



Derby Youth Service Bureau  
Task Force Report/School District  
Year end 6/30/20

The Youth Bureau conducted 111 home visits and landlord verifications for new student applications or questions of residency since the start of school. There were four applications rejected for non- residency verification and 4 families found not to be living in Derby of which one is an out placed special education student at an estimated cost of 100,000 per year. Also included in the 111 home visits were 15 for truancy and parent meetings.

The homeless issue continues to be a major problem for our district and costs to transport these students is mounting. The homeless issue is caused primarily when families are displaced because of eviction for nonpayment. Many of these cases have been long term and is putting strain on the budget. We continue to work with these families in the effort to transition them to a more permanent location. I have been successful in obtaining funds available through TEAM to help with rental deposits which has helped keep families in their rents and avoided homeless situations.

The Juvenile Review Board continues to be very busy this school year. We have had 9 student arrests and have taken other referrals from the schools as well. Offenses range from breach of peace, possession of marijuana, assault, vandalism, Criminal Mischief, Disorderly conduct, possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia and distribution of a controlled substance. Vaping continues to be a major health concern among or youth in and outside of school. Most of the students are now vaping high levels of THC which can have serious side effects such as psychosis and addiction. The Youth Bureau has been providing prevention and education programs at the High School and will be providing vaping and juuling programs that help kids who wish to quit.

We are in our second year of a 20,000 dollar mental health grant that provides education for elementary school students in the area of mental health awareness and in the middle and high schools for suicide prevention. This program is call SOS (signs of Suicide) and provides information about depression, anxiety, suicide and self- harm behavior. It also provides information on how to seek out help from a trusted adult.

The coming year brings many new challenges concerning prevention programming, juvenile justice diversion (juvenile review board support) mental health prevention and interventions as well as PD for staff and family supports.

The Youth Bureau will continue to work closely with our schools and community collaborative partners to understand the needs of the district and to continue to develop effective interventions and methods of delivering these supports during the covid-19 pandemic.

Respectively submitted;

John Saccu

Director



## **Programs provided to the Derby School District**

### **Derby Youth Service Bureau**

During the 2019 school year the Youth Bureau was awarded a 20,000.00 dollar mental health and suicide prevention grant which was spread over two years. The programs that have been implemented in the schools have been in elementary, middle and high school.

They include for staff and students:

- QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) a program that covers suicide awareness and prevention. This program was for staff and provided in collaboration with The Alliance for Prevention and Wellness at BHCare.
- SOS (Signs of Suicide) a nationally recognized evidence based program that provides staff and students with the knowledge and noticing skills to identify signs or symptoms of suicide-ideation and how to get that person help. This program was provided through the health classes and DHS and DMS. This program will continue during the coming school year.
- The Youth Bureau along with the collaboration with our community mental health partners at BHCare implemented the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale with our social workers and guidance Department. This is the most recognized evidence based suicide rating scale in the country and has been vetted for efficacy over 120 times. This scale is usable by anyone, anywhere, to assess someone's risk for suicide and help save a life. The online training was provide to our mental health staff for their use and will continue to be available for the future.
- Gizmo: Gizmo is an evidence based mental health awareness curriculum for elementary age students. The program is designed to help students become aware of their emotions and be able to recognize when their feelings are an indicator for them to seek out a trusted adult to speak to. This curriculum is told through the personality of a therapy dog named Gizmo who is a real

therapy dog. This curriculum will continue to be available to teachers for the future.

- **Fairfield Educational Drama Group:** This organization provides a series of social dramatizations with actors playing out the rolls of youth. It covers topics such as substance abuse, social media safety, healthy relationships and sexual behavior. The actors also engage with the students who actually get to participate in the skits.
- **Internet Safety Concepts:** This organization is owned by Scott Driscoll who is former law enforcement who worked with the FBI for years arresting on line child predators. He has provided programs in our schools and now the Youth Bureau has contracted him to do virtual trainings with students and parents on internet and social media safety. These program will continue this coming school year as well for parents.
- The Youth Bureau provides all supplies such as tables, food and beverage for the DHS annual collage fair. This is in coordination with the guidance Department.

**The Youth Bureau provides for three annual bus trips for DHS students.**

- The annual trip to Housatonic Community College
- The annual college fair in Hartford.
- The annual personal financial fair (“Reality Fair”) sponsored by the CT Credit unions at Torrington High School. This bus trip is for DHS business students and teaches personal financial responsibility.

All programs are paid for through the Youth Bureau’s grant process and there is no cost to the school district.

**Juvenile Review Board (court diversion program)**

The Youth Bureau collaborates with the Schools, law enforcement and the juvenile court to provide restorative programing to students who have been expelled, suspended or arrested. The Bureau contracts with or prevention agency Alliance for Prevention and Wellness for education and referral for substance abuse and other mental health or behavioral issues. There is also no cost to the District for these services.

Submitted:

John Saccu  
Director

**Youth Bureau Total grant dollars 2008-2019-20**

**Total Grant Dollars = 311,605.00**

**Total Program Administrative Grant dollars= 154,000.00**

**Total Grant dollars for Direct program cost= 171,605.00**