



Community Planning Council

The Community Planning Council was established by Greenwich United Way to encourage the most effective and efficient health and human service delivery system for Greenwich. Comprised of community leaders, nonprofit service professionals, Greenwich United Way board members, and community volunteers, the work of the Planning Council, particularly through its periodic Needs Assessments, has led to the development of some of the Town's most valued programs and institutions.

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Community Planning Council Meeting Tuesday 10/17, 8:30 am, Temple Shalom

Basic Human Needs/Mental Illness: YWCA Domestic Abuse Services

Mary Lee Kiernan, President and CEO, YWCA Greenwich

Meredith Gold, YWCA Director of Domestic Abuse Services

Brent Reeves, Sergeant, Special Victim Unit Supervisor, Greenwich Police Department

According to the Greenwich United Way's Needs Assessment, domestic violence is the number one reported violent crime in Greenwich.

Highlights from the Presentation:

- YWCA Greenwich Domestic Abuse Services (DAS) is one of 18 state-authorized domestic violence service agencies in CT and the only one that serves a single town. The DAS partners with the Greenwich Police Department's (GPD's) Special Victims Section to provide services to the victim and to hold the offender accountable, although most cases go unreported to the police. DAS services are free and confidential.
- Domestic violence is a national and local problem. One quarter of women report being physically abused by a husband or boyfriend during their lives. Domestic violence cuts across socio-economic lines. Approximately 15-20 victims of domestic violence die each year in CT. In Greenwich in 2016, there were 4,100 calls to the DAS hotline and the GPD investigated 308 cases of domestic violence. The DAS provided 3,600 counseling sessions to 600 individuals. DAS provided emergency shelter to 59 victims and advocated for 239 victims in court in 2016.
- Domestic violence manifests itself in many different relationship domains: physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional/psychological violence, verbal abuse, financial abuse, and digital abuse.
- The YWCA Greenwich DAS provides a broad range of services to victims: crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, children and youth programs, community outreach, and professional trainings. DAS has trained the Greenwich High School football team and coaches for the past 4 years and delivers violence prevention curriculum in the classrooms of all public middle schools and Greenwich High.
- The GPD's role is to investigate domestic violence incidents and to ensure the safety of victims. The Special Victims Unit has trained all officers to conduct these investigations with sensitivity, and it has provided all officers with domestic violence investigation packets. The GPD was the first 11 police departments in the State in 2012 to use the Lethality Assessment Protocol to assess the future risk of violence to domestic partners and to use that assessment to take corrective action.
- Over the next several years, the GPD will continue to focus on its training programs, including additional training in strangulation investigations and on an enhanced response to children exposed to violence.
- Additional needs for services to address domestic violence: legal representation, affordable housing, professional training, and prevention workshops for children.

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Next Community Planning Council Meeting:

Tuesday, 11/21, 8:30 am, Temple Shalom. Topic: Youth: A Conversation with Dr. Gildea, Greenwich Public Schools Superintendent

Save the Date:

Tuesday, 12/5, 7:30 am, Greenwich United Way's Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Town Hall Meeting Room. This meeting is open to the public

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