



Derby Youth Service Bureau Year End Report 2018-19

Dear members of the Board the Youth Service Bureau completed another year serving schools, families, and law enforcement.

This year the Youth Bureau through grant dollars funded a number of programs for students and provided professional development training for our staff.

Staff trainings included suicide prevention and mental health awareness, vaping and the emerging trends through the Yale School of Medicine. In addition we collaborated with DCF and the Rape Crisis Center to provide staff with mandated trainings and “minimal facts training”.

We also provided through The Rape Crisis Center “Project Teach” a program that provides age appropriate information about body safety, respecting boundaries and healthy relationships.

The Youth Bureau funded three bus trips for a career day in Hartford, a trip to HCC College, and the personal financial fair “Reality Fair” for business students.

Other events that YSB funding provided for were a college day at DHS, pre and post prom events, Interactive Theatre Group which focused on bullying prevention for elementary schools, Big Screen prevention event for Middle and High School which focuses on making good choices and setting a positive direction in their lives. (This program literally transforms the auditorium into a movie theatre).

This was the year for our student health survey through BHCare (Alliance for Prevention and Wellness). This survey was completed in grades 7-9 -11 and the results are expected sometime in the fall. The YSB also funded this survey through prevention grant dollars.

This year we also provided parent trainings to address growing issues concerning social media and dangers of vaping.

As you may recall the Youth Bureau was awarded a 20,000.00 mental health and suicide prevention grant, only one of 19 awards in the State.

We have completed our first year in the elementary schools in grades 3-5 where students learned how to identify emotions that are not typical and how to identify a trusted adult to talk to with for help. Students also with the help of four great DHS students developed their own personal mental health self-help plan.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the BOE our administrators and social workers for all the help and cooperation in supporting this important mental health initiative.

During the coming school year this grant will fund programs for the Middle and High Schools.

We will provide mental health and suicide prevention training for our staff and programs through the health classes. We will also be providing classes for the community concerning suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

The Youth Bureau annually does community needs assessment through our collaborative partners such as schools, police, mental health providers and State agencies.

Some of the quickly emerging issues facing our schools are the growing concerns relating to the vaping public health crisis. We are working with the Yale School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry who is continuing their research concerning the physical and brain development effects of vaping. We will continue to make programing available to our staff and students based on evidence based data. I have included an article for your convenience relating to the topic of how some schools are rethinking their response to vaping in schools.

In addition we are concerned about some emerging trends concerning purely synthetic drugs making their way into the country which we should be aware of. Our prevention council is fortunate to have Robert Lawlor CT Drug Intelligence officer provide current information regarding these emerging trends. The YSB will keep the school district abreast of any locally alarming trends.

The issues with social media continue to be alarming as we are seeing behaviors that are increasingly more provocative and concerning both for schools, parents and law enforcement. We will continue to provide training for staff, students and parents as we continue to meet the growing challenges in these areas.

The effect that social media and substance use have on mental health is also a growing concern and we will continue to work with our social workers to provide whatever relevant training, information and community based services that are appropriate with no cost to the District.

This year our JRB remained very active as we heard over 30 cases 15 of which were Derby cases. The offenses ranged from, assault, breach, marijuana, vaping, threatening and criminal trespass.

The YSB continues to work with the States Attorney's Office and juvenile probation to better understand the changing laws and how we can provide the most effecting interventions as we all work together to meet these dynamic challenges.

The Youth Bureau will continue to make training available through these agencies for our administrators and police.

The Youth Bureau had a very active year as well concerning residency verifications. We continue to work with the housing authority and have made much progress building our relationship with landlords and property managers in the effort to verify information for Central Office.

It is vital that both Derby and Ansonia continue to be vigilant in the process of verification as more and more people move to the area and double up without approval of landlords or violates Hudd regulations.

The housing situations remains a major issue in driving density and increasing education costs and other City services.

I have attached my year end Residency report for your convenience.

Submitted; John Saccu / Director



Derby Youth Service Bureau

Year End Residency Verification Report 2018-19

Total Home Visits 159

Found not to be residing in Derby 19

Welfare Checks 7

Truancy visits 6

Filing with DCF after home visits 2
(Children found at risk)

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Discipline or treatment? Schools rethinking vaping response

By PAT EATON-ROBB May 26, 2019

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A glimpse of student athletes in peak physical condition vaping just moments after competing in a football game led Stamford High School Principal Raymond Manka to reconsider his approach to the epidemic.

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His school traditionally has emphasized discipline for those caught with e-cigarettes. Punishments become increasingly severe with each offense, from in-school suspensions to out-of-school suspensions and, eventually, notification of law enforcement.

But Manka began thinking about it more as an addiction problem, and less of a behavior issue, after seeing the video posted from another school showing students vaping near their bus. “It broke my heart,” said Manka, whose school is now exploring how to offer cessation programs for students caught vaping or with vaping paraphernalia.

“We’ve got to figure out how we can help these kids wean away from bad habits that might hurt their body or their mind or otherwise create behaviors that can create habits that will be harmful for the remainder of their lives,” he said.

Schools elsewhere have been wrestling with how to balance discipline with prevention and treatment in their response to the soaring numbers of vaping students.

Using e-cigarettes, often called vaping, has now overtaken smoking traditional cigarettes in popularity among students, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last year, one in five U.S. high school students reported vaping the previous month, according to a CDC survey .

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains high levels of nicotine — the addictive drug in regular cigarettes and other tobacco products — flavorings and other chemicals. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs; when they exhale, bystanders often breathe it in too.

Compared with regular cigarettes, the research on the health effects of e-cigarettes is painfully thin. Experts say that although using e-cigarettes appears less harmful over the long run than smoking regular cigarettes, that

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doesn't mean they're safe — particularly for youth, young adults, pregnant women or adults who do not currently use tobacco products.

“Studies have shown that e-cigarette use among young people is potentially associated with an increased risk of progressing on to cigarette use and to vaping cannabis, which has become increasingly common in recent years,” said Dr. Renee Goodwin, a researcher and professor of epidemiology at the City University of New York and Columbia University who studies tobacco and cannabis use.

Besides nicotine, e-cigarettes can include other harmful substances, including heavy metals like lead and cancer-causing agents. The vaping liquid is often offered in a variety of flavors that appeal to youth and is packaged in a way that makes them attractive to children. And the long-term health effects, Goodwin noted, are unknown.

Experts say the CDC classifies e-cigarettes as a tobacco product, and many schools lump vaping in with tobacco use in applying codes of conduct, treating offenses similarly.

In Connecticut alone, administrators dealt with 2,160 incidents in which students were caught vaping or with vaping paraphernalia in violation of school policies during the 2017-18 school year, up from 349 two years earlier. The schools issued 1,465 in-school suspensions and 334 out-of-school suspensions, according to the state Education Department.

Nationwide, some schools have removed bathroom stall doors or placed monitors outside of restrooms to check students in and out. Others have installed humidity detectors that sound an alarm when vapor clouds are detected.

Lawmakers are beginning to show similar concerns. Oklahoma has passed legislation to ban vaping on school property, and a dozen states have passed legislation to increase the age for smoking and vaping to 21.

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Nevertheless, some school districts have begun taking a more comprehensive approach by emphasizing treatment and prevention.

The Conejo Valley Unified School District in southern California recently shifted from suspending students for a first offense to sending them to a four-hour Saturday class on the marketing and health dangers of vaping. A second offense results in a one- or two-day suspension coupled with several weeks of a more intensive six-week counseling program that includes parents.

“I think we are seeing quite a bit of success, basing it on the reduction this year in both the number of incidents reported on campus and the number of suspensions,” said Luis Lichtl, the district’s assistant superintendent.

“The schools that seem to be most effective are those that are of course enforcing their disciplinary code — they can’t do otherwise — but are using that as the floor and not the ceiling,” said Bob Farrace, a spokesman for the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Linda Richter, an expert on vaping and adolescent substance use who works at the New York-based Center on Addiction, suggests that schools provide information about the health consequences and how companies have manipulated students to use vaping products by making it appear fun and cool. She said that two-pronged approach led to a successful decrease in the use of traditional cigarettes.

“To expect a 13, 14 or 15-year-old to break an addiction by yelling at them or suspending them, it’s just not going to happen,” she said. “They need help, treatment, counseling, support, education and understanding.”

Dr. J. Craig Allen, medical director at Rushford, a mental health treatment center in Meriden, said suspending teens for vaping may be counterproductive.

“If your solution is to send these kids home, what do you think they are going to be doing at home,” he said. “They are going to be taking rips off their Juul all day long to kill the time.”

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Thomas Aberli, the principal at Atherton High School in Louisville, Kentucky, said it began an intensive anti-vaping education program this year with the help of the American Association of Pediatrics. Teaching teens about how vaping companies have been courting them with flavored products seems to be having an effect.

“You could tell how angry they were getting with this sense of manipulation,” he said. “That was really a turning point for us in knowing the best way to approach this problem.”

Other schools have continued to emphasize discipline in crackdowns on teen vaping.

At the Mattawan Consolidated School District just outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Principal Tim Eastman recently wrote to parents that students found congregating in bathrooms or parking lots will be taken to the office and searched.

“Anyone found with vaping equipment will face suspensions,” Eastman wrote. “Although this may seem extreme, the health and safety of our students is too important to ignore.”

Eastman said the school is not currently providing those caught vaping with any additional education or medical intervention, but is considering it.