, Norms Campaign and Community Partnership Strategy
 - b. Discussion on gaining stats. The group discussed if there was a way to collect data on college-vs.-non-college students in order to measure as part of the grant. No immediate solution was identified but the group will continue to explore options.
 - c. Ruth Freeman provided an update on the Mansfield Underage Drinking Project. There has been a steering committee formed to conduct the work and report back to this group. Ruth works 15 hours a week on this grant. There is a tremendous amount of data, based on the 7 risk factors:
 - A. Retail availability
 - B. Social access
 - C. Low enforcement of alcohol laws and policies
 - D. Promotion of alcohol use
 - E. Low commitment to school
 - F. Peer norms that accept/encourage drinking
 - G. Family norms that accept/encourage drinking
 - H. Low perceptions of harm

The steering committee is meeting the 3rd Thursday of the month at 3pm at Town Hall.

A small group of E.O. Smith students recently attended a Mothers Against Drunk Driving Workshop and will be reporting their experiences to the Steering Group, probably with a request for a specific project to fund.

- 3) New President of UCONN. The mayor talked about what an asset the new President, Michael Hogan, will be to UCONN and to the Community. He has a history of deep commitment to the community and outreach to

students. The Mayor will be extending an invitation to the President to visit our committee at our October meeting.

- 4) Jim Hintz provided updates on work in the area of Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS). Jim would like the MCCP to function as the Advisory group for the office.
 - a. The OCSS has moved to a new temporary location in Residence Life until the end of the Fall semester at which time the OCSS will move to the Student Union.
 - b. AOD services including the Heart House program, has been relocated to the Residential Area of South A.
 - c. Jim presented a draft mission statement and asked for folks to contact him regarding feedback on the statement.

The Office of Off-Campus Student Services advances the mission of the University of Connecticut and Division of Student Affairs by enhancing the experience and supporting the success of off-campus and commuter students. The office serves as an advocate for students and centralized resource for off-campus living. Furthermore, the office strives to internationally design opportunities to improve the quality of community life, foster maturation of independent life skills, promotes the development of responsible community members and cultivates student involvement in the University, Storrs/Mansfield and surrounding communities.

- d. Jim presented a door tag that could be left on a student's door when there is a problem and they are not home, and asked for feedback from the group.
 - e. Reception- invited residents that live in neighborhoods to an open Community Reception. Forum for community members targeting non-students. The reception will be held August 15, 4:30-7pm at the Mansfield Community Center. Light Refreshments will be served.
 - f. Jim has been meeting with area landlords, and trying to recruit members to the group.
 - g. Jim will be working with an intern to look at the Eastern Highland Water issues, and to be a liaison to Fire Service and Housing Inspections.
- 5) Goals for the academic year. Matt Hart offered a set of draft goals for discussion. The group spent some time discussing ways to implement the goals and identified point people for each goal. Julie will be rewriting the goals statements based on the group's feedback and drafting measurable objectives for each goal.

- a. Continue to serve as a forum for discussion for the community.
- b. Continue to serve as an advisory group to review and comment on various town and university initiatives.
- c. Complete white paper on spring weekend.
- d. Initiate voluntary “good neighbor/responsible business” agreement with license holders.
- e. Recruit landlords, neighborhood residents and other stakeholders to join the MCCP.
- f. Complete qualitative Daily Campus research.
- g. Enhance community visits.
- h. Update various MCCP publications.
- i. Introduce legislation to local political leaders.
- j. Conduct annual presentations to Town Council, Region 19, Board of Education, USG and UCONN Board of Trustees.
- k. Work with student groups to develop alternate programming to address spring weekend and other large off-campus parties.

There was a discussion about each item and the group identified a point person for each goal. Julie will draft a revised set of goals with measurable outcomes for the group’s feedback by August 15, 2007.

- 6) Off-campus inspections. Mike Nintean reported that the inspections were proceeding better than planned. They are actually ahead of schedule with inspections. They are currently evaluating and proposing late this month to expand the zone to encompass more units. They may also be recommending that they inspect some high use, high turn over units on an annual basis, instead of every two years, but this is part of the ongoing discussion. Currently they are 4-5 months ahead of schedule. Three hundred landlords have registered. A lot of single family turned over is turning into rentals. Mike is following up on these when they view rental signs.
- 7) Litter patrols. The enforcement officer’s litter has been conducting roving patrols. They have designated Mansfield into 6 districts, and drive around to assess the issues. They are in the process of having a ticket that an enforcement officer can utilize. The process would be notification, a warning and then an actual citation. This is currently under legal review.
- 8) John Jackman of the Mansfield Fire Department stated that he thought it was critical that we work closely with the alcohol licensees and establish an ongoing practice of combating underage serving.
- 9) Tom Riba of UCONN Community Policing reported that they are committed to reaching out to as many First year students as possible by booking speaking engagements with the First Year Experience program. In addition to speaking in FYE classes, Riba and Casa are teaching their own sections of FYE.

10) Kennedy of the Resident State Trooper's Office in Mansfield said that they will be increasing efforts to reach other to students in the community such as increasing routine bicycle patrols. Kennedy commented that he had never been thanked so much in all of his years of service as he was this past spring weekend by the students. Specifically students were thanking the officers for keeping them safe, helping them and this was a true change that he had experienced first hand.

The MCCP meetings have been booked with the Mansfield Community Center for the first Friday of each month at 3pm. The next meeting will be on September 7, 2007.