

**SUFFIELD YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
83 MOUNTAIN ROAD
SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06078**

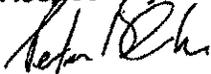
I have worked in municipal and state youth and family services for thirty-seven years. These years have involved a great deal of collaboration with public and private agencies and services. I have a thorough understanding of the complexities of governmental supply and demands for services. These years have taught me the necessity for focusing on simple and practical solutions for issues. As I study the redistricting of the DMAS catchment system and its effects on the Capitol Area Substance Abuse Program, I have to ask why change what works extremely well. The Town of Suffield receives \$3,105. These funds are used for a young mens' group that meets formally bimonthly. Our program involves fifteen young men and five of their teachers. In essence, we have daily involvement with our students who are classified as underachievers. We offer a variety of programs that support their educational, social and behavioral needs. The result is we now have students who are in their senior year in high school. All of our young men are still in school and are advancing through the grades. The CASAC funds have made this possible. Additionally, CASAC has provided the funds and has been directly involved in the continued success of PROMISE, a young women's group. This middle school group offers a great variety of learning programs for eighteen females. A major emphasis is teaching the prowess of female success. The program involves the interaction and involvement between Suffield and their Hispanic counterparts through programs. Simply without the CASAC funds and involvement this program would not be as successful and may not have been offered in first place. Administratively, CASAC hosts a number of work shops for the sixteen town agencies. All the town local prevention councils are involved in the board of director events. These events are fund raising activities, workshops, and social events. CASAC is the clearing house for the entire spectrum of substance abuse information and updating of new threatening drug trends. The CASAC activities are the vehicle for public and private agency interaction and unification of services.

The CASAC formula for success is very simple;

- CASAC provides funding in a non complicated, positive fashion.
- CASAC is the catalyst for interagency involvement and unification.
- Offers educational workshops.
- Provides the latest substance abuse information.
- CASAC is directly involved with programs emphasizing youth health, cultural interactions and appreciation for human understanding.
- Physically brings together sixteen towns throughout the year offering learning events.

CASAC formula for success is simple, extremely effective and it truly works well. Now, why do we want to change true success?

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter Black, Director