

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of February 11, 2015.

1. Roll Call

Present: Karen Barnett, Joan Campbell, Rev. Duetzmann, Donna Nunno, Sue Stango and Kitty Nelson.

Absent: Alan Chapin, and MaryLou Kecko.

Also Present: Alderwoman Kubek, Christi Roche, Brandon Hall, Beth Simpson and Lisa Diamond-Graham.

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

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Stango, seconded by Rev. Duetzmann to accept the minutes of the December meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

Lisa welcomed new board member Karen Barnett. She met with both Karen and the other new board member Scott Moulton, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting but is very excited to be joining the board.

Youth and Family Services had 388 clients in treatment this month and 442 clients in prevention based programs. Human Services had 260 clients that were assisted with Energy and 139 clients that received case management services. Additionally, 93 people received food through services and an additional 7 were directed to the Soup Kitchen.

Lisa and Beth will be presenting the budget to the Board of Finance tomorrow night.

Lisa wrote a grant to Milford Bank and \$500 was received from them for clients for Emergency Energy funds. Additionally, almost \$4,000 was received in donations from the churches for clients also for emergency energy funds; some of which has been utilized already with the harshness of this winter and the cold temperatures.

It was requested and received \$2500 in emergency food gift card funding from the United Way. Additionally, Lisa submitted a grant to the Greater New Haven United Way Neighbor 2 Neighbor for the Emergency Food Voucher Program. For the first time, there was collaboration with the Health Department to submit this. Human Services is the department requesting the grant, however, if awarded, some of the vouchers will be shared with the Health Department. Lisa is very excited about this new development as this is how the two departments can deliver optimum service to the community together and this is the first time the two departments have collaborated in this way.

This past month, Christie and Lisa participated in a field trip with Community Development, the Fine Arts Council, Library staff, Milford School Administration and the Business Community to explore internship programs for our Youth. They visited sites in Wallingford

and New Haven, meeting with other Superintendents of schools and Youth leaders. They will be meeting again to follow up on what was learned and how to integrate into the community.

4. Financial Report

Lisa reported that Beth is doing an incredible job with streamlining and developing procedures and is an incredible asset. Beth reviewed the financial report and noted that the budget for next year is being worked on. A motion was made by Nunno and seconded by Campbell to accept the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

Lisa, Christie, Brandon, Donna and Sue met to work on the Sneaker Program. Christie reported that they researched ideas/programs and distributed this material. They are looking at vendors for donations, researching and collaborations to combine family and health improvement. Nelson suggested contacting the Recreation Department. Lisa reported that the snow has hampered meetings and they are looking to meet with the Superintendent of Schools next month. Nelson suggested targeting segments of age; grammar schools, middle schools, high schools. Lisa stated that they are looking to come up with a pilot program for the spring. Stango stated that she thought the beginning of the school year was the target. Lisa stated that she does not want to interfere with the Back Pack Program and discussed the Board of Aldermen doing a spring program and maybe partnering with that. Campbell asked how those in need would be identified and suggested youth that receive free or reduced lunch in school. Christie stated that they get referrals from school counselors. Nelson suggested that smaller kids are really in need as they are growing and always in need of new shoes. Barnett suggested contacting Patricia from the Valley United Way based on the flyer distributed. Christie will reach out to her. Campbell asked about the volume of back pack distribution. Christie reported that there are approximately 400 kids noting that a limited number of Payless gift cards go to the Back Pack Program. Overall wellness is the goal of the Sneaker Program. Nunno discussed getting donations for vouchers for Karate lessons, etc. There was a discussion on businesses donating; which Lisa felt was another reason not to launch the program in the fall so as to not interfere with the Back Pack Program.

Rev. Duetzmann reported that on 1/24/15 there was a meeting with the Clergy Association, Social Service providers and Community Resources at the Mary Taylor Church where better communication was discussed. This was a follow up to the October meeting. They are reviewing better coordination to address gaps in services as well as overlapping of services. They are also looking to set aside funds/an account for contributions to community needs.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit,

MaryLou Kecko,

Recording Secretary