



Town of New Shoreham
Attn: Amy Land
Drawer 220
Block Island, RI 02807

Dear Mrs. Land,

The Wellness Coalition is in the midst of reconfiguring and losing funding we have utilized from grants for the past 28 years. I have attached a brief description of our history, current state and going forward. I am also aware that there is discussion for a need for the Town to enhance their social services offerings. The Wellness Coalition would be a suitable fit for increased social services as our mission is community public health and we are already a Town entity. We are prepared to take on this transition and formulate a needs assessment and strategic plan addressing social services on Block Island.

If you could please consider our proposal for the 2018 budget and feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Best


Jill Seppa, Coordinator

Cc:Shirlyne Goburn

The Wellness Coalition, Drawer 220, Block Island, RI 02807

Wellness Coaliton Budget Request

Background

Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA) – promotes comprehensive prevention programming at the community level. 34 municipal task forces, covering 38 cities and towns, engage in local needs assessments. They use a data-driven, decision-making framework for planning, implementing evidence-based practices, and evaluating strategies, policies and programs to produce long-term reductions in substance misuse and abuse.

The Town of New Shoreham has been in contract with RISAPA since 1987 as the fiduciary agent of the contract and providing 20% matching in kind services.

Current

RISAPA through BHDDH has restructured their approach and affective Jan 15th 2017 they have created sectors of coalitions versus individual contracts with Towns. Block Island is now a member of the South County Alliance Coalition and has suffered an 85% budget cut. The Alliance is currently in a planning phase which should last about a year.

Impact on Block Island

The Wellness Coalition has implemented many evidence based practices and interventions over the years as well as custom designed programs and interventions suited to our unique circumstances and most of all our risk and protective factors. In this transition and budget loss, not only is there funding and programing lost but the future implementations and growth we were on track to have within the community will halt.

Proposal

We are requesting that the town shift fiscal responsibility over to the town budget for the Wellness Coalition.

Potential responsibilities of the Wellness Coalition....

~liason between police department, medical center, school department, recreation department and library regarding public health initiatives.

~drug abuse prevention and education

~annual needs assessment and strategic plan identifying underserved community sectors and proposing subsequent programing

~implementing community wide public health promotions

~publish and maintain a community clearing house calendar of events and activities, programming

~liason to various community sectors to mainland resources such as snap, rehabilitation, energy assistance.