

Chapter 157. YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of Canton 5-31- 2000 by Ord. No. 211. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 157-1. Establishment.

There is hereby established a committee to be known as the "Youth Services Bureau."

§ 157-2. Composition.

There shall be seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for terms of four years, except for the initial appointment when four members shall be appointed for a term of two years and three members shall be appointed for a term of four years. These members shall be chosen from interested citizens representing a cross section of the community, including representatives of the public school system, the Police Department, and a private youth serving agency. A youth representative between the ages of 14 to 18 years can be appointed as a nonvoting member. The police representatives may be a liaison, nonvoting members if such representative is not an elector of the Town. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint all members of the Committee and shall fill all vacancies.

§ 157-3. Duties.

The Youth Services Bureau shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. To perform both administrative and direct service functions in accordance with state regulations that respond to the needs of youth who are or potentially could be in contact with the criminal justice system, youth without the support or protective environment necessary for normal development, and youth who manifest behavior which is potentially detrimental to themselves and the primary prevention needs in the community.
- B. To perform administrative functions, including research, resource development, community involvement, youth advocacy, program evaluation, and reporting.

- C. To conduct research that will assess the needs of youth and the availability of existing services and resources capable of meeting those needs.
- D. To provide either directly or by contract or referral services to youth and families, including crisis intervention, individual and family counseling, positive youth development programs, and parenting support.
- E. To conduct a resource development program to improve services, fill service delivery gaps, and create or encourage innovative programs to meet assessed youth needs.
- F. To advocate for and assist individual youth in obtaining and utilizing available programs and services provided by other Town and school departments and nonprofit community organizations.
- G. To conduct community involvement programs to promote public knowledge and understanding of youth problems and needs and foster positive community change.
- H. To report annually to the Board of Selectmen on the activities of the Bureau.

§ 157-4. Meetings and records.

[Amended 12-14-2011]

All meetings and records of the Committee shall be in compliance with applicable state statutes.