

**Human Services Report to Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council
March 7, 2024**

During the month of February 2024, the following activities were noted:

Youth Services continued providing clinical mental health services to youth in Somers. Our Youth Services Social Worker will be going on maternity leave in April and preparations for that are in the works. Work continues with the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) and truancy support services.

The Youth Leadership Council continues to meet semi-monthly and soon will transition to weekly sessions as they work to implement substance use prevention activities.

Arianna Flagg and Matthew Cox attended the week-long National Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. recently, making connections with substance use prevention programs from across the U.S., and bringing back information on new opportunities and approaches.

Somers Comes Together, our local substance use prevention council, has been working with a consultant to discuss and document foundational information about perceptions, needs, and priorities around the group's mission, vision, values, and goals. This work will support our next steps in branding/marketing/website and establishing operating procedures for the group.

Preparations are underway, in collaboration with the Somers Public Library and Somers Rec and Leisure Services, to launch the new Teen Center to be located at the Library. The space will include a maker space with 3-D printers, micro-film studio with green screen, and a variety of games, crafts, and opportunities for learning and experiential activities. The Teen Center will be managed by library and human services staff.

The Angel Fund will continue to collect funds through the end of March. We are in the process of transitioning remaining funds to trust accounts that will be managed independently by the families. In preparation to best manage future community-wide disasters, Matthew is working with the Hartford Foundation to be the repository for funds in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Cox
Director of Human Services