



Youth Bureau Year End Report

2015-16

Board Of Education

The Youth Bureau has completed another year serving our children, families and school district.

The Juvenile review board heard over 30 cases this year, approximately 50/50 between Derby and Ansonia. These cases were referred from the juvenile court, law enforcement and the school system. All of these cases were successfully diverted from the court with services provided by the JRB and all students successfully completed the process.

With the State raising the juvenile jurisdiction age from 15 through 17 and now the possibility of raising it again through 20 in the next legislative session we need to be ready to handle more cases diverted from police and the court.

School based diversion to the JRB is another direction the State is moving in to try and reduce out of school suspensions and expulsions for the exception of serious violations such as weapons or sale and distribution of drugs.

The Youth Bureau will continue to work with the juvenile court system, law enforcement, SDE and when necessary the States Attorney's office to provide information to our Board concerning changes that effect our schools and students. Our goal is to provide relevant information to the Boards of Education so that local policies can more closely reflect the direction of the State.

In addition the Youth Bureau (with the help of grant dollars) provided programs to our students in the areas of Youth Mental Health, suicide awareness, substance use prevention, education and social media safety. Once again this year we were able to support our post prom programs as well as coordinating our simulated crash program with our team from the Storm Engine Company.

Annually the Youth Bureau conducts a community needs assessment along with our collaborative partners in education, law enforcement, mental health, and juvenile probation.

Program development is created and grant funding is identified to support such programs that will not burden the education budget or taxpayer dollars.

Residency investigations:

The Youth Bureau continued to work with all schools and the Central Office concerning residency issues.

I conducted 94 home visits to verify residency questions.

Of these 18 were determined to not be living at the stated address and reported to central office and or Schools. In addition 3 new applications for registration were rejected after it was determined that the landlords were unaware of the number of occupants and fire code violations. It should be noted that these cases would have been out placements.

Truancy: I conducted 12 home visits to support the schools concerning truancy and chronic absenteeism.

Lastly the Youth Bureau represents Derby on the State Youth Bureau Board, the South Central Regional board, The State (LIST) Local Interagency Service Team which is charged with the mission of reducing youth involvement in the juvenile court system and early identification of mental health issues.

Locally the Bureau also serves on school Governance Councils, Local Prevention Council at BH Care, Valley council, The Mental Health collaborative at PCRC and the Valley Community Foundation Data Team.

Submitted:

John Saccu

Director