

DRAFT Minutes from Youth Mental Health Needs Committee

Wilton Social Services Commission

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Wilton Youth Services Offices, Comstock Lower Level

Attendees: Colleen Fawcett (Staff); Jihan Nage (WYS Intern), Social Services Commission and Youth Mental Health Needs Committee Members Pam Kelley and Deborah Low

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

1. Group reviewed information forwarded to committee by Sarah Taffel from the insurance company regarding insurance coverage for WYS staff. (The Mental Health Needs Committee had sent questions to Sarah Taffel.) The information confirmed coverage for WYS work. Remaining question: Is the job description of WYS staff up to date? Colleen Fawcett reported it was written about 20 years ago and is still accurate and aligned with the state components for a youth services bureau. However, although in practice by the staff, definitions for length of services to clients are not in the job description.
2. Pam Kelley and Debbie Low acknowledged and thanked Colleen Fawcett for emailing updates and a progress report to the 2006 Youth Services Needs Assessment.
3. Colleen Fawcett and Jihan Nage presented 2010 – October, 2015 data regarding clinical services for town youth including number and sources of referrals, outcomes of referrals, long and short term counseling, number of sessions, presenting problems, etc. Although harder to quantify, Colleen described the support work that goes with the data described: extensive and on-going phone, email, and discussions with service providers and school personnel, etc. Colleen responded to questions and the group discussed the information.
4. Colleen described the functions of WYS program coordination, development, and support. She described the extensive work in support of the Wilton Youth Council.
5. Colleen reviewed a list of services that WYS should provide but is unable to at this point because of work load in other areas. The group discussed the needs with Colleen and Jihan.
6. In answer to group questions, Colleen described the Kids In Crisis and Teen Talk Counselor services used in some other towns. In addition, DCF and the 2-1-1 crisis response team was described.
7. Colleen presented preliminary information of funding for Youth Services Bureaus in other Fairfield County towns.
8. The group discussed to what extent the information provided to and discussed by the committee provided the basis for a current needs assessment. The group agreed that much information had been provided and a good picture had emerged. The group thought there remains some information to gather from school personnel. The group discussed the information that would be helpful.
9. The group discussed possible next steps:

- a. Provide Colleen's updates and progress to 2006 report to all committee members.
 - b. Compose draft of questions to possibly ask (via survey?) public school counselors, social workers, and psychologists regarding their familiarity, use of, and assessment of WYS functions and any important mental health needs they feel are not addressed by WYS. Present draft of question to Wilton Social Services Commission at an upcoming meeting.
 - c. Report on committee work to the Commission.
 - d. Next committee meeting: November 17 at 6 PM.
10. The group approved the minutes of the Sept. 29, 2015 meeting and thanked Colleen and Jihan for their work in compiling and reporting comprehensive information and data for the committee.
 11. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.