

Roxanne Maher

From: karen <karen@thepaddockinc.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 12:19 PM
To: Naomi Rodriguez
Cc: Roxanne Maher
Subject: Job Description change for Youth Services Director/coordinator

I have another hat I wear.....that as a retired clinical Social worker. In my work history, I was Ledyard's first Director of Social Services, and I assisted the subsequent directors plan and implement the youth services and was a member of the Social Service Board for many years (actually established the Board during my employment). I worked for many organizations throughout SE CT (L&M Hospital. Mashantucket Tribal Nation, Navy Family Service Center) for 30 years, developing child protection programs, supervised many graduate students and had my own private practice

I am very concerned with the proposed changes in the Director's job description that is being presented at the Town Council this Wednesday.

1. Given the scope of responsibilities and duties spelled out in the existing job description, this position should be continued as a Dept. with the title of Director, nor downgraded to Coordinator, The scope of responsibilities, knowledge and abilities justify the educational requirement of a Master's Degree and clinical experience.

2. Should continue to be under the " general supervision" of the Mayor, not the nursing supervisor. The Mayor is the designated "Social Service Director" and his assistant is the designated Social Service contact. In general, Mental health services/youth services are not under nursing. The Youth Services Director, with a Master's Degree, can function independently.

3. The educational requirement MUST continue to REQUIRE a Master's Degree. Without a Master's Degree person in this position, there will be no more interns! Currently there are 4 in-terns that practice 20 hours each for 12 months. That is "minimally" over \$ 8,000 worth of services/ month.....an annual value of \$ 96,000 ! Do you really want to lose this? You may wonder if this is a duplication of services that are offered in the schools. Not really, Youth Services offer evening hours for all those working parents who want to be involved with family counseling and cannot take time off from work. And many have issues (perceived) with the school being involved with their personal/family issues that are not related to the child's education. Youth Service Bureaus provide a different service.

4. This change was not reviewed or recommended by the Social Service Board.

5. The above comments may be forwarded for Town Council review. I can also be available to read into public comments at the 10/25 Town Council meeting.

Thank you

Karen Parkinson

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