

Minutes/Summary
Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership
June 25, 2007
3 pm

Members present: Jim Hintz, Matt Hart, Betsy Paterson, Kevin Grunwald, Sharri Bassi, Tom Szigethy, Julie B. Elkins, Cathy Cox.

- 1) Welcome new Director of Off-Campus Services
Jim Hintz greeted everyone and talked about his excitement regarding this new position. Jim will be working on developing a mark-up for a new web site and will bring in the draft for the next meeting to seek feedback from the group. There have been a number of significant changes for the MCCP, while Jim is new to the group, it was reported that Sgt Cox would no longer be the point person for Mansfield. We will await the assignment of a new official. In addition, one of our founding members, Master Sgt. Killarney has retired from UCONN. Officer Chris Cosga has been assigned to Community Policing and will be attending meetings in the future. There were also a number of students that have been with the MCCP for 2 years that graduated this spring, Matt Abbate, Andrew Marone, and Collen Veritullo. USG will continue to be represented by their external affairs leadership, Bob Slattery, and the President Ryan McHardy in addition to other members of USG and the greater student body.

- 2) Grant reports
Several members reported on the grant awarded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health Services. It is an Underage Alcohol Prevention Grant. This is a one-year renewable grant for a 3-year cycle with an award of \$50,000 per year. One of the main focuses of the grant is to assess needs and build capacity in the area of prevention. MCCP members expressed the need to have more involvement with EO Smith Staff linked with UCONN staff. There is a subset of the MCCP that is the steering committee for the grant. Currently they are busy collecting data on Underage Drinking. It does appear that there will be a high need for detailed structured reporting that will be quite time consuming regarding this grant. Members are very glad for the opportunity to work on these issues strategically.

Tom Szigethy, Director of AOD Services at UCONN reported that the University had received a Department of Education grant to reduce high risk drinking. Specific populations of first year students and students affiliated with Fraternity Sorority Affairs will be the target population for this grant. This is a research driven grant that is looking to measure and improve efficacy of participants. One part of the study

will be utilizing the First Year Experience (FYE) classes. Currently about 80% of the instructors of FYE choose to have some type of alcohol/drug education to their classes. This will allow for a control group (20%) no intervention, and then two different types of alcohol education will be presented to the remaining 80% on a random basis.

3) Summer Orientation- parent outreach

There have been a number of members of the MCCP that have been participating in Summer Orientation. For the 2nd year, the MCCP has shared a table with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. There has been a significant increase in business at this table as the reality of a Downtown continues to grow.

Tom Szigethy's office has been working with incoming first year students and their parents in 2 separate presentations on AOD issues. Cathy Cox reported that the Dean of Student's office has also been active in orientation with students and parents.

4) "White Paper" update

Betsy Paterson, Kevin Grunwald, and Julie B. Elkins are working on gathering data to write a "White Paper" on Spring Weekend. Specifically, they are looking to quantify the number of staffing hours/wages that are associated with the weekend. Some preliminary stats have been gathered and they continue to work with sources to move hours to wages to produce the report.

5) Report from National Forum on CC issues/Daytona

Betsy Paterson, Mayor of Mansfield, attended a conference that focused on Best Practices of Building University and City Relations. She shared a number of brochures, pamphlets, and other materials from other campuses. Julie B. Elkins will make copies of these materials and give a copy to Jim Hintz to use as he designs publications for his new office. The group spent some time talking about some specific strategies regarding outreach education, end of the semester furniture/personal property drives, and city codes. See attachment of Betsy's formal report on the conference.

6) Qualitative Daily Campus Project

Julie Elkins is working on a research project for the MCCP regarding the Daily Campus. Specifically she is trying to gain access to the text files of the DC to conduct a qualitative analysis about any possible changes in the last 4 years, (2003-2007) in printed word in the DC. The obstacle in this project may be gaining access to the files. Julie will be contacting the editor in chief of the DC to gain access.

7) Community visit group

Members of the MCCP have agreed that it has been a very positive program to greet off-campus students as they arrive to Mansfield and brief them on town ordinances, resources, and AOD education. Members suggested several ways to improve the program by expanding the number of teams and reducing the number of individuals on each team to two or three individuals. The group will work on a specific format for these visits for the next meeting. In the past members of student affairs had been an active part of this effort but they did not participate in the Spring visits. Matt Hart will revisit the opportunity for student affairs staff to continue in this partnership in the future.

8) USG Update

USG has been busy over the summer with a number of initiatives and one area that has generated a great deal of discussion is how to teach the new incoming students during the first two nights that Carriage House and Celeron is not the place to be. USG is looking into the possibility of alternative programming for those first couple of nights. The group discussed the importance of setting clear expectations with on and off-campus students during the first few days to head off the significant gatherings and problems we had last fall.

9) Future Goals

The group brainstormed a number of ideas for goals for the 2007/08 school year. Matt Hart drafted a list of these goals (see below). The group will work on these goals into measurable objectives during the next meeting.

- 1) Continue to serve as a forum for discussion for the community
- 2) Continue to serve as an advisory group to review and comment on various town and university initiatives (e.g. town ordinances, off-campus website and publications, AOD programs)
- 3) Complete white paper re spring weekend
- 4) Initiate voluntary "good neighbor/responsible business" agreement with various alcohol permittees
- 5) Recruit landlords, neighborhood residents and other stakeholders to join MCCP
- 6) Complete qualitative Daily Campus research
- 7) Enhance community visit teams, and conduct visits

8) Update various MCCP publications

9) Introduce at least one item of legislation

10) Conduct annual presentation to town council, region 19 board of education, USG and UConn board of trustees

11) Work with USG and various student groups to develop alternate programming and to address other issues re spring weekend and other large off-campus parties