

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT  
**BUDGET**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

Present: Ald. Sangiolo (Chairman), Blazar, Norton, Kalis and Baker

Absent: Ald. Hess-Mahan, Leary and Rice

City Staff Present: David Olson (City Clerk), Dori Zaleznik (Chief Administrative Officer), Jayne Colino (Director, Senior Services), Donnalyn Kahn (City Solicitor), Linda Walsh (Acting Commissioner, Health and Human Services) Rob Symanski (Financial Analyst), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #375-14(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY16 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$361,997,264 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY16-FY20 Capital Improvement Program (#375-14). [04/15/15 @ 5:08 PM]  
**EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/21/15; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/05/15**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #375-14 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY16-FY20 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/15/14 @ 3:01 PM]

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #375-14(4) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2016 – FY 2020 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan. [04/15/15 @ 4:57 PM]

**BUDGET & CIP DISCUSSIONS:**

**CITY CLERK/CLERK OF THE BOARD**

The proposed FY16 budget for the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board's department is \$1,764,936 which is an 8.8% increase over the FY15 budget. David Olson, City Clerk explained that the first change in the budget is additional funds for the Board of Aldermen for end-of-term activities which include the retirement dinner and inaugural expenses. This appears as an increase in the budget only because those funds were not necessary last year.

There is also an addition in the archives budget to fund the document scanner position for which the Board approved funding. This will be a permanent position in the archives division working with the City Archivist and the Inspectional Services Department to get all the property files scanned and attached to permits and files in Community Plus. This will allow inspectors in the field access to all pertinent records. There is also a Board of Aldermen scanning project as well.

Mr. Olson believes the various scanning projects will keep this position occupied for the next 5-6 years.

In FY16 the City has the potential of conducting three elections: the preliminary and general elections for the City; and in March of 2016, the presidential primaries. However, the FY16 budget allows funding for the general city election and the presidential primary only. The administration decided to hold off on funding the preliminary election until it was determined one might be necessary. He reported that six people have taken out nomination papers to run for alderman-at-large in Ward 2 so a preliminary may in fact be necessary. Nomination papers are due back to the Clerk's office by July 31<sup>st</sup> so he may not know until then.

There are no CIP items or revolving funds to report.

#### Committee Questions/Comments

It was asked what the cost of an election would be and Mr. Olson said it would be approximately \$60K. About half of that is to pay poll workers and the rest is for costs associated with police details, school custodians and public works crews for set-up and break down of polling locations.

Some Committee members mentioned that at least one Election Commissioner was concerned that all three elections were not funded. Mr. Olson said he had a similar conversation with the Election Commissioners and they were concerned with the optics of the lack of funding and wanted a guarantee that it would be funded. Those concerns were communicated to Maureen Lemieux and she chose to keep the budget as is, but explained that money would be appropriated if necessary. Four years ago, money was budgeted for a preliminary election that never happened, so the administration decided on a wait-and-see approach for this year. Ms. Zaleznik confirmed that as well. Mr. Olson felt comfortable with this and didn't feel that current lack of funding has dissuaded anyone from running, from what he could tell.

Committee members were wondering about increasing the pay for poll workers. They are on-call at polling locations for about 15 hours. They have two 45-minute breaks but they are there beginning an hour before polls open and until all the work is done after they close. The day rate is \$165 for wardens, \$150 for clerks and \$135 for inspectors. Newton's rate is not at the bottom of the scale, but not at the top either. The concern is not so much with the municipal elections, but poll workers can work the presidential primary in any community that might hire them. Mr. Olson has some concern he may lose workers to the higher paying communities. He would like to see a raise in rates and hoped for it this year, but would certainly like to see it next year. The Committee asked for a list of other communities' pay rates.

Ald. Sangiolo said she may work on a Resolution to increase the poll workers pay.

The Committee thanked Mr. Olson for his wonderful work.

Ald. Sangiolo took a straw vote of the Committee in order to approve the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board's budget. The Committee voted 4-0 in favor with Ald. Baker not voting.

**SENIOR SERVICES**

The proposed FY16 Senior Services budget is \$606,974 which is a 2.12% increase over FY15. Jayne Colino, Director of Senior Services said that it was a challenging year due to significant staff turnover. She introduced staff members Rachel Nenner-Payton, Director of Social Services; Emily Kuhl, Social Service Case Manager; Sandy Lopes, Social Service Case Manager; Alana Levine, Program Coordinator; and Alice Bailey, Administrative Assistant; Marian Knapp, Diane Sostick and Nancy Brown from the Council on Aging; and Audrey Cooper.

Ms. Colino reported that the needs assessment has been completed and it is the roadmap for the future in making Newton become an even more age-friendly livable community. She and Marion Knapp have been out in the community raising awareness about the general and specific issues that have come up in the needs assessment.

They are expanding the delivery of programs and services to incorporate more intergenerational opportunities and to move outside of the Center for higher levels of participation. This outreach also informs people of the programs available at the Senior Center and brings them in. Alana Levine has brought skills to Newton in this area. She previously worked at the BOLLI (Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) which is a model of engaging people in teaching their peers and contributing to their community. She continues to carry that model forward in Newton.

Transportation services are being expanded without expanding the budget. The revolving account is being used to supplement the City budget in this area. They are awarding the contract to Veteran's Taxi again this year. The expansions include transportation to all City buildings for any purpose that is a City function. For example, all City buildings, parks, programs, hearings at City Hall, grandchildren's plays at the schools, etc. They have also expanded services to the West Roxbury and Jamaica Plan Veterans' Administration hospitals and to mental health counseling sessions. Under the current contractor, people can use the service to see a psychiatrist because that is a medical appointment, but now non-MD counseling sessions will be included. The Needham Street corridor will also be serviced

Social Services is expanding and has a wonderful team. There has been a part-time volunteer coordinators position that was fully funded by the state formula grant. Ms. Colino has budgeted a 30-hour a week position for an Outreach and Engagement Coordinator which will be posted shortly. This goes to the concept of age-friendly and livable communities and lessons learned in the needs assessment. Many people don't know what is available in the City so there needs to be a considerable outreach effort so seniors in the City have knowledge of what is available in all departments that may be of use to them. She hopes to have that position filled by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Colino said the Council on Aging co-applied with the Brookline Council on Aging for two different funding sources. They received funds of \$57K from the Dept. of Transportation for a model service for transportation and mobility management. Serving Health Information Needs of Elders (SHINE) is a volunteer based program that helps counsel people on their Medicare options and determine which is best for them. They are taking this model and applying it to transportation. When seniors have to change their transportation options, they can sit with someone who is extremely knowledgeable on all the available alternatives and help them work out a set of options. A staff person will be hired to run this program. The second grant they applied for was turned down by Tufts Health Plan, but they are going to re-apply because DOT saw value in the model.

CIP

The Senior Center has received new air handler units and they are fully installed. This allows for better air quality in a more efficient manner. The system monitors the CO2, the humidity and adjusts as necessary. This should make for a more comfortable environment and be more energy efficient. Josh Morse, Commissioner of Public Buildings, asked Ms. Colino for her top needs in the building. She noted there is an extensive list of things that need to be addressed with attention to painting, repairs and renovations. There will be a conversation early in the fiscal year with Public Buildings to prioritize the needs.

A bid has been awarded for new epoxy flooring in the basement to address the moisture problems. Gutter issues and non-working drains in the stairwells were the main causes of the moisture problems and those have been addressed.

Committee Questions/Comments*Marketing*

It was asked if there have been any resources dedicated to marketing of services and programs. Ms. Colino said the program coordinator has been responsible for that and has used the traditional vehicles of marketing. They had a management consulting group come in from SOAR a few years ago to evaluate their marketing mechanism and make some suggestions and recommendations for improvement. There is a Facebook presence as well as weekly announcements in the Tab. Marion Knapp is also a regular contributor to the Tab through topics related to aging. This can help to highlight how the Senior Center is responding to particular issues and also raise awareness of aging in general. They have a very content-rich website as well and NewTV would like to do a senior-focused news segment and perhaps grow that into a senior-focused show. The new outreach person will ideally have more marketing experience than senior experience and the engagement piece around that position is to engage people in participation, volunteerism and work with and find program partners and sponsors.

Ms. Colino said that the department just received a \$25K donation from the estate of a Senior Center participant. Before they docket this for expenditure, they need a purpose and the initial discussions support using the money for marketing.

*Snow Concerns*

Committee members wondered what types of challenges the Senior Center faced this winter in regard to seniors looking for help with snow removal. Ms. Colino said they wish every winter they had a better plan. There are a couple of organizations they refer people to but more is definitely needed. There seems to be a high expectation of free snow removal and that is just not how it works. They worked on trying to triage levels of emergency and work on cases one-by-one. They were not shoveling snow, per se, but they did what they could to make sure people were not in danger and were able to get food and have oil delivered, for example. Ms. Colino is hoping that this is a problem the new engagement coordinator will work on to engage people with each other in their own neighborhoods. It seems to need fostering that people should reach out to their neighbor if they need help, but it is uncomfortable or embarrassing for many people to do so.

There is also an expectation that the Senior Center has referrals it can make to shovelers, but they do not have any. They have handyman services, and some other contractors, but not one snowplow operator. The landscapers who do snow work in the winter tend to do so only for

their landscaping customers and don't have availability otherwise. Most people are just looking for shovelers for their sidewalks and walkways and they are very difficult to find. The Senior Center works with Weston and Needham in sharing contractor lists and neither of those towns have snowplow/shovelers either. This winter was particularly challenging with the onslaught of storms the region experienced. Towards the end of the winter, they found themselves doing a lot of counseling and quelling anxieties. There is no sustained model for this kind of service that they know of. Some Committee members felt that the City should shovel all the sidewalks.

### *Housing Options*

There was a short discussion of seniors needing housing options in the City which included accessory apartments, condos and apartments. A questionnaire that was sent out showed that people did not really want "senior" housing, but preferred to remain integrated in the community. They are, however, finding those housing units difficult to find. If seniors stay in their homes, it is likely they would need to make modifications to their home and some could not afford to make those modifications. The Center works to educate seniors to look at the Newton Housing Rehab Fund and how to access it. There will be a 3-part series in the fall in the Library to look at the issues of what seniors would need to stay, to move, and how to make that decision. Developers need to understand what an age-friendly development would look like, otherwise, seniors will be moving out of Newton because the options don't seem to be available here.

Accessory Apartments are an option and the Mayor just docketed an item to consider ways to make them more accessible to seniors. Ms. Colino said she has heard that people are interested in accessory apartments. Builders need to be educated on what is actually needed to make accessory units, or what accommodations should be made to the main unit, to make either livable for seniors. These also add to the affordable housing stock. Committee members said this may be a good way to add to the housing stock that is sensitive to the issues of density that have come up lately. Ms. Colino wondered if developers of new construction could be incentivized to add accessory apartments. It was pointed out that building accessory units into new construction is currently not allowed in Newton.

### *Needs Assessment*

The Senior Citizen Fund of Newton paid \$33K for the needs assessment study.

### *Transportation*

The Committee asked Ms. Colino to provide the numbers relative to the expansion of the transportation program. They would like to see how the ridership and number of locations has increased from previous years.

### *Lunches*

The Senior Center lunches are still being provided by Springwell. Attendance has plateaued at about 35 people a day. At their peak they were serving about 65 people a day. If they have an opportunity to make some changes they would like to have café style dining with meals offered throughout the day, but she would not want to end the subsidized lunch program. They would work with Springwell on a plan. This is the trend in Senior Centers to have a street front presence similar to a Starbucks style. They looked at making some changes a few years ago but the work turned out to be more extensive than they had anticipated, and did not get any viable bids from caterers, so they shelved the plan. Committee members felt having a café type program would bring more people in to the Center. Working on partnerships with local food establishments is something to consider as well.

The Committee thanked Ms. Colino and her staff for their hard work and dedication.

Ald. Sangiolo took a straw vote of the Committee in order to approve the Senior Services Department budget. The Committee voted 4-0 in favor with Ald. Baker not voting.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

The proposed FY16 budget for the Health and Human Services Department is \$3,433,078 which is a 4.6% increase over FY15. Interim Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Linda Walsh joined the Committee.

A Newton Cares coalition has been formed, in part, to support suicide prevention efforts and in response to the recent tragic losses the City experienced. A tremendous amount of work has been done in this area. The DA is having a full-day program and the Youth Director will be going to this program to moderate a panel of Newton students. A handout is attached with detailed information about the program and the work that has been done in the schools and community. The information cards are still distributed to students and to adults with emergency contact and supportive services information and phone numbers.

The City was a recipient of a \$70K a year FDA grant for 4 years for the food grading program with the restaurants. It has been a successful program bringing a standards coordinator to the department. They are able to train the inspectors in standardizing their inspections and they purchased computer software to make it more efficient. There are over 400 food establishments in the City and more than 200 are restaurants. After this first pass, the restaurants will have a food grade that the public can see on a GIS map. They are about half way through this effort and have met with the restaurants so they understand the system and answer any of their concerns. It's a true partnership and is going well. The goal of this program is to prevent food-borne illness. Having standards greatly decreases the risk.

### Committee Questions/Comments

#### *Screening in Schools*

Ald. Sangiolo said one of the grades was not being screened. Ms. Walsh said they were concentrating on the high schools this past year, then moving it down to the middle schools. The plan is to have the screening done every other year. Logistically, it was quite an effort to get all the students screened. She will look into why a particular grade was not screened.

There had been a discussion about teaching resiliency as well as screening for those at risk. Teaching those who may not be vulnerable at that particular point in time, to be resilient and look for ways to cope and find the help they need is extremely important. Ms. Walsh said they are working with the Chairperson of adolescent and child psychiatry at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. They have a subcommittee working on the issue of resiliency and have had four parent trainings on that subject alone. It is a process that starts as early as 2 years old. The public schools are part of this effort as well as surrounding communities. Getting the information about resiliency to the schools, the students and the parents is extremely important and a significant step in prevention.

A Committee member learned about a theatre program in Acton for kids with social skills issues. Parents are involved as well and because everyone has a role, the children feel they fit in. It

seems this Acton program is the only one of its kind in the area and sounded like a wonderful opportunity. The schools have their own social/emotional department staffed by two people. They look at new and different programs to address those issues, so Ms. Walsh will pass this information along to them.

It was asked how the teachers are being trained to address issues. Ms. Walsh said this would be a better question for the School Department.

#### *Vaccinations*

There is a flu vaccination program in the schools and they strive to increase the numbers of people vaccinated for influenza in the schools each year. Ms. Walsh said they know every student who is unvaccinated (MMR, DPT, etc) in the school system. It is a requirement for the Mass Department of Public Health to track those numbers and the numbers are extremely low in Newton. It is a very high priority to keep this information accurate and up-to-date.

#### *Licensing*

Committee members noted that they are getting much more communication about licenses for events in their ward. This was something that was requested earlier in the year and they thanked Ms. Walsh. During the Walk for Hunger, however, Committee members saw food trucks in Newton Centre. There was a docket item and discussion in Committees about allowing food trucks and they are currently not allowed. There was a resolution that the EDC and Chamber of Commerce would work with local restaurateurs to have them contribute to City events as much as possible. Ms. Walsh said they do allow food trucks for special events on a one-day license. She will look into the Walk for Hunger event. Ice Cream trucks are licensed and allowed in the City but should not be within 500 feet of a school. This is entirely a safety issue. They do not want kids running to ice cream trucks and possibly getting hit by a car. They have revoked licenses of a couple of vendors who were not following the rules.

#### *Social Services*

There are new programs being developed to enhance the knowledge base of people of all ages, for example, financial literacy and budgeting with connection to other resources. Another idea is a support group for caregivers. Ms. Walsh is working with Jayne Colino so all age groups are considered. They are working on ways to get the word out so people know what resources are available so crises can be prevented.

#### Revolving Funds/ CIP

The Newton Cares \$15K recurring budget item is the only new item in revolving accounts. There is a federal grant for emergency preparedness which they receive each year. They did not receive additional funds for the Marathon because their role is for shelter and reunification in the event of an emergency. If they needed medical support, they would call their Medical Reserve Corp of volunteers and they show up extremely quickly. No City money is really needed.

The one CIP item which is somewhat related to the department is the elevator project because when the bathrooms are expanded for accessibility, some storage area will be taken away from HHS. It will be relocated to the basement.

Ald. Sangiolo took a straw vote of the Committee in order to approve the Health and Human Services Department budget. The Committee voted 4-0 in favor with Ald. Baker not voting.

**CITY SOLICITOR**

The proposed FY16 budget for the Law Department is \$1,546,785 which is an 8.12% increase of FY15. Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor explained that an Assistant City Solicitor position is vacant which would be for a land use, public construction and 40B attorney. An offer was extended and they are waiting to hear back, although she feels the candidate will accept.

One part-time attorney position deals with energy and special projects involving complicated mortgages. There is also a part-time attorney budgeted through the schools but managed in the Law Department. This attorney takes some of the special education caseload, which is exploding lately. There are active BSEA cases, which are special education appeals, and there are also many special education related questions and training.

The ADA Coordinator position has just been filled and Gini Farley will be starting soon. This position will be in Law Department. Marie Lawlor has been doing work with the accessibility group and is familiar with Ms. Farley who has been involved in that group. She has done accessibility for the state house in Boston and has a group of volunteers with various accessibility issues who assess buildings and bring reports back to her to determine where the issues are. Ms. Lawlor will be the second-tier manager to Ms. Farley.

Committee Questions and Comments*ADA Coordinator*

It was asked if the ADA Coordinator would be in charge of supervising curb cuts and things of that nature to be sure they're being done correctly. Ms. Zaleznik said that Engineering would be the department to make sure the technical specifications are being met. There was concern because an alderman saw a particular area where there were some problems with curb cuts and things were not being done correctly. The Commission on Disability also identifies places that need attention and the ADA Coordinator will not be the only person paying attention. It could become an inter-departmental effort to make sure designs are followed. Ms. Kahn said they will be determining any and all other groups Ms. Farley should be involved with to better implement the ADA needs of the City.

*Special Education*

Committee members noted that there was a review of the special education program a couple of years ago which showed that legal issues are a real cost driver. There seems to be more contention in this area than in other communities. Ms. Kahn explained that the needs of the child are always paramount, but parents seem to be doing quite a bit of unilateral placement. They take their child out of the public school and enroll them in a private school. Then they come back to the City and want the City to pay the tuition. This is becoming problematic. Newton is well-known for its special education programs, which are extensive and sought after. People specifically move to Newton to take advantage of the superior services. The City always tries for mediation and conciliation but that doesn't always work.

*Zoning Reform*

There was some concern that the budget did not reflect any specific resources for Zoning Reform. It is the responsibility of the Law Department to sign off on legal form and character. Ald. Baker said he would like to see a resolution for resources for the zoning reform effort. This



is a very difficult task and changes are being made to a very important document. Careful drafting and review is paramount and he did not want to see the Law Department short of resources.

Ms. Kahn said Marie Lawlor and Maura O'Keefe are going to be doing Phase 2 work on zoning reform. She is able to shift responsibilities and workloads as necessary to allow necessary time for particular projects that are on the horizon.

Ald. Baker was concerned that unforeseen circumstances can lead to heavier workloads and the available time may not be adequate. A line item for outside consultants would be helpful so that things can be sent out if things become problematic. He was unsure what that amount should be and asked Ms. Kahn for guidance on that. Right now there is only \$10K in that consultant line, which he felt would not be adequate. Committee members agreed some money would be necessary and supported a resolution. Ms. Zaleznik said if the Committee would like to offer a resolution that would be up to them to determine what they would like to ask for, and a source from which that money would come, but she would take this back to Maureen Lemieux. However, each department meets with the administration and they discuss the needs. It was felt that their budget now accommodates what is needed. Ald. Sangiolo said if there is no response from the administration on this, then the Committee will go through the resolution process.

#### *40B Attorney*

The City is not behind on any 40B issues. The new lawyer being hired for that will be taking on any issues coming in the future and some of the public building constructions project, particular the schools. They will also be doing some appellate tax cases as well.

#### CIP/Revolving Accounts

There are no CIP items or revolving accounts to discuss.

Ald. Sangiolo took a straw vote of the Committee in order to approve the Law Department budget. The Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Mah Sangiolo

## Poll Worker Pay Rates

### Rate Comparisons

	<u>Warden</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	<u>Inspector</u>
<b><i>Flat Rate</i></b>			
Boston	175	135	135
Brookline	225	200	175
Dedham	175	150	125
Lexington	200	170	150
Natick	180	160	120
Needham	150	150	120
Norwood	240	210	180
Somerville	185	170	135
Waltham	150	140	135
Watertown	150	150	115
Wellesley	191	163	131
Westwood	210	150	150
<i>Average</i>	186	162	139

### ***Hourly Rate***

Cambridge	\$15.50 hr	\$15.50 hr	\$14.70 hr
Weston	\$12.00 hr	\$10.00 hr	\$10.00 hr

### **Newton's Rates**

Current	150	150	135
FY16 Requested	190	180	160

### **Poll Worker Cost per Election**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Requested Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>
1 Election	\$26,880	\$32,320	\$5,440
2 Elections	\$53,760	\$64,640	\$10,880
3 Elections	\$80,640	\$96,960	\$16,320

# Newton School & Community Response to Youth Deaths by Suicide

Newton Public Schools, the City of Newton and many public and private provider organizations have a long history of partnership. All of the efforts listed below were possible because of collaboration with many organizations and city departments including Newton Health & Human Services, Riverside Community Care, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Newton Police Department, Massachusetts School for Professional Psychology and others. For ease of reading we have separated this handout into “school response” and “community response” but want to clarify that it was necessary to work closely together to weave a tighter safety net for youth both in and out of school. These relationships were strengthened during a time of crisis but should be nurtured as a part of prevention. Suicide Prevention is a community issue and important across the lifespan, efforts should expand outside of the public schools to best serve all residents whenever possible.

## School Response

- Coping Groups were offered for students, teachers and faculty at both North and South High School as well as one middle school to support and educate about suicide
- Held three open meetings for parents and community members to gather, hear from school and city leaders, and process/ask questions
- Newton Public Schools hired a mental health provider to coordinate care of students returning to school after hospitalization
- The Signs of Suicide (SOS) national, evidence-based curriculum and screening was presented to seniors in both high schools in the spring of 2014, faculty and staff were educated in this suicide prevention curriculum and clinicians from Riverside Community Care and across the NPS district were on hand to help
- SOS curriculum and screening implemented in grades 9-12 throughout the 2014-15 school year, as well as in one grade of the middle schools (Plan for one middle school grade and two high school grades as a sustainable model for future school years)
- Established Newton Cares: Coalition for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health in partnership with the City of Newton
- Received two Mental Health related grants Project Aware and School Climate (Fall 2014)
- Trained staff in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training
- Mental health awareness committees were established at both North and South high school. They are student and faculty run and have hosted multiple awareness activities including resource booths, giveaways, guest speakers, etc.

## Community Response

- Mayor Setti D. Warren and the Board of Alderman dedicated emergency funds to support suicide prevention and postvention efforts
- Hired a six month Citywide Suicide Prevention and Wellness Specialist, to coordinate the work and give clinical recommendations including help with the implementation of the SOS curriculum in the schools
- Formation of Newton Cares: Coalition for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health in November 2013
- 30+ people certified as trainers for QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training, to train community and staff members throughout the city, across the lifespan
- 500+ community members trained in QPR including all school nurses, Newton Public School staff, Boys and Girls Club and YMCA staff, Afterschool program staff, city hall employees, self-selecting community members, Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, etc.
- Mayor Setti D. Warren, along with other elected officials spoke at a mental health awareness day held at City Hall including a resource fair of local providers and partners
- A website was developed for Newton Cares [www.newtonma.gov/newtoncares](http://www.newtonma.gov/newtoncares)
- An online free, anonymous, mental health screening tool was added to the website
- Newton Youth Services received a Mental Health and Wellbeing grant from CHNA 18 to support ongoing work
- Over 9,000 youth resource cards distributed across the city through Newton Youth Services with support from Newton Cares
- An adult resource card was created and widely distributed
- 150+ parents participated in a teen mental health parenting series through Newton Youth Services with support from Newton Cares
- 400+ youth and their allies gathered to hear Kevin Breel speak about mental health during Youth Summit III through Newton Youth Services with support from Newton Cares
- In partnership with Newton Public Schools, Riverside Community Care and Samaritans, Newton Youth Services piloted a small Suicide Prevention Social Media Taskforce

The City of Newton is fortunate to have in place, for several years, a contract with Riverside Community Care to provide many mental health services to residents, as well as, a contract with Massachusetts School for Professional Psychology to provide the INTERFACE referral helpline to residents.

Need more information about any of the responses and how you could implement something similar in your own community?

**Website:** [newtonma.gov/newtoncares](http://newtonma.gov/newtoncares)

**Email:** [newtoncares@newtonma.gov](mailto:newtoncares@newtonma.gov)

