

Date: 10/25/23

To: Town Council

From: Karen Psrkinson

55 Rose Hill Rd

Ledyard, CT 06339

Addendum to letter in correspondence

My presence here tonight is a passionate plea to support and continue to maintain the high quality of mental health service provided by the Youth Services Director and her staff. In these times, I am sure you all aware to the great need for mental health services for troubled youths and their families. Many of these youths have dropped out of school, or even pulled from school by their parents, for perceived bullying or other issues. Youth Service Bureaus provide many essential mental health services; we must not diminish the quality and professionalism that the Town of Ledyard has provided for twenty years.

An error in my first letter. The interns each work 20 hrs PER WEEK, 12 months (4x20x52= 4160 hrs @ \$ 25/hr=\$ 104,000 allowance for vacations etc A value of \$ 96,000. Ot at least two full time equivalents.

Since I wrote the letter in your packet, I have also reviewed the minutes of the administrative committee. There are errors and omissions in their discussions because no one was there to represent the Youth Services; for example 1) The current Director did have her Masters Degree when hired. She received her Masters Degree in May 2008 and was hired in October 2008. 2) The omission/recognition of the requirement of a Masters Degree Licensed practitioner to provide counseling to children and families (and supervision of graduate level interns).....A basic service of a Youth Service Bureau. 3) There is a Masters Degree Licensed Practitioner, available per diem 16 hrs/week, paid out of Federal funds.

Recommendation:1) To table the motion to amend the Youth Services Director job description and restore her title to Director and supervised, as a Department head, by the Mayor 2) Any changes are to be reviewed and approved by the Social Service Board. 3) Encourage the Director of Human Resources to meet with the Director of Youth Services and the Social Services Board so she better understands the scope of service and requirements.

Thank you