**April 20th, 2016 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2016***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:
* -Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues. (5 minutes)
* -Review PAWS update (30 Minutes)- Paws extension to Hayestown
* -Commissioner Visit in May- (30 Minutes)- Questions for commissioner review
* -Parent project initiatives- (15 Minutes)- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Any new agencies that need to be added to the Regional Resource guide (All Region 5 LIST area, i.e. New Milford, Newtown.) to be updated by May 2016

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism project**

*Preliminary progress with PAWS pilot expansion-*

* + *Hayestown Elementary School has started PAWS program. Youth have been identified. Discuss the areas and funds to be used to help start up program.*
  + *Rogers Park Middle School will initiate program next academic school year.*

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* ***Visit from Commissioner***
  + *1. Community-based programs - What programs should we introduce or expand to help meet the needs of youth who would otherwise be served by DCF at CJTS?*
  + *2. Community supervision of youth - What strategies, policies and/or programs are needed to keep more youth in the community rather than in locked settings?*
  + *3. Secure confinement - What kind of settings do we need for the young people who need secure confinement?*
  + *In addition to the above thoughts you should also be thinking about what else needs to be considered to close the facility.*
* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.*
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Upcoming events:** 
  + Drug Takeback Day April 30th
* **Open Floor:**

**Next Meeting date: May 17th, 2016 9:30am at Newtown Youth and Family Services**

**15 Berkshire Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482**

Recap prior Meeting- Goals of Next Meeting: Commissioner Meeting

**March 16th, 2016 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2016***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:
* -Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues. (5 minutes)
* -Sexting Trainings (10 Minutes)-which members will be attending? Who will do training in Danbury?
* -Review PAWS update (30 Minutes)- Paws extension to Hayestown
* -Commissioner Visit in April- (30 Minutes) Questions for commissioner review
* -Parent project initiatives- (15 Minutes)- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Any new agencies that need to be added to the Regional Resource guide (All Region 5 LIST area, i.e. New Milford, Newtown.) to be updated by May 2016

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism project**

*Preliminary progress with PAWS pilot expansion-*

* + *Hayestown Elementary School and Rogers Park Middle School seeking to start PAWS program. Youth are beginning to be identified. Discuss the areas and funds to be used to help start up program.*

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* ***Visit from Commissioner***
  + *1. Community-based programs -- What programs should we introduce or expand to help meet the needs of youth who would otherwise be served by DCF at CJTS?*
  + *2. Community supervision of youth -- What strategies, policies and/or programs are needed to keep more youth in the community rather than in locked settings?*
  + *3. Secure confinement -- What kind of settings do we need for the young people who need secure confinement?*
  + *In addition to the above thoughts you should also be thinking about what else needs to be considered to close the facility.*
* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Discuss setting up parent panel based around storytelling and what experiences they have had in Danbury (related to school/court) to be held April 30th (Tentative Date)
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Upcoming events:** 
  + Drug and Alcohol Trends March 23rd
  + Drug Takeback Day April 30th
  + Opioid prevention Forum April 7th
  + Family University April 9th
* **Open Floor:**

**Next Meeting date: April 20th, 2016 9:30am at**

Recap prior Meeting- Goals of Next Meeting: Commissioner Meeting

*Advance Notice: May meeting will take place in Newtown at Newtown Youth and Family Services*

**February 17th, 2016 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2016***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues. (5 minutes)

-Sexting Trainings (10 Minutes)-which members will be attending? Who will do training in Danbury?

-Regional Website-STMAD & Children’s First (15 Minutes)- determine the level of collaboration in either process

-Review PAWS update (30 Minutes)- Trouble shoot how to overcome lack of school responses

-Parent project initiatives- (30 Minutes)- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add/update to second version of resource guide (Region 5) to be updated by May 2016

Also reach out to new cities to include all resources of LIST area (i.e. New Milford, Newtown.)

* Stand together make a difference is creating a website as well to be a local hub to provide information to families and youth to better utilize resources in the area.

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Preliminary progress with PAWS pilot expansion-*
  + *Alternative schools targeted, emails and letters went out to every elementary school.*
  + *Pembroke interested in collaborating but not sure about the PAWS program and will return with needs of the school. (See below for more)*

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Discuss setting up parent panel based around storytelling and what experiences they have had in Danbury (related to school/court)
  + Potential project interest at Pembroke to host parent event about what does it mean to be a parent in school and provide education about the expectations of parents with schools. Last year 40 parents attended but there are no monies this year for it.
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: March 16th, 2016 9:30am at**

Recap prior Meeting- Goals of Next Meeting: Initiate plan for parents

**January 20th, 2016 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2016***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues. (5 minutes)

-Community Documents need to be updated to include missing organizations and resources (10 minutes for calendar, 10 minutes for Resource Guide)

-Review PAWS Data (30 Minutes)

-Identifying Elementary School representative for Chronic Absenteeism discussions and identify volunteers who will assist with expanding Absenteeism program (20 Minutes)

-Identify project to collaborate with police and Family Fun Night for upcoming grant in Spring (15 Minutes)

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Community calendar has been started and collaboration was identified as necessary with BOE due to multiple versions of the same document.
* Recommendations to add/update to second version of resource guide (Region 5) to be updated January 2016.

(Also reach out to new cities to include all resources of LIST area (i.e. New Milford, Newtown.). Updates include: including choices and ABC in substance use, add CJR to counseling,

* Stand together make a difference is creating a website as well to be a local hub to provide information to families and youth to better utilize resources in the area.

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Preliminary PAWS analyzed data:*
  + *Comparison of pre-post data indicates a 13% increase in attendance for chronic absent youth initial month and sustains at 11% over the course of the year-See attachment for more information..*
  + While viewing data look at difference between attendance increase vs. absent days missed.
  + Kevin Pape indicated that an after school group wouldn’t be as successful as an in school group.
  + Rogers Park Middle School (Lisa Basher) indicated that 6th grade lunch would be most ideal point to host pilot expansion of PAWS.
  + Volunteer locations to tap into include Danbury High, Carol Glintenkamp, and Hispanic Center.Volunteers must be more than a few years apart in age (Junior/Senior) and can be rewarded with community services and gift cards.

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Family Fun Night in March
  + Discuss setting up parent panel- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor- 2-1-1 needs to be called to set bed aside for homeless shelter now. No longer is on site showing up acceptable.**

**Next Meeting date: February 17th, 2016 9:30am at**

Recap January Meeting- Goals of Next Meeting: Initiate plan for parents

**December 16th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues.

Recommendation is to connect with Family Focus Partnership to collaborate with Family Fun Night in March - they are in need of funding and this would be a great collaboration and LIST could help with funding support.

-Community Documents need to be updated to include missing organizations and resources

-Review L.I.S.T. website. Review and critique for improvements- Community website: region5list.weebly.com/

-Identifying Elementary School representative for Chronic Absenteeism discussions

-Identify project to collaborate with police for upcoming grant in Spring

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Community calendar has been started and collaboration was identified as necessary with BOE due to multiple versions of the same document. Once community events selected from calendar, outreach and establish collaborative effort to build on existing events.
* Recommendations to add/update to second version of resource guide (Region 5) to be published January 2016

Some mistakes were made, and agencies left out of Resource Guide (i.e. DCF, DMHAS). More research needs to be done to ensure resource guide is correct. Also reach out to new cities to include all resources of LIST area (i.e. New Milford, Newtown.)

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Have started to analyze data at Broadview- reportedly Broadview has school attendance average above 90%.*
  + *Trend already emerging that program positively impacts attendance*
  + *While numbers are preliminary, appears disproportionate amount of those flagged as chronically absent are living in housing authority areas*

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Family Fun Night in March
  + Discuss setting up parent panel- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending
* Community Resources: Connect with United way to develop Region 5 Resource Guide and connect with Danbury Children First website: region5list.weebly.com/

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: January 20th, 2015 9:30am at**

Recap December Meeting Goals of Next Meeting: Initiate plan for parents

**November 18th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* Goal of the Coalition: Providing more comprehensive services to the community and more effective strategies to respond to chronic absenteeism school attendance and community support.
* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Identify new members and discuss what the new cities are focused on as issues.

-Discuss successes and failures of community event

14 Parents showed to the event. Strong discussion with those parents who showed about strengthening the hispanic connection because reportedly not much exists for hispanic parents in the area. Vendors who showed strongly supported the notion that this event should exist in addition to another local event. -See notes on “Community Calendar”. Retrieve BOE Community calendar to begin collaboration of events so that parent panel and vendors can maximize effectiveness.

-Discuss local hispanic parent panel, structured more as a storytelling event directed at hispanic parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Community Documents Follow-up**

* Community calendar has been started and collaboration was identified as necessary with BOE due to multiple versions of the same document. Once community events selected from calendar, outreach and establish collaborative effort to build on existing events
* Recommendations to add/update to second version of resource guide to be published January 2016

Some mistakes were made, and agencies left out of Resource Guide (i.e. DCF, DMHAS). More research needs to be done to ensure resource guide is correct. Also reach out to new cities to include all resources of LIST area (i.e. New Milford, Newtown.)

**II. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Have started to analyze data at Broadview- reportedly Broadview has school attendance average above 90%.*
  + *Trend already emerging that program positively impacts attendance*
  + *While numbers are preliminary, appears disproportionate amount of those flagged as chronically absent are living in housing authority areas*
  + *Program Details:*
    - *Daily check in where student gets ticket for each day at school*
    - *Weekly prizes for perfect attendance (gift cards, school store dollars)*
    - *Monthly party for perfect attendance, can use tickets earned for each day to get prizes*
    - *Meetings are held for all families in program*

**III. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Recap 11/9 event
  + Discuss setting up parent panel- identify parents, identify which LIST members will assist in taking on project
* Expanding LIST members- Reach out to cities not currently attending

**IV. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: December 16th, 2015 9:30am at**

Recap November Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting: Initiate plan for parents

**SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap end of fiscal year

-Discuss and set in place community event

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Resource Guide Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add to Guide
* Committee to update and review guide
* Acronym input

**III. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Will be discussing with Broadview**their program on how to manage chronic absenteeism.*

**IV. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Multiple events through the year
  + Become hub of community events
* *Financial year end-*
  + Funding was used to assist the summer meals program through the schools to allow families to eat together.
  + There was a request for providing training for other areas (Notably at Bethel’s Request) for No child eats alone initiative. (6/17/2015- The update on this is that while we have reached out to them, we have not received any response yet.)

**V. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: October 21st, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201**

Recap September Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting: Assist with Resource Fair!

**JUNE 17th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201 AGENDA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap May Meeting

-Discuss and set in place community event

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Resource Guide Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add to Guide

**III. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* *Will review data in next few months after schools complete school year.*
* *Will be discussing with Broadview**their program on how to manage chronic absenteeism.*

**IV. Projects and Initiatives:**

* *Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.* 
  + Resource days-Develop plan to support summer breakfast and lunch meals to gain popularity and to deliver resource information for next fiscal year
  + Give out information on school hotspots and how to get to them.
  + Develop working committee which will plan presenters and resources at these events.(Preferably, at least one agency member, parent member, school member, and community member)
* *Financial contributions due by June 30th, and for next fiscal year-*
  + Funding will be used to assist the summer meals program through the schools to allow families to eat together.
  + There was a request for providing training for other areas (Notably at Bethel’s Request) for No child eats alone initiative. (6/17/2015- The update on this is that while we have reached out to them, we have not received any response yet.)
  + Review existing groups with parents to support in next fiscal year:
    - Connecting with the ESL adult programs to develop tutors
    - Spanish Speaking group at Walnut Hill
    - Jennifer Netter-Cafe project
    - Proposal for Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy training next year

**V. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: July 15th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201**

Recap June Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting: Plan next steps for the next year

**May 20th 2015 AGENDA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap April Meeting

-Discuss and set in place community event

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Resource Guide Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add to Guide

**III. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* Updates on local Initiatives about what is being done in the community

**IV. Projects and Initiatives:**

* Community Event- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.
  + Resource day-Develop plan to support summer breakfast and lunch meals to gain popularity and to deliver resource information for next fiscal year
  + Review and approve edited survey to understand community needs
* Financial contributions due by June 30th-
  + Submit applications to support students (with particular interest those that have chronic absences and improving through Connecticut Junior Republic) for extra curricular events, (i.e. prom/field day, summer camps)
    - Connecticut Junior Republic Referrals-
    - Danbury Youth Services Referrals-
    - Other Referrals-
  + Providing training for other areas (Notably at Bethel’s Request) for No child eats alone initiative
  + Review existing groups with parents to support in next fiscal year:
    - Connecting with the ESL adult programs to develop tutors
    - Spanish Speaking group at Walnut Hill
    - Jennifer Netter-Cafe project
    - Proposal for Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy training next year

**V. Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: June 17th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Children’s Aid Conference Room 201**

Recap May Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting: Plan next steps for the next year

**April 22th 2015 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Introductions:**  (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap March Meeting

-Discuss and set in place community event

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Resource Guide Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add to Guide

**III. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* Review notes from State Department of Education Meeting
* Update the current survey to be shorter, then send out to the students and parents to get more accurate information

**IV. Projects and Initiatives:**

CONNECT COLLABORATION-Community Events- Focus on events to gain interest and establish a LIST connection to the community.

* + - * Resource day-Develop plan to support summer breakfast and lunch meals to gain popularity and to deliver resource information for next fiscal year
      * Connections to the community- Submit applications to support students (with particular interest those that have chronic absences and improving through CJR) for extra curricular events, (i.e. prom/field day, summer camps)
      * Supporting programs- connecting with the ESL adult programs to develop tutors
    - Providing training for other areas (Notably at Bethel’s Request) for No child eats alone initiative
    - Discuss current agenda and plan for action- develop team which will be able to make connections to parents, and community resources
    - Potentially use Hispanic Independence Days as way to deliver culturally competent information- Particular focus on September 15-18th ([Costa Rica](http://www.infoplease.com/id/A0107430), Chile, El Salvador, Guatamala, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua) and September 7th (Brazil)
    - Discuss current agenda and plan for action- develop team which will be able to make connections to parents, and community resources

**V. Closing Remarks/Open floor:**

**Next Meeting date: May 20th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Childrens Aid Conference Room 201**

Recap April Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting: Create project for this year and plan next steps for the next year

**March 18th 2015 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

* **Introductions:**

22 Members & Agencies present (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap February Meeting

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

***Objectives:***

**I. The Resource Guide Follow-up**

* Recommendations to add to Guide

**III. Updates from recent chronic absenteeism**

* SDE PRESENTATION

1. Section 10.198A connecticut statute speaks to board of education in certain areas about what it needs
2. Truant is an individual in a public or private school who has either 4 unexcused absences in one academic month or 10 (un)excused absences in one academic year
3. BOARD OF EDUCATION:
   1. Must have policies and procedures for and must hold meeting with parent or persons in control of the child being truant
   2. Must coordinate services with and referrals to community agencies and Youth Service Bureaus
   3. At beginning of school year notify parents obligation of having students attend school regularly unless receiving instruction or graduated
   4. Parent can withhold students until the age of 7 from school and student can withdraw at the age of 17
   5. K-8th need a telephone or way of contact to parent
   6. Board of Education must have way to monitor students and notify parents day of absence
   7. Warning after 2 unexcused in a month or 5 in a year MAY result in court referral if family in need of service-Pape says it needs to be done after 4 or it will be sent back, because a meeting with the parents needs to be held first.
4. Truant (Focus on unexcused absences)-Guidelines published in 2013:
   1. Page 14 Appendix-Excused vs. Unexcused Absences
      1. Excused if parent submits reason and provide documentation. The parent can decide if it was an excused/unexcused and has been submitted within 10 days
      2. First 10 can be excused, 10 or more need to be specific circumstances to be excused:
         1. Illness verified by medical professional despite length of time.
         2. Religious holiday
         3. Death in family note provided by family
         4. Court appearances (need summons or letter)
         5. Lack of transportation provided by school (Magnet schools)
         6. Extraordinary pre-approved educational activity (high level, meet the president, travel to kennedy space center)
      3. Student in attendance if child is in school at least half of school day
         1. Expulsion and ISS need to be counted as absent.
         2. 3 tardies can be considered but should not be used to count for excused or unexcused absent to count for state data collection.
         3. Tardy means that less than half a day of school is considered absent.
         4. Schools are counting “defying school rules” as the back door used by schools to make referrals to court.
         5. It is rare that tardies do not lead to chronic absence.
      4. Chronically absent
         1. 10% of days missed during current enrollment.
         2. Counts every absence
         3. If a child is on free/reduced lunch, 38% of those students will not make it to graduation.
         4. Usually lack of connection with family increases risk of child not attending.
         5. At 15 years old, if child is chronically absent, local DCF involvement is very limited due to lack of parental engagement.
         6. 10-200/10.201- police shall arrest students and fine families for not attending schools.
            1. Tickets were given in $20 increments and do community service.
      5. If parent does not cooperate or follow guidelines, court referral can be made within 15 days of missed meeting.
         1. Parent, police, schools, ysb can submit FWSN to address truancy if there is no cooperation by the parent.
         2. If child is under 5th grade, and parent is not attending meetings for parent should be referred to DCF.
      6. Definition of an absence:
         1. Medically fragile-flexibility is recommended.
         2. Early release-sent home from nurse is an excused absence not to be held against child.
         3. Board of education can define for itself.
            1. Danbury determined that half of school day=4.5 hours (periods)
      7. Communication with parents:
         1. State wants to be done by mail and phone.
         2. Mail and phone local policy should be done in parents native language.
         3. In Danbury, by 2nd period, parents are called if child is not marked as in attendance. 2nd call made later and letter is sent out notifying parents.
         4. If tardy gets in for 2nd period, the tardy but in attendance.
5. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION is deciding how to to a public service announcement in Danbury and through state to help get out like minded “no smoking” ads to deter truancy and to get parents aware of knowledge.
   1. Need a culture of attendance of being at school is expected at all times.
   2. When is your child coming, not why arent they here
   3. Breakfast should be served because youth are skipping breakfast to provide nutrition
   4. Danbury is trying to hit the threshold of trying to get danbury district wide free lunch-but determined by the use of school demographic
   5. Culture in Danbury is that they need to file because they have filed and covered their bases, to get services for youth through the courts to say that they have tried everything possible and have one more player involved. Harder with 17 years old with Special needs.
   6. Emergency Mental health service calls to help kids get to school if mental health related.
   7. Accountability across districts is picking up.
   8. Districts are using JRB to be able to see names that pop up across multiple agencies.
6. Attendance consortium- SDE would love to find out how Danbury is lowering the numbers
   1. Attendance team
      1. Freshman academy, constant phone calls and contact with families
      2. Constant refreshing the data
   2. Focus of the LIST has turned its attention at getting kids and families early to make a difference long term with students to develop culture.
      1. Reading levels is hard to catch up if chronically absent up to 3rd grade. it is hard to catch them up if they have not stayed current
      2. Truant if 4 unexcused absences (not tardies) can be court referred if family is not cooperating and working with schools.

***Quick Answers from Meeting:***

**-Do three tardies count as an absence?**

Three tardies do not count as an absence for State Department of Education data.

**-Does a child need to be court Referred after four absences?**

A child does not need to be court referred after four absences

**-What is chronically absent considered? 10 days missed? or 10% of school missed?**

10% absent at any point of enrolled time during academic school year.

**-If child comes in late child and completes half of school day, should they be considered absent?**

If child comes in late child and completes half of school day child is not to be counted as absent for State Department of Education data.

**-How many absences are allowed in an academic school year?**

Up to 10 can be excused by a parent with a reason and documentation. 10 or more absences need to be specific circumstances in order to be excused: Illness verified by medical professional despite length of time, Religious holiday, Death in family note provided by family, Court appearances (need summons or letter), Lack of transportation provided by school (Magnet schools), Extraordinary pre-approved educational activity (high level, meet the president, travel to kennedy space center)

**-What should be done if a child has a pattern of excessive absences?**

Parents need to be called and emailed in native language about absence.

**-When can a court referral be made for a family?**

A family may have a FWSN (Family with Service Needs) filed after 4 unexcused absences AND the family (Parent/Child) are not cooperative in the process of being at school.

**IV. Projects and Initiatives:**

* CONNECT COLLABORATION
* FAMILY UNIVERSITY

**Closing Remarks:**

* **Open floor**

**Next Meeting date: April 15th, 2015 9:30am at Family and Childrens Aid Conference Room 201**

Recap March Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting:

-Create project for this year

-Plan next steps for the next year

**February 18th 2015 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

* **Introductions:**

22 Members & Agencies present (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”):\

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap January Meeting

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

*Objectives:*

**I.** The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from.

* CJR presented final version of Community Resource guide.
  + No disability resources of transportation services included in the binder yet. Applications & brochures are included in the binder if they are available. A copy of the binder is available the day of the meeting for agencies. An electronic version of the Community Resource Guide is available in PDF by request. The Community Resource is a working document that should be continually edited and added to.

**II.** A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.

* Updates on Guardian Participation and increasing community outreach

a. Discuss updates and Parent Participation and parental support visits

* PLTI initiative
* PLTI Parents surveyed

**III.** Updates from recent chronic absenteeism

* SDE update 2014
  + Chronic absenteeism by district data - comparison and discussed definition of free lunch vs. non-eligibility (Students who were Chronically Absent yet did not qualify for Free lunch).
  + Potential loss of education and risk of becoming a part of the juvenile court system. Early education included for early action.
  + Disabilities with ethnicities not represented. Inside insight on this information as a greater district. Discussion came up regarding the difference in the data (if any) between special Ed & 504.
  + Data of Court Districts of Grades 9-12:
    - Bethel: 9.9 - New Milford: 15.6
    - Bridgewater/Roxbury: 11.4 - Newtown: 2.8
    - Brookfield: 5.1 - Redding/Easton: no high school data
    - Danbury: 5.6 - Ridgefield: 9.4
    - **New Fairfield: 17.9\*** -Sherman: no high school data

**\***It was noted that different schools have different criteria for reporting (i.e. New Fairfield’s policy is that 3 tardies = 1 absence. This is then linked to Credit loss/Block schedule)

**IV.** Projects and Initiatives:

* Involvement in greater Danbury area: Parent/District Survey responses update. However there needs to be more parent responses besides those received through Danbury Children's First-PLTI. Weekend evening meeting? Open floor to suggestions for parent involvement:
  + - Anne Mead indicated that one possibility would be to include a link on the Parent Learning Center Facebook page.
    - Patricia Gaylord noted that Religious facilities (walnut hill, faith, new hope, etc.) should be included in the survey and conversation.
    - It was noted that parents that are already involved vs. parents that are not. Barriers to getting involved & interest in meeting (added to survey). Online and hard copy surveys available.
    - School district survey areas of interest: custody rights & juvenile justice system. Is that an interest of topic with the group? Chronic absenteeism (10%>) definition vs. truancy.
    - It was suggested that the survey be translated into different languages. This was the surveys can go out to more parents through more agencies.
    - Trish Butler - CTFSN - survey disbursement.
    - Gabriela Krainer spoke of the cultural importance of connecting with the Hispanic population. The population generally feels like outsiders and opt out of completing surveys. One on one discussion with the families would be more impactful. While the anonymity would be less, there would be a more intimate conversation that parents would feel heard. One possibility of reaching out to Spanish speaking families is during the Spanish speaking parent university that is coming up March 28th. Another suggestion was to hand survey out during the Parent conferences. The key element is that there needs to be a trust developed between the parent and the person discussing the questionnaire . Other languages besides Spanish were noted that may be possible barriers to other populations.While this is the focus for Danbury, what about the other towns? Is there a specific population of focus?
    - Give the survey to the people that these numbers reflect. Find out why their children are missing school. Gaps in services/Challenges. **Survey for school personnel created for their perspective**.
    - Kevin Pape recommended that the survey given along with the rules of truancy.
    - Give parents another perspective on why school is important. Education early.

**Closing Remarks:**

* Mallory LaPierre (CT Juvenile Justice Alliance) - Color of Justice - 60 min. Documentary - racial & ethnic disparities in the court system. Forum in Danbury. Parents, agencies, school personnel, youth open discussion.
* Erica Bromley reported at the close of the meeting that the Governor's budget came out today. She indicated that Social Services was cut and encouraged each agency to contact their representatives about the cuts.

**Next Meeting date: March 18th, 2015 9:30am at Danbury Youth Services**

Recap February Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting:

-Create project for next year

-Plan next steps for the next year

**January 21st 2015 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Introductions:**

- Sign-In Sheet (See “***LIST COALITION SIGN IN 2015***”), Members & Agencies

* **Tasks to Complete**:

-Recap December Meeting

-Goal of the Coalition: To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents.

*Objectives:*

**i.** The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from.

* Follow up with *CJR* is necessary to see both progress of Resource Guide

**ii.** A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.

* Updates on Guardian Participation and increasing community outreach

a. Discuss updates and Parent Participation and parental support visits

o Brief family scenarios for A, B, C and what can be done to assist

o After a brief family synopsis, the two recommendations were to discuss the new substance-abuse clinic at *Family and Children's Aid (FCA)* and *Department Children and* *Families (DCF)* as a way of obtaining services as soon as possible.

* Discuss **redistribution of funds**
* Funds have been reallocated for transportation, stipends, food, and childcare for parents that will attend the parent focus group.

**iii.** Update from student governance council meeting at *Danbury High School*.

* Review recent chronic absenteeism - The information that was retrieved in November. The information that was most relevant discussed was the special education data and the black data. There were particular discrepancies comparing Chronic absenteeism data versus daily attendance rate. It was defined that chronic absenteeism is 10% of the total school days missed at any given point through the school year. An absence is counted if the student has missed more than 50% of the school day (4.5 hours). The nuances of this application will be discussed when The *SDE* representative comes to present on the law surrounding chronic absenteeism. Two interesting discussion points came from this conversation. One is that extracurricular activities (sports) enforce good attendance and grades for students and reduces chronic absenteeism. The other is the information that is currently provided has generalizations and potential overlap of special needs and black, as well as, Hispanic and English language learners (*ELL*).
* Discuss meeting with Matt Laskowski from *BOE -* Matt Laskowski is the dean of the *Danbury High School* Repeating ninth-graders. One of the initiatives that *Danbury high school* has begun is the "Twilight" program. Twilight is an afterschool program that is offered to students who have failed either math or science during their first semester. The second semester, they are offered the opportunity to attend Twilight two times a week after school to learn the material they have missed and if completed, they are able to obtain the education and materials that they will need for next year, as well as, recover the credits they would have lost. As such, they return back on track to graduating in 4 years. Some of the individual efforts that are taken include:
  + Robo call at 1 PM and 5 PM to the parents to notify them of the absence
  + Personal text messages to the students flagged as chronically absent every morning through the Remind Website
  + Occasional visits to the home to knock on the door and wake up student
  + Contracts with both parents and students of what is expected of students, parents, teachers, school. While this document is signed, it has no legal teeth. Therefore, if these previous methods prove ineffective, a court referral is made.
* Discussion with Anne Mead from *BOE - Parent University* is the way to educate families about the importance of education at an early age. The next family University is Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9 AM to 2 PM at *Rogers Park middle school* in Danbury, Connecticut. It is open to the greater Danbury Area and is $15 per family. Seminar is include preventing dangerous behaviors and your children, hands-on common core workshops, nutrition, Talking with your child, positive discipline, mind in the making, parent leadership opportunities. The effort is to show the importance to families why education is so important even at early age.

**iv.** Updates about services in the area:

* Julie Schmitter (*DYS*) discussed the new **Juvenile Justice Mentoring Initiative** that *Danbury Youth Services* is starting up. The previous five Waterbury slots for **Juvenile Justice** mentees will now be transferred to *DYS* where five mentee slots will be available once mentors are recruited.

**v.** Projects and Initiatives:

* Involvement in greater Danbury area – recommendations were made to develop a letter and inquiry survey for the larger area about the recommendations for what information to provide, what locations would be most easily accessible, interventions in Danbury and what interventions are currently being done in their areas.
* The group agreed to review and approve a letter and survey to go out to the larger areas.

vi. Questions for Discussion:

* + What resources can we gather to make a Parent Group possible?

**Closing Remarks:**

**Next Meeting date: February 18th, 2015 9:30am at Danbury Youth Services**

Recap February Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting:

-Create project for next year

-Plan next steps for the next year

**December 17th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

* Introductions:
  + 1. Members & Agencies
* Tasks to Complete:

-Recap November Meeting

* + 1. Goals of Coalition:

To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents

* + - * 1. The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from.
* CJR Update
* CONNECT Forum established other resources

* + - * 1. A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.

Updates on Guardian Participation and increasing community outreach

Increase Parent Participation and parental support in the coalition

Discuss location for best parent participation

Discuss how to obtain childcare and food service

Discuss changing meeting times

* + - * 1. Update from the CONNECT Forum
    1. Subcommittees & projects
    2. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.
    3. Discuss meeting dates and times for next year
* Questions for Discussion:

What resources can we gather to make a Parent Group possible?

Closing Remarks:

* + 1. **Next Meeting date: TBD**

Recap January Meeting

Goals of Next Meeting:

* + - * 1. Create project for next year
        2. Plan next steps for the next year

**November 19th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

* Introductions:
  + 1. Members & Agencies
* Tasks to Complete:

-Recap October Meeting

* + 1. Goals of Coalition:

To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents

* + - * 1. The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from.
* CJR Update

* + - * 1. A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.

Increase Parent Participation and parental support in the coalition

Discuss location for best parent participation

Discuss how to obtain childcare and food service

* + 1. Updates about increasing the range of the coalition.
    2. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.
    3. Discuss meeting dates and times for next year
* Questions for Discussion:

What resources can we gather to make a Parent Group possible?

Closing Remarks:

* + 1. **Next Meeting date: December 17th starting 9:30am at Danbury Youth Services**

Recap November Meeting

* + - * 1. Updates about increasing the range of the coalition.
        2. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.

Goals of Next Meeting:

* + - * 1. Create Sub-Committees
        2. Plan next steps for the next year

**October 15th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

* Introductions:
  + 1. Members & Agencies

Brittany Bergstrom(CJR), Travis Rose(CJR), RaeAnn Dombrowski(CJR), Kevin Pape (CSSD), Aneta Szczypubki (CSSD), Foye Smith(CSSD), Gabriella Krainer (FCA), Erica Bromley (Juvenile Justice Liaison-CT Youth Services Association), Julie Schmitter (DYS), Liz Murphy (RYASAP), Joseph Dobbins (DYS), Elizabeth Cotter (Wellmore), Lisa Basher (Danbury BOE)

* Tasks to Complete:

-Recap September Meeting

* + 1. Goals of Coalition:

To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents

* + - * 1. The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from. CJR updated the group that the resource guide is under way and is looking for support and information from the group and will send out an email to gather the updated agency information in the area.
        2. A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.

Juan Mateus at Rogers Park Middle was identified as a resource for the group to reach out in order to connect with parents and families because he holds a spanish speaking group monthly with a large attendance turnout.

* + - * 1. Provide volunteer opportunities

The list of volunteer sites will be sent out by e-mail for the coalition to review.

* + 1. Updates about increasing the range of the coalition.

Discussion revolved around ways to gain interest from other areas. Some ideas discussed were inviting the schools with low chronic absenteeism to present the ways that they address the issue, as well as having speakers come present at the group to educate the group on the law surrounding truancy, and ways that the group can address the issue locally.

* + 1. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.

Danbury (11%), New Milford (9.5%), Sherman (7.1%) and Bethel (6.8%) were identified as the districts with the highest chronic absenteeism.

Brookfield (1.9%) and Newtown (4.9%) had the lowest chronic absenteeism.

* + 1. Increase Parent Participation and parental support in the coalition

Contact Juan Mateus to establish a culturally competent link to the parents.

* Questions for Discussion:

What should our message to the community be?

Closing Remarks:

* + 1. **Next Meeting date: November 19th starting 9:30am at Danbury Youth Services**

Recap October Meeting

* + - * 1. Updates about increasing the range of the coalition.
        2. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.

Goals of Next Meeting:

* + - * 1. Create Sub-Committees
        2. Plan next steps for the next year
        3. Conduct Needs Assessment

**September 17th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions:
   1. Members & Agencies

Brittany Bergstrom(CJR), Travis Rose(CJR), RaeAnn Dombrowski(CJR), Delta Villavicencio(Womens Center), Kevin Pape (CSSD), Aneta Szczypubki (CSSD), Foye Smith(CSSD), Gabriella Krainer (FCA), Erica Bromley (Juvenile Justice Liaison-CT Youth Services Association), Julie Schmitter (DYS), Liz Murphy (RYASAP), Joseph Dobbins (DYS)

1. Area Served-Danbury.
   1. The current priority goal is to reach out to the schools and police departments in the surrounding towns (Brookfield, Redding, New Milford, Newtown, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Bethel, Danbury).
2. Services Currently Offered
   1. Danbury Childrens First- Parent Learning Institute
      1. 20 weeks long
      2. Food is provided
   2. DYS
      1. Parenting Workshop “How to Build Trust with Your Child to Improve Communication” October 4th from 9a-1p with one of the DYS counselors’
   3. CJR
      1. Client Based parent support group, however details are still unknown about focus of group.
   4. FCA
      1. Gabriela discussed the newest program offered by FCA which will be rolling out in November. A program for outpatient clients with substance use. It is a harm reduction model that utilizes a peer group, parent support group, family therapy, individual therapy, and monthly multi-family mixers.
3. Tasks to Complete:
   1. Goals of Coalition:
      1. To identify service gaps in the greater Danbury Area for adolescents and parents
         1. The Resource Guide was noted to be a great resource that agencies and families could benefit from. Travis from CJR mentioned that they are creating an updated guide, which will rollout in October. The group discussed the need to exchange the new information with the existing guides other agencies currently have.
         2. A Parent Support group focused on Chronic Absenteeism was discussed as the primary concern of the group.
            1. Child Care was mentioned as a needed service for the parents.
         3. Volunteer opportunities exist through the United Way for both adults looking to assist, as well as youth opportunities.
            1. Other places mentioned available to offer volunteer services were DYS, Tarrywile, churches, Parks and Recreation, Wildlife Preservation, Goodwill, and Americorps.
            2. Kevin explained that there is already an existing list of volunteer sites that the courts use and will bring it next time.
      2. To offer greater prevention/intervention services for adolescents and parents
         1. The first steps to completing this task is to set up and use the services mentioned above.
      3. Increase Parent Participation and parental support in the coalition
         1. Using the data from the school districts about their numbers of chronic absenteeism, outreach will *first* be provided to the identified school districts in need. Following the identified schools- police departments, family service agencies, and churches will be contacted in the region to identify a parent population.
4. Questions for Discussion:

How will we identify agencies that should be on the LIST?

1. The group discussed that the following agencies and departments should be involved:
   1. HVCASA
   2. All police departments in the region (to gain support of the police departments in the area and collaborate on the types of cases
   3. All schools in the region (to have direct contact with the students, parents and school officials)
      1. School Social workers in particular were mentioned as strong points to focus on.
   4. Hispanic Center (to increase interaction with the Danbury Hispanic population)
   5. Churches (to increase contact with parents)

How does the community see the LIST?

1. LIST needs to be a focused coalition for all surrounding towns, police departments, school departments, and services in the region.

Closing Remarks:

1. **Next Meeting date: October 15th starting 9:30 am at Danbury Youth Services**
   1. Recap September Meeting
      1. Updates about increasing the range of the coalition.
      2. Updates about the data on Chronic Absenteeism.
   2. Goals of Next Meeting:
      1. Create Sub-Committees
         1. Evaluation
         2. Raising Awareness
         3. Activism
      2. Plan next steps for the year
      3. Conduct Needs Assessment

**JUNE 19th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Here are the notes from the LIST meeting, June 19.

Attendance: Liz Murphy - RYASAP, Pamela Joyce - DCF, Patricia Gaylord - FAVOR, Sandy Atanasoff - Danbury Public Schools, Kevin Pape - Courts, Delmaliz Montes De Oca - CJR, Kimberley Samsel - CRJ, and Julie Schmitter, Danbury Youth Services, Inc.

Sandy Atansoff communicated that the schools will be receiving a grant for a Dean of Student Supports to assist with truancy and discipline issues at the two Danbury Middle Schools and 10, 11, 12 grades at the High School. This will be a multi tier approach to the issue of truancy that includes working with the child and parents/guardians and referring to in-house services and/or community services. The LIST Coalition was in agreement that this was a step in the right direction to dealing with issues of truancy that are becoming an issue at the schools. It is also a way for the school to move ahead with an alternative approach other than the JRB.

Julie Schmitter discussed an opportunity to have a counselor on staff help with JRB case management. This counselor is getting her PHD in psychology but focus is on restorative justice. Given her already heavy workload of clients that she sees at DYS, it would mean additional hours for her for case management services. Kevin Pape mentioned a grant for $25,000 for JRB's, however it may be for already established JRB's. The group discussed the option of moving forward from the JRB to other goals because without police support, it would be difficult to get something off the ground. The group discussed some items that they believed is still lacking in the community including Substance Abuse Support for Adolescents, Social Media and violent video gaming. Sandy communicated that the Governor's Prevention Partnership would be collaborating with the schools to offer a community forum for parents around social media and violent video gaming, etc.... This would take place most likely in the Fall 2013.

Julie Schmitter also shared with the group the great work that Stand Together Make A Difference is doing in the community through its "Its 21 4 A Reason" campaign. Community assessments have shown that drinking is starting at the young age of 12 and 13 so more efforts will be put on prevention at the middle school level and also discussion around how substance abuse affects the brain. Flyers and a fundraising event opportunity were passed around at the meeting.

Patricia Gaylord from FAVOR attended the meeting and shared with the coalition the work she does in the community. FAVOR is a family advocacy center that serves families, children, and youth dealing with a spectrum of mental health needs. They help families navigate the system and do a lot of work around special education. They have 10 advocates in the community and PT staff around the state. Anyone can be referred to FAVOR by calling 1-860-563-3232 x 105.

The CJR is doing well. Kimberley Samsel is now the YES/FSC Program Director. They have a small waiting list of clients and are starting their summer programs. They are hoping to have more slots for clients in the coming year.

Julie Schmitter also gave a quick update on the Summer Youth Employment Program - we have about 200 applications and took 70 youth and also 11 referred DCF youth. Julie communicated that some monies may be coming to the agency for CSSD referred youth.

Also, Pamela Joyce is our new DCF community liaison.

The next LIST Coalition meeting will be held on September 18 at 9:30 A.M. at Danbury Youth Services.

**MARCH 20th 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

- Parent University will take place this Saturday, March 23 from 8 - 2 at Rogers Park Middle School. The attached link will take you to the event's web-site: <http://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/assets/parentuniversity2013.pdf>. Newtown's Parent Connection will be collaborating with Bethel this year to offer Family University sometime in April - more information will be forthcoming.

- The LIST discussed the progression of the JRB in Danbury. We have not received the support from the police at this time so the LIST is looking into starting a JRB - Student Review Board. The school will be writing a grant to create a STB at Danbury High School and upper middle schools. Furthermore, Danbury Youth Services will be looking into a Public Welfare grant for funding for Region 5 JRB's in collaboration with Waterbury Youth Services. The foundation supports national groups in the US that are working to end the criminalization and over - incarceration of youth. Representatives from the Connecticut Junior Republic communicated their support of JRB's or Student Review Boards especially as it related to Truancy in the schools. Their organization has a long waiting list of referrals.

- The LIST also discussed some additional identified gaps of services in the area including Substance Abuse Counselors. This seems to be an issue for Danbury school personnel who do not have a good referral contact for their youth struggling with substance abuse issues. The Newtown Youth and Family Services Executive Director stated that they have a Student Assistant Counselor at the high school that works with students. In addition, the high - school has another full-time substance abuse counselor.

- The group also discussed the need for continued funding for afterschool programs for youth in the Danbury Area and importance of parent support networks. Ines from DCF recommended looking into FAVOR to come to the LIST meetings -FAVOR is a family advocacy organization serving families, children and youth dealing with a spectrum of mental health needs.

- The Danbury Youth Services Executive Director stated that DYS will have a bilingual counselor on staff in May in response to the needs in the community for bilingual counselors.

The next LIST Meeting will be held on June 19 at 9:30 A.M. at Danbury Youth Services, Inc. (DYS).

**JANUARY 23rd 2014 MINUTES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The LIST group met on January 23, 2013 to review the work of the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) Working Committee. The working committee has met numerous times since September 2012 and developed a written proposal on "Bringing a Juvenile Review Board (JRB) to the City of Danbury." This proposal as well as a power point presentation was delivered to several school personnel at Danbury High School including the Superintendent. I have attached the proposal for your review and commend Sandy Atansoff and Kevin Pape in working so hard to keep this initiative moving along! Because the support at the school level is strong for the JRB, the working group decided to start small and pilot the JRB at the schools, dealing with non-violent first offenders. If the LIST can build more police support for the JRB, it can be expanded to include more violent type offenses. Kevin and Sandy will be traveling to Manchester in the next few days to view their School Attendance Review Board and possibly see it in action. If the JRB takes off in the community, forming collaborations with other communities such as Newtown and Bethel would be advantageous. The Bethel Police Department is working to start a JRB and is beginning to gather information on the services available in the community.

The LIST Coalition was able to brainstorm about individuals that would serve on the JRB review panel. The thought was to keep it to 4 - 7 individuals. Some suggestions for members are:

Danbury Public Schools - Sandy Atansoff

Department of Children and Families

Family and Children Aid - Stephen Beck

Newtown Youth and Family Services - Candice Bohr

Danbury Youth Services, Inc. - Julie S.

Probation/Courts - Kevin Pape

Association of Religious Communities

Danbury Police - Robert Perun

Danbury Hospital -

Business Owner - Chamber of Commerce

The LIST Coalition and JRB still struggles with the financial obligations that would come with employing a part - time case manager to manage the cases of the JRB. DYS will be beginning its budget process in February and strategic planning process with the Board of Directors. I will open communications on allocating monies for a case manager position at DYS.

If you have any questions, please let me know. The next LIST meeting will be on March 20, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. at DYS. I will send a reminder closer to the date.