

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Youth and Family Services Agency of Haddam Killingworth Inc. We are extremely concerned and troubled by the cuts proposed by Governor Malloy and how it will impact the services of YSB's across the state.

The Connecticut Youth Services Association is first and foremost concerned with the devastating effects, both long term and short term, which the proposed deep budget cuts for Youth Service Bureaus will have on our youth and families. We are also deeply concerned about the impact these cuts will have on the ability of YSBs to leverage additional funding. We are further unable to rectify how the placement of YSBs under the management of the Department of Children & Families will result in greater efficiencies, cost savings, enhanced service delivery, or better outcomes in Connecticut's communities. CYSA also fails to see evidence which supports any significant and impactful budgetary savings in the proposed budget plan.

- **102 YSBs** are funded by SDE and provide services in over **145 Connecticut communities**. YSBs reported having referred or diverted over **26,000** children and youth and in addition over **448,000** youth and parents participated in YSB Programs over the past 2 years.
- YSBs receive referrals from community, regional and state service providers, parents/guardians and the youth themselves. The issues presented to YSBs are complex and often require a network of services. YSBs annually track referral information that is then used to assist in developing programs and activities.
- In the last five years, the YSBs have increased their services in many areas. Most notable is a doubling of the number served in after-school programs and a 134 percent increase in the number served in positive youth development programs. A total of 40,483 individuals who each received 20 or more hours of services were served last year, many individuals often received multiple services, and a significant amount received services as part of a diversion from the juvenile justice system. The actual mix of services offered depends largely on the needs of the individual communities.

Thank you for your time,

Deborah

Deborah Kelly
Executive Director
Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc.
P.O. Box 432
91 Little City Road
Higganum, CT 06441
860.345.7498 (Voice)
860.345.0049 (Fax)

Deborah@hkyfs.org

Web: www.hkyfs.org

Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. is committed to enhancing child and youth development, enriching families, and promoting healthy Haddam and Killingworth communities.



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