



*Department of  
Social & Youth Services*

TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD  
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**"TESTIMONY for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5P.M. for the  
Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-Committee"**

**Submitted By:**

**Town of Bloomfield Senior Services, Bloomfield Leisure Services and Bloomfield Police Department**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and Members of the Secondary Education Sub-Committee:

**We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed 1.3 million dollar budget cut to Youth Service Bureaus which includes the entire Enhancement Grant Line Item currently in the budget at \$620,000 and an approximately \$700,000 cut in the Cost Sharing grant that YSBs receive for being a YSB. We oppose the proposed move of the YSB system from SDE to the Department of Children and Families. The move would compromise if not dismantle the data system that uses school outcomes as a measure of success for the youth served by YSBs. The system has been in place for years and significant financial resources and people hours have been invested in the Results Based Accountability Framework.**

Bloomfield Youth Services has provided community based services since the 1970's. In 1992, Social and Youth Services merged as a single department that provides a comprehensive range of support services to citizens throughout all life stages, from birth through elder years. Throughout the history of Social and Youth Services multiple town departments have coordinated and collaborated on programs, services and activities that promote the well-being of all children and families in the community. Our departments have consulted on common issues, supported one another's programs and services, rolled up our sleeves and worked side by side in the delivery of services. Our combined efforts have enhanced the availability and quality of the programs and services we deliver in the Town of Bloomfield. We respond to the needs identified in the community; be it crisis intervention, support for the holiday sharing program, coordinating our services, intergenerational programming, police and youth programming, participating in youth, family or community events, to name a few. Social and Youth Services frequently takes a lead role in coordinating local services and programs for children and families, and secures funding and resources to implement them.

The proposed cuts in the State Department of Education if approved, could significantly reduce coordination and collaborative projects at the local level. Public Act 78-183 of the CT General Statutes states that "YSBs **shall** be the coordinating unit of community based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention and intervention, treatment and follow-up services". Coordination and collaboration among town departments is vital to the continued success of programs and services that meet the needs of Bloomfield children and families. The cuts would compromise the ability of Bloomfield Youth Services to fulfill the mandates described in Public Act 78-183.

We request that you restore funding for both line items in the CT Department of Education budget.

Respectfully submitted,

David Melesko  
Printed Name

Director of Leisure Services  
Title

  
Signature

February 26, 2015  
Date

Paul B. Hancock  
Printed Name

Chief of Police  
Title

  
Signature

Feb. 26, 2015  
Date

Yvette Huphwe-Pannell  
Printed Name

Director, SENIOR Services  
Title

  
Signature

February 27, 2015  
Date