

Region 3 Regional Advisory Council
Listening Forum at Middletown High School
Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2018

In Attendance:

Banton, Kym	Doherty, Margaret	Moller, Regina
Boxley, Liz	Grivois, Lorna	Natoli, Ally
Broomfield, Jenny	Halpin, Myke	Russo, Robin
Calamari, Annie	Hinchey, Deborah	Ureka, Gail
Carbonella, Justin	Jacaruso, Jon	Wilson, Rachel
Dailey, Bonnie	Jenkins, Ladwana	
DiMauro, Nancy	Meyers, Laura	

Introductions

Ralph indicated that the top 3 topics requested to discuss today are homelessness, mental health and suicide prevention.

Ally announced the State Department of Education has been awarded a SAMHSA grant that is a little over a million dollars a year over 5 years. Middletown, Windham and Naugatuck schools have been selected. This will support exposure to evidence based practice. One position in Naugatuck has been filled to oversee this work, Middletown has been posted. This position will not be part of the school based clinic but will fall under the Board of Ed.

Some Middletown School system challenges were discussed. Ladwana discussed understanding what each other does. Make communities aware of the efforts that the Department has made and education around services that are available without DCF Intervention.

Justin discussed the importance of maintaining relationships. Justin and Ralph discussed monthly meetings they used to hold that included DCF, providers, EMPS, and the high school. Michelle Peterson discussed outposted DCF staff and underutilization of them. Still working on where they should be posted for the most utilization.

Allon discussed wanting the Department to be a relevant partner with schools and asked where we are not involved enough. Myke wants to connect DCF and PTA's. Kym suggested inviting providers to take part in trainings that the Department provides.

Ralph indicated that homelessness is a growing population. Most are living with people they know and not shelters. Depression and anxiety are big, school avoidance is also an issue. PTSD is huge right now, trend is going up. Discussed chronic truancy and lack of services. Lorna described a program for kids

with school avoidance, depression and anxiety, a classroom in the middle school is used so these kids aren't with their peers, light curriculum that meets their interests and needs for a couple hours a day. Justin will send Robin the article to send to the group.

Gail Ureka discussed youth homelessness and her desire to help with truancy before a 136 is done

A program for youth that struggle to transition out of foster care was discussed.

Laura Meyers discussed her being a HART liaison and her efforts in raising awareness in the community and to train school staff. She also offered a curriculum around prevention that she could provide in the school.

Ralph indicated that currently marijuana is the drug of choice in Middletown High School. They did a Chasing the Dragon training on heroin for both parents and students. Justin discussed a lot of work around prevention and awareness. Discussion continued around the correlation between depression/anxiety and marijuana use, self-medicating.

It was confirmed that ACRA can be used and there is no wait list.

Ralph recommended maybe meeting twice a year.