

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Carmen Garcia Irizarry  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kristen Chapman  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** Re: Op Ed - Social Services Department Closure

Hi Kristen,

Yes, I am aware of the Ordinance as it came through the Administration Committee when I was the Chair. I am also aware that the Ordinance was modified to change the “Youth and Social Services Board” to only “Social Services Board”. At the time, it was explained to us that one of the reasons to make the changes was because the majority of the Youth services were already provided by the schools. Unfortunately, GFS/JWL had a period of time in which they didn’t have any counselors/clinicians from the Child & Family Agency as the state had stopped the program for that school. Thankfully, there were ARPA funds available that were used for this purpose and GFS/JWL was able to get the clinician again.

I will email The Day to ask them to change the word “Social” for “Youth” so there’s no confusion and as that’s really the only thing that is mentioned in the Op-Ed about these type of services.

Since I don’t know how long will it take for The Day to make any updates to the article, before you replied to my email, I had already wrote some information in the comments section of the article to make sure that residents that read the Op-Ed knew of the type of services the town provides and who to contact for those. Below is the link to the Op-Ed in case you have any doubts.



Thank you for your prompt reply to my email. Have a great weekend and 4th of July since that’s next week and Town Council doesn’t have any meetings scheduled.

Respectfully,

Carmen N. Garcia-Irizarry

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 27, 2025, at 11:50 AM, Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Good morning Carmen,

The Social Services Department consists of myself as the Social Services Coordinator and Mayor Allyn serves as the Director of Social Services. For your understanding the only changes that have occurred was with the restructuring of Youth Counseling Services to the Child & Family Agency School-Based Health Centers which prompted amending Ordinance #100-011 (rev 2) "An Ordinance Establishing a Social Services Board for the Town of Ledyard" which was revised on October 22, 2024 to remove references to the Youth Services Department. The Social Services Department has remained intact with no change or reduction to any programming or services offered for our residents. You are correct there are no funds allocated in the budget for the Social Services Department as all programs are funded through community donations and grants.

Thank you for reaching out for clarification, I trust that you will submit a correction to your OP Ed that was published on June 26, 2025 to clarify that "The Ledyard Social Services Department has not closed and all programs and services remain intact. With regards to the Youth Services Department, youth counseling services are now provided through the Child & Family Agency School-Based Health Centers. All services are still being provided."

It is critically important to eliminate the confusion for our residents that currently rely on and/or are seeking these essential services. Should you or any residents have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-464-3222 or visit our website.

[Social Services | Ledyard, CT - Official Website](#)

Kind Regards,  
Kristen

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**From:** Carmen Garcia Irizarry <CGIri@ledyardct.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2025 9:43 AM  
**To:** Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Op Ed - Social Services Department Closure

Hi Kristen,

Thank you for emailing me. I just have a couple of questions. My understanding is that we don't have a Social Services Department with counselors, supervisors, etc. The Town provides certain services with your help. When looking at the approved budgets for FY 2025 and FY 2026, there's no money allocated for a Social Services Department (counselor, supervisors, operating expenses, pantry expenses). Perhaps the correction should be to say that "the Youth & Social Services Department was eliminated and

replaced with the Social Services Coordinator located at the Town Hall". Let me know what you think and I will contact The Day ASAP.

Thank you for your help with this. Very much appreciated. I hope you have a great weekend!!

Respectfully,  
Carmen

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 26, 2025, at 3:14 PM, Kristen Chapman  
<[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon Carmen,

It was brought to my attention that the Op Ed in The Day Newspaper today stated the that Social Services Department closed. The Social Services department did not close, I believe you may be referring to the Youth Services department closure as counseling services are now offered through Child & Family Agency within the schools. I am concerned as I do not want residents to be alarmed or think that we no longer offer Social Services through the Town. We are providing the same programs and level of services. Would you like me to contact The Day to make this correction or would you prefer to contact them yourself.

Kind Regards,  
Kristen

*Kristen Chapman*

<IMAGE001.PNG>

Executive Assistant to the Mayor/  
Social Services Coordinator  
Town of Ledyard  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339  
860-464-3222  
[mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org](mailto:mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org)

**Town Hall Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**  
**CLOSED FRIDAYS**