

Norwich Office

Involvement with the New London County Schools with the
Out posting of staff and School Liaisons

David Silva, Intake Program Manager

Out Posted Intake Staff

Timothy Curtis – Stonington PD

Yvette Gilbert – Kelly Middle school, Norwich

Tom Serluca – Groton Town PD

Melissa Martin – Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, New London

Rosie Cortez-Rivera – Nathan Hale School, New London

Pete Woycik – Waterford PD

Terri Butler – Griswold Middle School

Mike Riske – Colchester Elementary School

Rebecca Jeffery-Cimini – Troop E, Montville

Nitza Ortiz -- 1/2 day per week in the Backus ED

Kristi Davis – 1/2 day per week at NFA (Norwich Free Academy)

New London Out Posted Staff

- Meeting with Women's Center
- Meeting with NL schools social workers
- Mandated reporter trainings
- Daily discussions with middle school counselors, psychologist, and SW
- Met with housing supervisor at High Rise in New London
- Meetings with resource officers
- Attended after school, high school fair
- Made home visits with police on non referral cases to promote safety and community services
- Met with Victims' advocate to discuss my role as DCF ISW in New London
- Assist the schools with making contact with student's DCF worker where there is a school related incident.
- Discuss potential referrals on a case by case basis with school staff: Social workers, RNs, teachers in an attempt to help them process steps taken to mitigate any concerns
- Contact resource officers for assistance with any referrals
- Contact School Base Clinicians in an attempt to better serve the child and family
- Do Mandated Reporter in the community as needed: schools and community agencies
- Participate in monthly meetings with Truancy Review Board to discuss and develop a plan for parents to address truancy issues; contact and report to on-going worker if a case if open.
- Participate in meetings with Children First New London Safety group to discuss concerns related to the increase in truancy and ways to address these.

Stonington PD Out Posting

- All requested mandated reporter training in the Stonington, North Stonington, and the Preston Schools.
- Annual meetings with schools and the Youth Officer to update on contact information.
- Numerous phone calls from school Administration and Stonington School Social Workers to discuss resources for families and to give guidance on the report process.
- Work collaboratively with and refer clients to the Stonington Youth and Human Services for resources such as counseling and assistance with filling out paperwork for services.
- Work with the police department and attend some non-referral home visits when the school has a concern about a child's attending school.
- Assist the Police with finding the proper resources for families that are struggling with economic needs.
- Assist the schools with making contact with student's DCF worker when there is a school related incident.
- Daily contact with the Youth Officer to discuss any concerns with children and to coordinate with DCF workers to obtain any requested police involvement with their cases.

Colchester School Out Posting

- Colchester FWSN Committee
- Meeting with Colchester schools social workers & administrators
- Mandated reporter trainings for school, summer recreation and daycare
- Daily discussions with school counselors, psychologists and SW
- Meeting with C-2-Colchester Cares Initiative to identify families in town who may need services/support
- Meetings with Colchester P.D. resource officer and State Police
- Made home visits with police on non referral cases to promote safety and community services
- Work collaboratively with and/or refer clients to community providers
- take occasional calls from principals, school psych, and/or guidance as a consulting resource (but make clear I make no decisions for them with respect to reporting or not)

Groton Town PD Out Posting

- all requested mandated reporter trainings for Groton area
- Groton summer camp presentation on safety and reporting with GTPD
- citizen's police academy sponsored by GTPD; presentation provided on the DCF process and reporting
- Navy CRC meetings monthly
- with the above, almost daily contact with Navy FAP consulting on cases that may or may not be a referral
- daily consulting with GTPD on various cases
- Attended National Night Out event (community event sponsored by GTPD emphasizing "safety") as a DCF rep
- Almost immediate access to details of police reports
- facilitate all other Norwich DCF staff's obtaining the details of GTPD police reports that are requested
- composing occasional email to an adolescent worker (Norwich and/or any other office) of kids in local group homes that get arrested and may be in lock-up here at GTPD
- Attend quarterly Groton Youth Advisory Committee
- Chairperson for Groton ROCKS, school based recognition program for children who go above and beyond.

Kelly Middle School Out Posting

- Meet daily with school staff (school based clinician/nurses)
- Daily discussions with principal, asst. principal, guidance, school psychiatrist.
- Meet with resource officer regarding cases that the Norwich PD is currently investigating and/or behavioral issues that warrant suspensions, arrests, etc.
- Conduct home visits with family liaison, resource officer, guidance to accommodate families that do not have viable transportation.
- Meet with parents to connect to community services for themselves and children.
- Collaborate with community supports to identify services for students/parents.
- Monthly attendance meeting to discuss effective means to minimize absenteeism, tardiness. Collaborate with courts (FWSN) for possible referrals
- Meeting with guidance, SSW to discuss mental health services available.
- Consult with all Norwich schools staff regarding questions of possible abuse/neglect/referrals for students/families.
- Verify open DCF cases for staff-provide with ROSW name/contact information to ensure communication to meet the needs of the student.
- Attend school staff meeting when applicable.
- Log Consults/outcomes/reports to the DCF Careline.
- Assist staff with making reports as deemed appropriate.
- Attend PPT/parents meetings to determine if abuse/neglect or referral needed for services.
- Planning to attend Pot Luck dinner (created to promote increase in parent participation in student's academic/activities)
- Consult during summer months with Bridges summer camp 2-3 times weekly at Kelly.
- Discuss children not picked up at designated time (solutions).
- Organized Destiny Africa performance (May 15, 2015) to promote interest in Art, culture and diversity.

Waterford PD Out Posting

- Mandated reporter training for the community
- Liaison to Waterford East Lyme school system
- Contact with school administrators about concerns with bullying and sexting.
- Work with School Resource and youth officers.
- Work with Waterford Youth Services about community services available to families.
- Occasionally meet with families that come into police station with family issues.

School Liaison Program

- In 4/2011 met with the Superintendents at Learn to discuss the process of having a particular staff assigned to their schools as a liaison. This initiative was overwhelmingly approved. Canvassed staff in regard to their interest. Met with each school, that was interested, with their liaison. Over 35 staff have been assigned to different schools in our area. Out posted staff serve as liaisons to the schools in their area in combination with other staff from the office.
- Many of the school liaisons do similar things as the out posted staff but to a lesser extent.

Positive Outcomes from the Community Connection

- Helps the Department in achieving the Cross Cutting themes of building community and agency partnerships and becoming a learning agency.
- Increased communication between DCF and the community.
- DCF and the Schools can learn from each other about their different systems.
- Prevention work with families some of whom may not have an active DCF case.
- Better outcomes for children and families due to the open dialogue between agencies.
- Helping to strengthen families through a team approach.
- Working together to reduce truancy
- Education of the community on mandated reporter responsibilities
- Build supportive and trusting relationships with a particular person

Positive Outcomes (cont.)

- Building relationship with the police to help reduce trauma to children during times of crisis due to proximity of staff.
- Impart new DCF initiatives to the community
- Helped the police Departments to become active members of our MDT.
- Schools and community get access to the Norwich office staff when looking for a service for a family.
- Please see attached story regarding SW Days work at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School.
<http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=4071&Q=500416>