

Mansfield Community Campus Partnership

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2006

The meeting began at 3:00.

Present: Julie Bell-Elkins, Ande Bloom, Colin Brennan, Frank Christian-Legay, Cathy Cocks, Sgt. Sean Cox, Kevin Grunwald, Matt Hart, Master Sgt. Linda Killarney, Rose Kurcinik, Andrew Marone, Michael Sarra, Nancy Silander, Officer Sandy Smith, Tom Szigethy, Christine Wilson, Robert Yanez

Rose Kurcinik of Windham Region Transit District discussed the new UConn Guard Dogs service that will begin next Friday. The service has proven to be very successful at Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic, where it has operated for several semesters. Drivers will refuse passengers who are extremely intoxicated, constitute a threat to safety, or damage WRTD property. The service will operate with two buses on Friday and Saturday nights, 10pm-2am. Students should call 967-9670 for a ride.

- The buses will be fully accessible.
- Andrew Marone said the Undergraduate Student Government will begin marketing the service next Friday.
- R. Kurcinik noted that interns will be on each vehicle to handle calls and ensure safety.
- A. Marone asked the Partnership to help in getting the word out to students. The Daily Campus will be contacted and has been supportive of the service.
- Julie Bell-Elkins congratulated the USG for their efforts and thanked WRTD for its responsiveness.
- Robert Yanez asked if the service will be free and open to the community. A. Marone said that is still unclear. R. Kurcinik said the service must be open to anyone, as the vehicles are federally funded.
- There was discussion about using an ID swipe or similar device to communicate to students that it is their responsibility to fund the service. Fees could be minimal, even \$1. Currently, the program is accepting donations.
- T. Szigethy asked if a magnetic telephone number sign can be placed on the buses. R. Kurcinik said yes, but it is possible that the signs will fall off in winter.

Kevin Grunwald discussed the Strategic Prevention Framework Grant, through the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services. The grant amounts to \$50,000 over the next three years. The grant is Federally funded.

Binge drinking and DWI was identified as a problem within the community



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- It is proposed to target students at E.O. Smith High School
- .25 FTE is required for project management
- We should work with the Bacchus chapter and parents of E.O. Smith students

Matt Hart provided an update regarding the Mansfield Housing Code, ongoing inspections, and landlord registration ordinance.

- The Code sets a minimum standard for rental properties in town.
- The Code covers the entire town for complaint resolution, with inspections required in the greater Storrs area. Properties identified as being located in greater Storrs require certification to rent. Certification expires every two years.
- So far, process has been collaborative with the landlords
- Master Sergeant Linda Killarney said she has spoken with many students, and they are ecstatic about the Code. Julie Bell-Elkins concurred.

Julie Bell-Elkins discussed recent off-campus incidents. There have been two meetings between the university and town to address strategic planning, involving landlords, etc.

- M. Hart said that there have been significant problems this fall, including large parties at single-family homes, weapons possession at area apartment complexes, and increased levels of violence.
- M. Hart said the Town faces police coverage challenges, and is working to increase patrols. The UConn Off-Campus Services director will be a great addition to the team.
- The Town has met with landlords, and ING has stepped up to the plate on enforcement at its properties.
- M. Hart said additional outreach is needed to address off-campus problems
- Sgt. Sean Cox said that communication between State Police and UConn Dean of Students Office has improved, with a new communication form developed by the DOS Office.
- S. Cox said that increased need for patrols until 4am has left officers frustrated and tired. The entire state suffers loss of police coverage as officers are called from their communities to the area to provide assistance
- Andrew Marone said that there will be a student-administrator forum held in the next few weeks where this issue can be discussed.
- M. Hart said that this problem is increased by the recent (past 2-3 years) flipping of many single family homes to rental properties.
- L. Killarney said that it is difficult to get officers to sign up for overtime, as they are tired.



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Cathy Cocks discussed Community Standards' processing of off-campus student violations.

- 57 incidents were reported to the Community Standards Office in the past year.
- A tenant list of Celeron Square and Carriage House apts would be very helpful.

Nancy Silander discussed parties occurring in the Birch Rd/Silver Falls area.

- Sometimes, the problem is that parties are not students.
- Tom Szigethy discussed planning for longer parent orientation sessions to address the issue of community responsibility as a way to combat this problem.
- N. Silander asked about parental notification. C. Cocks said that yes, UConn notifies parents of any student under 21 for alcohol violations. Any arrest that is a non-student is banned from campus.
- L. Killarney said that the campus bans are very helpful for UConn Police.

J. Bell-Elkins provided an update on the MCCP Legislative Initiative. She is working with Mayor Elizabeth Paterson to bring state legislators and a representative from the U.S. Dept of Education Higher Education Center to the forum.

S. Cox discussed DWI enforcement efforts. T. Szigethy spoke about the DUI simulation vehicle recently purchased by the AOD Department. The vehicle can be used at E.O. Smith High School for prevention activities.

T. Szigethy provided an overview of Alcohol Awareness Week events.

Aliza Makuch provided an overview of an upcoming annual conference. Partnership members are invited to attend and should contact Aliza for more information.



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Welcome to the MCCP November Meeting

Please sign in...

Name

Department or Organization

E-Mail Address



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