

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Directors meeting of April 8, 2009.

1. Roll Call

Present: Kitty Nelson, Diane Candido, Alan Chapin, Ross DeLeonardo, Gary Johnson, and Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Melissa Dubiel and Phil Vetro.

Absent: Ray Ferguson and MaryLou Kecko.

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

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Chapin, seconded by Johnson to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

- Human Services saw 241 individuals; 482 family members. To date energy assistant clients and people can now begin to receive shut off notices, so intakes have been increasing again. There has been a 25% increase from last year. Youth Services had 139 Therapy Cases; 463 people. Program information will be presented at the next meeting.
- Lindsey's last day was last Friday. She obtained other employment and resigned. Lisa met with the Mayor and was granted permission to hire a seasonal/temp. (this falls more under the SDE grant verses city funding) and Jenn Doyle, MFT has begun but will have less hours than Lindsey had for now. Jenn was an intern in prior years. The Mayor has requested a hiring freeze and we are now technically down 3 positions, which is 50% of the staff and this is beginning to be crippling and is really putting a strain physically and emotionally on all of the staff. We are trying very hard not to have a lapse in services, but with all intakes increasing on both sides and everyone putting in extra hours everyone is exhausted. Not being able to hire is taking a toll. As the economy falters and people lose their jobs, their healthcare, their homes; Human Services is who they turn to. Right now funding is available in the budget to fill the open positions but due to the hiring freeze we can not. The existing staff is being lost due to the budget cuts last year. The budget presentation for the Board of Aldermen is being worked on.
- There were over 500 people that attended the Mayor's Youth Award ceremony. It was so heartwarming to see the kids' faces as they walked across the stage to shake the Mayor's hand. There were over 44 nominees in the individual categories and 11 groups nominated. Some of the groups had up to 50 kids in them.
- Cheryl has set the dates for the Rent Rebate Program and to visit the Senior Housing sites for intake days. The program starts May 15th and the site visits will start in June. Also, we have been approached to run the Senior Farmers Market Food Voucher

Program again this year. Cheryl can not do this alone. This will depend on what happens with replacing Cindy's position.

- The Social Worker, School Nurse and Bruce Blake from The Academy requested a meeting with Lisa and Mindy and asked if some groups could be run for their students. Lisa and Mindy are designing some groups for these students to try and address some of their overwhelming needs.
- The back to school Back Pack program is beginning and the letters to the schools will be going out before the end of this month. Last year there were over 250 backpacks. It is anticipated that there will be more this year in conjunction with the Salvation Army. Nelson suggested using High School kids that have community service obligations through school to assist with programs; backpack program and family fun nights.
- Staff would like to run a giant tag sale to raise funds. This was discussed and Vetro will look into the process to set up a fund to accept donations. He referenced that the Police Department had gone through this process.
- The Board of Aldermen budget hearing is on 4/20/09 and Nunno and Nelson will be attending.

4. Fiscal Report

A motion was made by DeLeonardo, seconded by Johnson to accept the financial report as presented and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit