

Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc.

School Based Health Centers

“Healthy Kids Make Better Learners”

**Meet your HATS School Based Health Center Staff:**

**Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist: Clare Gelissen, LMFT**

Clare brings over 27 years of experience counseling adolescents, adults and families to the SBHC

at HATS. She has a bachelor’s degree in Special Education and a master’s degree in Marriage

and Family Therapy.  While trained in Systems Theory, she uses a multitude of treatment

approaches including Dialectical Behavior Therapy, along with a blend of short- term, solution-focused strategies.  Clare has worked in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals and community agencies.  In addition, she has been a clinician with Insight Counseling in Ridgefield for over 20 years where she has run and has co-led many group programs for teens, young adults and families. She has been a school-based clinician at the middle, high school and college levels.  Her expertise is in working with teenagers and their families. Clare’s years of professional experience in education and counseling is a testament to her commitment to helping children and families arrive at creative solutions to the problems they encounter.

 **Nurse Practitioner: Clare Nespoli, MSN, APRN, CPNP**

 Clare has been a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Danbury area for over 15 years. Clare received her

 first Bachelor's degree in Biology from Lafayette College in 1997 and her Bachelor and Master's

 degrees in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. Clare has been a pediatric provider at

 the Greater Danbury Community Health Center since 2012. From 2014 - 2020, she provided medical

 care to the students at the Broadview Middle School SBHC. Clare understands the unique healthcare

 needs of adolescents and enjoys working with teens and their families to ensure that they remain

 healthy and make safe/smart decisions. In addition to her passion for caring for adolescents, Clare loves

 soccer and plays in a women's soccer league on Sunday afternoons. Clare is married with 2 children.

 **School Based Health Center Manager: Melanie Bonjour, MPH**

Melanie joined the Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc. in July 2013 immediately after retiring from 34 years of service as a Public Health Educator and Health Center Coordinator for the City of Danbury. She earned a BS degree in School and Community Health Education and a Master’s in Public Administration from Western CT State University. Her most notable achievement has been securing funding to establish Danbury’s first School Based Health Center in 1994. A 30-year resident of the Newtown community, Melanie feels honored to have an integral role in bringing the School Based Health Services to the Newtown Middle School.

  **Services include: Contact Information:**

-Individual, group and family counseling **Hours:** Monday - Wednesday - Friday 7:30am - 2:30pm

 -Health education and health promotion **Phone Number:** (203) 797-4460, Ext: 4936

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