

**Preface:** The selectmen are currently working with Kevin's Community Center to help them establish a permanent home on the campus. At this time, Kevin's Community Center is considered a part of the ongoing implementation of the current master plan and so will be considered "existing" with regards to future planning. However, as part of this conversation, the selectmen (Pat in particular) are exploring the possibility of creating a "Social Services Enclave," that would be a centralized place where all families in need could find services. This would, as Pat said, create a "continuum of support for families under stress." Currently, the other social services that could be a part of the enclave include Newtown Youth and Family Services and the Newtown Social Services town department. Kevin's Community Center is included in this document as a potential member of such an enclave because, being first to locate at Fairfield Hills, it would likely influence the location for the enclave.

Note that frequent moves for social services organizations are a big headache since the organizations are often licensed by numerous state agencies. For example, the Newtown Youth and Family Services is currently licensed by four state agencies, meaning a lot of paperwork must be done per move.

### **Why Fairfield Hills**

- Centralized location – easy to get to
- Ability to co-locate multiple organizations
  - Access more than one service within a single stop
  - Become aware of other services that might be useful

### **Status Quo**

- **Kevin's Community Center**
  - Current footprint: 2600 sq ft
  - Town budget allotments from 2007 – current: \$45,000 - \$50,000
  - Current Leasing: End date is 11/2011, though there have been discussions about extending it monthly or quarterly. It is possible that the lease could be extended up to a year.
  - \$500,000 grant for "a building on Fairfield Hills Campus." One assumption behind grant is that KCC will grow. There is some uncertainty about the grant, given that all potential state funding is on the table during ongoing budget discussions. However, the discussion about the merits of various alternatives should continue, independent of this uncertainty.
  - Hours are 1-5 PM Wednesday afternoons. Hope to go to 3 days per week
- **Newtown Youth and Family Services (NYFS)**
  - Current footprint: 5200 sq ft – via two leased buildings. Planning on closing down the lease on one of those buildings. Current lease costs \$10,500 per month. Closing one lease cuts that to \$6,500.
  - Lease for remaining building ends Aug, 2012.
  - Town budget allotments from 2007 – current: \$214,000 – \$270,000
  - Use of services has been expanding 15% per year for the last few years. Note that closing one of the current leases means that new clients will not be able to be served.
  - Hours: Mon – Thurs, 9AM – 8PM; Fri, 9AM – 4:30PM. Saturday hours as needed (occasional).
  - NYFS has more requests for services than they have clinician time available. They are limited to how many clinicians can work at one time due to lack of space.
- **Newtown Social Services Department**
  - Current footprint: 800 sq ft (Need to double check this)
  - Co-located with police station
  - Provides financial assistance programs and food bank

**Needs**

- **Kevin's Community Center**
  - 3,000 sq ft
  - Room to grow to 4,000 sq ft
  - Handicap parking and accessibility
  - At this time, privacy concerns or issues relating to potential neighbors do not appear to be a limiting factor, re: location on the campus. However, this topic needs to be addressed more fully by the KCC board.
- **Newtown Youth and Family Services**
  - 7500 sq ft (min is 6000 sq ft). This gives them enough space to be able to proactively encourage members of the community to use the service. That is, currently, clients come to them via word of mouth. They want to be able to advertise to ensure that more who have the need will use their services. This means they need the requested space.
  - Handicap parking and accessibility
  - Privacy very important, given type of service provided. Need to ensure that the clients do not accidentally bump into neighbors.
- **Newtown Social Services Department**
  - 2000 sq ft
  - Handicap parking and accessibility
  - Some privacy preferred
  - Others??

**Discussion**

At this time, the Board of Selectmen is reviewing options for where a social services enclave may be placed. Such discussion is outside the scope of this document. By co-locating core social service organizations at Fairfield Hills, the selectmen (Pat in particular) are trying to better support members of the community in need, given the available money at hand. Over the past few years, the town has provided financial support between \$45,000 and \$50,000 for Kevin's Community Center and between \$214,000 and \$270,000 for Newtown Youth and Services (see: [http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/NewtownCT\\_Finance/2010-11Budget%20summary.pdf](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Finance/2010-11Budget%20summary.pdf)). Much of this financial support has been needed to offset space rental. By co-locating at Fairfield Hills, the operational costs for the organizations will be less, and more money can be made available for the programs they provide.

**Points to Ponder**

- The town current supports charitable organizations in the budget. Reducing the operational costs for those organizations means either that the existing money can be spent on providing programs and/or that the overall money can be reduced without impacting program offerings.
- Depending on the location of the enclave within Fairfield Hills, it may not fill all needs of the potential members of the enclave. Either such organizations may not become part of the enclave or other means may be needed to ensure that their needs are met.
- The status-quo, i.e., separate locations throughout town can meet the needs of individual organizations, but likely mean additional operational costs.
- When the police department moves, the building will likely be repurposed. At that time, the two remaining town departments, Social Services and Parks and Recreation, will likely have to move. At this time, the Parks and Recreation is planning to move into a Parks and Recreation building, currently planned for the campus. The Social Services department then becomes the sole town department not housed at Fairfield Hills.