

Strong Families Make Strong Communities

MMA Annual Meeting

Human Services Council Workshop

January 19, 2018



Town of Westwood
Youth and Family Services Department
Danielle Sutton, LICSW
Director



Brief History of WY&FS

1985

- Community Needs Assessment

1986

- Westwood Youth Commission established under statute -----

1987

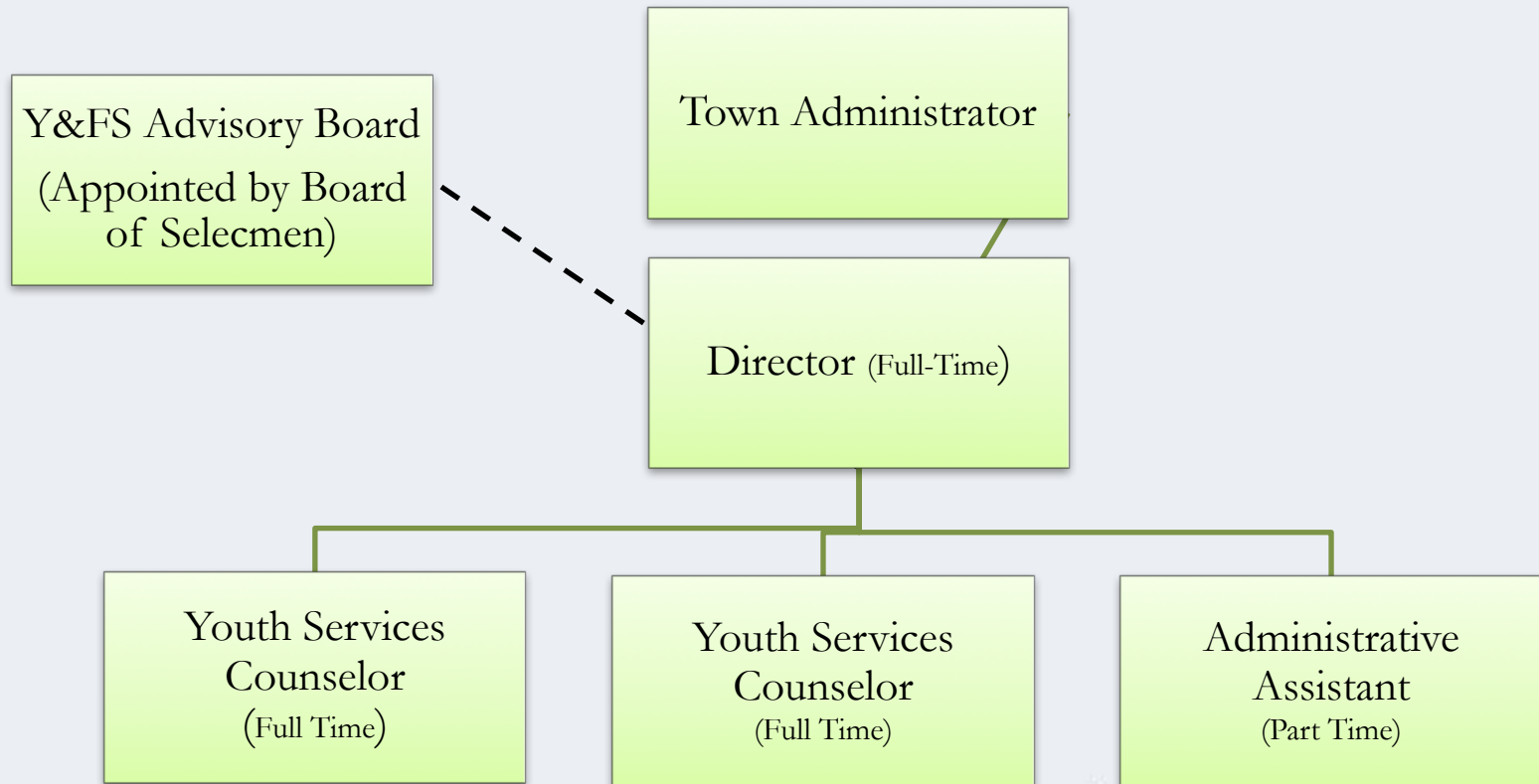
- First Youth Volunteer Program begins

1987 - Today

- Programs continue to grow
- Service demand continues to increase
- Expense budget remains level
- Gifts and grants account established
- Incremental staff increases



Current Structure



Services



**Individual or Family
Assessment &
Counseling Services**



**Parent or Guardian
Consultation &
Referral Information**



**Group Counseling &
Group Programs**



**Community Education
& Prevention Programs**



**Youth Volunteer
Programs**



Impact

- 1,211 hours of clinical and consultation services to residents in FY17
- The Youth Volunteer or “Mentor” program provided high school students with more than 2060 volunteer hours in FY17 and a total of 1,689 Westwood children and adolescents were served by six different volunteer programs
- Graduate Internship Program provided 282 hours of free clinical service to residents, estimated at a value of \$11,280.
- Department received \$2,250 in outside funding through gifts and grants in FY17
- WY&FS staff holds membership on 15 local boards, committees and groups



Greater Strength and Flexibility



Youth and
Families



Municipal
Departments



Schools



Community





Youth and Families

- 1 Parent, 3 Children
- Basketball = Therapy
- I Know You from...





Municipal Departments

- Recreation Staffing Dilemma
- Public Safety Collaboration
- A Librarian's Worst Nightmare





Schools

- School Refusal
- Crisis Management
- School-Wide Programs





Community

- Community Chest
- Emergency Shelter
- Westwood Cares



Make it Fit for Your Community

- More than 60 communities in the Commonwealth with established Youth Commissions, and each one is unique in their structure and offerings.
- Range from a volunteer board that organizes an annual Youth Appreciation event to a large department with 6-7 full time staff providing insurance-based counseling services and year-round programming, and everything in between!

MassYouth@yahoogroups.com



Contact

EMAIL: dsutton@townhall.westwood.ma.us

PHONE: 781-320-1006

WEBSITE: www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs

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