



## 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 2/20, 8:30 am, Temple Shalom

#### Youth: Restorative Justice and Interagency Team Program

Dr. Alan Barry, Commissioner of Department of Human Services

Jennifer Byxbee, Greenwich Youth Services Bureau Administrator

Debbie Katz, Director of Outreach and Community Initiatives, Kids in Crisis

Kristen Mulhearn, District Social Worker, Greenwich Public Schools

According to the Greenwich United Way's Needs Assessment, there has been a substantial increase in the number of teens experiencing anxiety and seeking mental health services.

#### Highlights from the Presentation:

- Dr. Barry noted that two other speakers, Lorraine Termini, Dean of Student Affairs at GHS, and Sergeant Brent Reeves of the Greenwich Police Department, were not able to participate in the panel
- **Juvenile Review Board (JRB):** The JRB oversees a restorative justice program for first-time juvenile offenders who have committed a misdemeanor, have admitted guilt, and seek to avoid juvenile court. The JRB oversees a panel consisting of: the student; at least one parent or caregiver; the Youth Services Bureau (YSB); Department of Human Services; Police Department; Kids in Crisis (KIC); and community agencies. The student has 3 months to complete a goal-oriented contract, which may include restitution; community service; counseling services, etc. KIC provides case management to help guide students to meet their contract goals. JRB offenders cut across socio-economic lines. Typical offenses include drug and alcohol abuse and larceny; technology and social media and the decriminalization of marijuana have posed new challenges. Approximately 90% of the JRB offenders who complete their contracts remain arrest free until at least the age of 19. The JRB serves about 18-19 youth annually.
- **Interagency Team (IAT):** The IAT provides support for at-risk students, identified by the school team, who may be struggling with consistent attendance, success within the classroom, mental health, home and/or social issues. KIC, as part of IAT, provides collaborative case management to help students meet identified goals. Students are referred only after the school has exhausted its resources in serving the student. Participation in the IAT is voluntary for both the student and the parent or caregiver. The IAT team is similar to that of the JRB. The IAT serves about 18-20 youth annually. The IAT also works to address family issues to enhance students' well-being and school experience. The IAT is now administering pre- and post-surveys to assess the program's effectiveness.
- **Other services:** Under a new initiative, the State is delegating oversight for truancy problems to the YSBs. Greenwich also funds Teen Talk counselors, who are KIC staff, located at each of the middle schools to provide year-round mental health counseling services and support for students. KIC also provides outreach support services and a 24/7 helpline (203-661-1911). It was noted that while

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Greenwich has a broad array of mental health and other services to support youth, there are waiting lists for many of these services, particularly for access to child psychiatrists.

**Next Community Planning Council Meeting:**

Tuesday, 2/20, 8:30 am, Temple Shalom. Topic: Substance Abuse: Opioid Crisis among Adults and Older Adults

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