

NEWS BRIEFS

SAFE Glen Cove Coalition pursues youth and family counseling center

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition held its sustainability planning meeting on Oct. 10 to review its accomplishments and share future action steps that have been planned for the coalition's four committees — community, youth, parent and school.

In 2016, the coalition designed a survey to poll the community regarding the need for reinstatement of alcohol and mental health services, especially for youth between 5 to 17. This data was combined with data from coalition sectors including the Glen Cove City School District, Glen Cove EMS, Glen Cove Police Department, Glen Cove EMS and SAFE outreach.

Data collected from over 1,400 respon-

dents indicated alcohol, depression and anxiety are the top three areas of concern, followed by marijuana, tobacco and prescription drugs. Responses indicate that about 62 percent want youth services, about 53 percent want counseling, about 54 percent want treatment and about 50 percent want prevention services. Also, about 86 percent said there is a need for a youth and family counseling center in Glen Cove.

The coalition has researched model programs, spoken with authorities on programs that treat mental illness and chemical dependency and researched available rental space in the city.

"The coalition's history has been in education, prevention, intervention and referrals," said Georgie Connett, SAFE board chair and strategic planner. "The survey revealed the need for a treatment facility that is accessible to residents of the Glen Cove community."

The future SAFE Youth and Family

Counseling Center, a part-time alcohol and chemical dependency program for youth and their families for 5 to 17 year olds would include: assessment and evaluation, individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling and education, psychiatric evaluation and referrals to other helping organizations in the city to provide a holistic approach.

The mission of the coalition is to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse in Glen Cove. The coalition is overseen by SAFE's board of directors and co-chaired by health teacher Tony Gallo and Executive Director Dr. Sharon Harris.