

**Green County United Prevention Professionals for Youth
G.U.P.P.Y. Meeting
February 8, 2019**

TOPIC: Truancy

Notes from Post-Presentation Questions:

- Habitual truancy is very difficult to prove
- We are seeing truancy at all levels of schooling (K-12). Noting that at the elementary level, we have to work with parents more to address issues of truancy.
- Danielle Gallegher is the Juvenile Justice Case Worker who applied for the grant that if funding the current truancy diversion program. The current grant provides funding through December 2019.
- A first meeting with a client in this program looks at what are the barriers to the youth going to school and what does the youth need to overcome those barriers.
- “Dollars for Days” program is only currently being piloted in Monroe.

Notes from Post-Presentation Group Discussion:

Barriers Youth Face in Attending School

- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Apathy
- Academically behind
- Socio-economic barriers
- Low family history/value of school
- Bullying & Abuse
- AODA

Questions/Ideas we have

- Can we catch issues earlier?
- How can we make education more purposeful for youth?
- Can we better adapt our educational approaches to what individuals kids need?
- Does open campus contribute to higher rates of truancy? What would the economic impact be of eliminating open campus?

What are we doing right?

- This diversion program
- Mentorship (i.e. referring to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, but there is a waiting list)
- School to Work (Juniors & Seniors in Monroe)
- Internships (Juniors & Seniors in Monroe)
- Academic and Career planning
- Job Shadows

What would greater consistency in how truancy is handled from community to community do?

- If all municipal law-enforcement used consistent forms and policies, it would be more efficient for humane services.
- Would be helpful for school districts to share best practices and create a uniform culture.

Possible Actions

- Support / Contribute to community effort to address barriers (mental health, AODA, economic, etc.)
- Increase community awareness of the truancy program, which may promote possibilities of alternative funding streams
- Increase awareness that funding on truancy prevention and diversion programs can save money on juvenile delinquency expenses