

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of February 8, 2012.

1. Roll Call

Present: Diane Candido, Alan Chapin, Paul Geer, Kitty Nelson, Rev. Duetzmann, MaryLou Kecko, Gary Johnson and Sue Stango.

Absent: Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Lisa Diamond-Graham and Robert Nunno, Board of Aldermen.

Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Minutes

It was noted that Donna Nunno was present at the last meeting. A motion was made by Chapin, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as amended and carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

It was discussed that Ross DeLeonardo's years of service to the board should be recognized. A motion was made by Kecko, seconded by Johnson that a plaque be made to acknowledge this and that the funds be taken from the Board account. The motion carried unanimously.

The Energy Program has been extended by the State to May 15th. Appointments have been scheduled through March and there are 1,010 appointments on the book. To date; Energy Assistance has been provided to 1,028 Milford residents. There was an emergency meeting at the United Way to try and come up with a plan for those families who are coming in needing oil deliveries already. The benefits have been cut significantly and do not even fill the tank one time. (Last year, a typical family received between \$580 – \$880 and after that they would qualify for crisis benefit and safety net benefits providing that they met a specific criteria) This affects usually the elderly and families with young children. Last year the benefit would fill a tank 2 to 3 times for the season and this usually lasted throughout the winter. Now, more and more seniors are being seen who are reporting that they are not even turning their heat on because they are afraid they will either run out of oil or will not be able to pay their bills if they have gas or electric. More and more food referrals, DSS and clothing referrals are being made than ever before. This information and report of need is being discovered during their Energy appointments; there are still other programs and the Outreach appointments where the same issues and requests are being seen. This is reaching crisis level.

There are 246 youth and adults in therapy services. In addition, there are 519 youth and adults that participated in the prevention based programs this month. (These included the Family Fun Night, Improvisations, Social Expedition and Rent A Kid programs). The

outreach programs at the Boys and Girls Club are still running. There will be a meeting with the Academy students and offering in-services with the Community Outreach Workers and therapists conducting therapeutic programs such as Anger Management, Social Skill Building, etc.

Christie, Mindy and Lisa will be meeting with a woman from Stamford next week to learn about Dancing Classrooms. Christie's nephews participated in this program in Bridgeport and she brought the idea back to Lisa. The end performance is modeled after "Dancing with the Star's" in terms of judging; but teaches youth about self esteem, character building, bullying issues, forming positive interpersonal relationships, the cultural histories of the dances, team building skills, etc. Lisa will report back information on this.

Lisa met with Board member Sue Stango and Sue volunteered to begin working on a power point presentation of the department. She and Christie will be meeting on Friday to work on it and we really appreciate her efforts.

Lisa will be going to the Board of Finance tomorrow night for the budget hearing. There is a shortfall of \$34,090.00 from what was requested. Of that \$20,552.84 was for the 20 hour position for the seasonal temp. on the Human Service side to accommodate the 48% increase in service demand. Kitty and Lisa met with the City Attorney to discuss options and they will meet with the Mayor as well. Lisa was preparing the presentation for the Board of Finance and noticed that in 2007/2008 service was provided to 11,499 clients and in 2010/2011 it jumped to 21,180.

Geer asked about the DSS report/annual review. Lisa will follow up with this.

4. Fiscal Report

A motion was made by Rev. Duetzmann, seconded by Johnson to approve the financial report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

MaryLou Kecko, Recording Secretary