

Top 5 Recommendations from Town Hall Meeting

1. More **education** for parents about topics such as: drug use, teen development, check list of warning signs, awareness classes, letting “kids be kids” at appropriate times/places, and groups, etc., thereby increasing parental involvement as well.
2. More **coordination and collaboration** with the community and volunteer programs to strengthen partnerships, including school mandated community service for students.
3. A **resource directory** as well as more publicity for services offered in the community (including links to services provided on school websites, information provided to families by educators, public service announcements, etc.) making contacting agencies more accessible to everyone.
4. Adult and peer **mentors**, who listen to youth, validate their voices and provide a safe and warm environment that nurtures growth. This includes more school counselors and school-based mental health programs.
5. Real life, youth driven **drug prevention/intervention** programs including: peer education, testimonials, meetings, support groups, etc.

Honorable Mentions (needs and recommendations that didn’t make it into the top 5):

- a. More transportation services available for youth
- b. Return to WRAP around services and collaborative “teams” for families
- c. Increase sex education in schools
- d. More resources to help address mental illness and reduce stigma
- e. More support for school counselors and school based mental health
- f. More activities and opportunities for youth in the community

- g. More crisis facilities
- h. Affordable and transitional housing
- i. Systems (schools, courts, workplace) more responsive to the needs of parents