



Action Item # 5945/20
Docket Date: October 14, 2020

City of Newport REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

To: Mayor Jaime P. Bova & Members of the City Council
From: Joseph J. Nicholson, Jr., Esq., City Manager
Date: September 30, 2020
Subject: Transfer for Student Assistance Counselor-Newport Prevention Coalition
Staff Presentation:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council approve the transfer of \$28,000 from Council Contingency for the Student Assistance Counselor.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Newport Prevention Coalition requested that the City Council pay for the Student Assistance Counselor that has historically been paid for by federal grants. The Coalition does not currently have any federal funding. The Council discussed this during the September 23, 2020 Council Meeting and agreed to provide the \$28,000 funding from Council Contingency. The attached resolution authorizes the transfer of those funds to the Newport Prevention Coalition Fund, where it will then be paid to the School Department.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Resolution #2019-67

FISCAL IMPACT:

☒ Currently Budgeted (Account 11-170-8565-50515) ☐ Requires additional appropriation ☐ No Fiscal Impact

Transfer will be to Fund 31

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution

Communication from the Newport Prevention Coalition

Finance Dept. Review: _____ Date By: _____ (if applicable)

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL

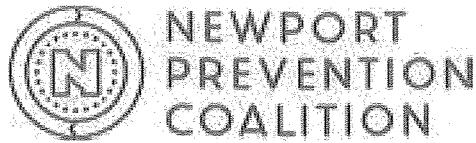
No. _____

Whereas, the City Council approved giving the Newport Prevention Coalition \$28,000 to continue funding a Student Assistance Counselor, it is hereby

Resolved: The City Council of Newport authorizes the transfer of \$28,000 from Council Contingency to the Newport Prevention Coalition Fund.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

Laura C. Swistak
City Clerk



September 01, 2020

Mayor Jamie Bova and
Members of the City Council
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Newport Prevention Coalition (NPC) formally requests a \$28,000 appropriation from the City of Newport to cover the local cost share of the City's Student Assistance Counselors for FY2021.

For several years prior to FY2020 the NPC was able to use Partnership For Success (PFS) Federal grant dollars to cover the City of Newport's \$24,000 local cost share for one full time Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) at Rogers High School. In these past years the State provided Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) with the remaining costs to cover the \$68,500 per year contracted SAC position. However, once those PFS grant dollars had run out and no new pool of grant dollars were available locally, The Newport City Council voted to directly fund the remaining \$24,000 local cost share under the condition that any new incoming grant dollars would be used to reimburse the City for it's local share. Unfortunately, no new grant dollars were awarded to the City in FY2020 that could be used for local cost share SAC reimbursement.

For FY2021 we once again find ourselves in a better but similar predicament:

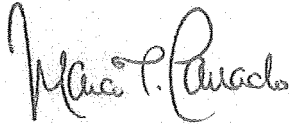
- The NPC and RISAS have managed to secure \$77,000 of the \$105,000 total to fill the full time (5 days per week) Rogers and part time (2 days per week) Thompson Middle School SAC positions. \$50,600 will be paid directly by the State of RI to RISAS and an additional \$26,400 in direct aid will come from the Newport County Prevention Coalition (NCPC).
- The NPC in partnership with City Administration has submitted new grant applications including a Drug Free Communities Grant (DFC) that would provide \$125,000 per year over 5 years directly to the City of Newport. These new grants could be used to fund or reimburse the local cost share of these SAC positions. However, as of the date of this letter we do not have news of their approvals and do not expect to hear back before December 2020.

- While we recognize the temptation to reduce hours for the SAC positions or eliminate one of the positions entirely as a cost cutting measure, that action would jeopardize the \$77,000 State and NCPC funding matches during a time when youth substance abuse has skyrocketed under COVID19 lockdowns.
- School Administration has already informed us that they regrettably have no room in the FY2021 budget to directly pay for these contracted SAC positions, but would certainly welcome the City's funding for them.

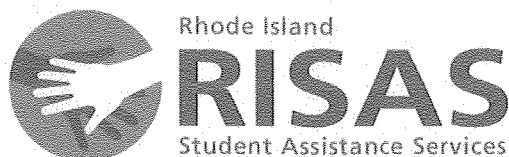
We recognize the financial challenges the City of Newport and its citizens are facing during this global pandemic. We would not consider soliciting the City Council for \$28,000 in funding if we did not believe that the societal value of these SAC positions did not greatly exceed their up front cost. A copy of the contract is attached.

Please feel free to contact me directly, or RISAS Executive Director Sarah Dinklage at 401-732-8680 (sdinklage@risas.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marco T. Camacho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marco" being the most prominent.

Marco T. Camacho
NPC Board Chair
401-924-4077



Rhode Island Student Assistance Services, a Division of Coastline EAP
Contract for Services
School year 2020-21

Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) will provide the Student Assistance Program based on the nationally recognized, evidence-based model Project SUCCESS {Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students}. **The Project SUCCESS model is delivered by a specially trained and certified, onsite master's degree counselor.** The counselor is an employee of RISAS, Coastline EAP and is supervised by RISAS and the School. The school principal plays an active role in the selection of the counselor for her/his school.

Project SUCCESS was given a "Highest Rating" by the 2018 Pew MacArthur Results First Clearinghouse Database of evidence-based programs and practices. To be listed in the database, a program needs to undergo a rigorous evaluation process every 5-10 years. Based on these results a program is given one of the following ratings:

Insufficient Evidence; Negative Effects; No Effects; Mixed Effects; 2nd Highest Rated, Highest Rated

The "Highest Rating" means "The program had a positive impact on stated goals based on the most rigorous evidence"

Project SUCCESS is comprised of the following **key services**:

Prevention Education Series (PES)-a six to eight session alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drug program. Method of delivery and target grade to be determined by the district and RISAS including delivery options on school approved virtual platforms.

Confidential Assessment for alcohol and other drug problems and other behavioral health problems that interfere with school performance, attendance and behavior. Student Assistance Counselor is trained and prepared to provide assessment services virtually in keeping with the approved platforms used by other school support personnel (e.g. school social worker, psychologist).

Individual and Group Counseling- Conduct time limited individual and group counseling sessions. Student Assistance Counselor is trained and prepared to provide individual and group counseling virtually in keeping with the approved platform used by other school support personnel if school is virtual.

Referrals to Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Treatment Agencies, when appropriate and will provide a full range of case management and follow-up duties.

Outreach and Orientation to school personnel, students, parents and community people on Project SUCCESS

School-Wide Awareness Activities for students, school personnel and families through virtual platform pending approval by school principal

Parent Programs based on needs of the school and will be conducted in person and online. **Examples** may include, but are not limited to: education and information at parent orientation/open house, webinars for parents, community forums, newsletters. RISAS will be offering a series of virtual webinars for parents on how to foster resilience in children during stressful times.

On-Site and Virtual Consultation and Professional Development to school personnel in order to increase identification, prevention and early intervention strategies with adolescent and pre-teen substance users and students at risk for substance abuse.

Referral Resource for Families of students, whenever appropriate.

Three Days of Intensive Orientation and Training for the Student Assistance Counselor on how to set up and implement Project SUCCESS in both an in-person and virtual scenario.

Ongoing Supervision and Professional Development of the Student Assistance Counselor and program monitoring.

Annual Reports and Monthly (by request) to the school department.

Ongoing Training for the Student Assistance Counselor to meet requirements of CSAC (Certified Student Assistance Counselor) and other professional licenses as required by the state

Responsibilities of the School District . . .

Office Space with a telephone, desk, computer, access to a printer and a locked file cabinet provided for the Student Assistance Counselor.

Parent Letter sent home describing the program with option to opt out of services. The letter will be provided by RISAS.

Written Policy Statement describing the Student Assistance Program/Project SUCCESS distributed to students and parents during or before the first week of school.

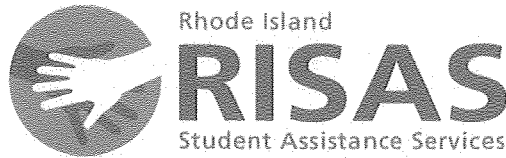
Faculty Meeting explaining the program, held within the first month of school.

Allow Students to participate in rotating virtual group sessions during school hours.

In order to **evaluate the effectiveness of the Program**, school will administer the RI Student Survey bi-annually pending approval from RIDE and School Committee.

In order to **evaluate effectiveness of the program**, school will provide data concerning student (only those referred to the student assistance program) attendance, discipline and grades to the Student Assistance Counselor pending all necessary approval by the district.

The Student Assistance Counselor is an employee of a private agency; therefore, the school agrees to implement the provisions of the program and comply with State and Federal Guidelines governing confidentiality for substance abuse prevention and early intervention.



**CONTRACT FOR SERVICES
Newport School Department**

Period: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Description: Student Assistance Services (details attached)

Rogers High School – 5 Days/Week
Thompson Middle School—2 Days/Week

TOTAL COST: \$28,000.00

*2 Days at Thompson is full funded by grant from the Regional Prevention Coalition

Please Fill In:

School Contact Person & E-Mail Address for Billing:

Authorized Signature

Date

Title

Authorized Signature

Date

Title

Please sign and return to:

**Attn: Sarah C. Dinklage, Executive Director
RI Student Assistance Services
300 Centerville Road, Suite 301 South
Warwick, RI 02886
Fax: 732-3581
E-Mail: sdinklage@risas.org**

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNCIL

No. 2019-67

WHEREAS, the City Council approved giving the Newport Prevention Coalition the sum of \$24,000 to continue funding a Student Assistance Counselor; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the City Council of Newport authorizes the transfer of \$24,000 from Council Contingency to the Newport Prevention Coalition Fund.

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
AUGUST 14, 2019



Laura C. Swistak
City Clerk