

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Directors meeting of May 13, 2009.

## **1. Roll Call**

Present: Diane Candido, Alan Chapin, MaryLou Kecko and Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Melissa Dubiel and Phil Vetro.

Absent: Ray Ferguson, Kitty Nelson, Gary Johnson and Ross DeLeonardo.

Due to a lack of quorum, the following was briefly discussed:

## **2. Staff Report**

Human Services saw 134 individuals; 355 family members. Youth Services had 140 Therapy Cases; 468 people. Last months figures were 495 for the prevention piece.

It has been another busy month. Donna Nunno, Melissa and Lisa went to the Board of Aldermen budget hearing on 4/13/09. Kitty was going to attend as well but when by 9:00 HS was still not called, it was decided that she would not attend. The hearing went well. Lisa attended with a prepared statement that illustrated fully the services of the agency and the amount of clients that are served. It was well received and the Board of Aldermen are deliberating.

Erica Bento has been hired full time for Cindy's position. This is still in process; the Mayor did give his approval for this because it fell under the emergency category due to the clients that services are provided for and the huge gap that would surface if this position was not filled. This is especially significant with the Energy Program and the Rent Rebate Programs overlapping for a time and the moratorium on utility shut offs ending. Accordingly there has been a surge in calls and appointments.

There is an increase being seen, as it has been in the past, in the school referrals at this time of year when the schools begin to make preparations to close for the summer and start to line up services for their students during these months. There has also been a deluge of referrals for camp scholarships, particularly Camp Happiness ones. There was \$2,500.00 from the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities group that is almost depleted now and Tony Candido has been contacted. Cheryl and Lisa will be making a presentation at their Board Meeting this week to plead for more funds. Also discussed was a joint fund raiser in the future to have some form of an ongoing income generator to keep monies in this account.

The Police and Youth Program, run by Mindy Natale and Sean Macauley, are having their Community Safety Day on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. All staff will be working at this event and the board is encouraged to stop by and support this. It is being held behind the Police Department from 11am – 2pm.

Mindy and Lisa will be holding a presentation to the staff at Bridges on 5/26/09 of services offered by our agency in hopes to better coordinate services.

The Rent Rebate Program will be starting on 5/15/09. Appointments have already been scheduled. A press release will come out soon.

The Energy Program is ending on 5/30/09. Final statistics will be presented next month. Cheryl will also be in attendance to have a presentation on the program. Word was received yesterday that HS could apply for additional FEMA funds and a grant was written for an additional \$1,000.00 for utilities assistance.

Erica led a group at the Food Bank on Saturday to assist in the Mailman's Food Drive. Cheryl, Erica and Lisa met with Kevin Pelham of the Cub Scouts to begin planning for next years' Thanks for Giving Food Drive. This is a program where Cub Scouts camp out at Wasson Field the weekend before thanksgiving and also do food drives all around the city.

On 5/18/09, Improvisations is having a performance at Meadowside School at 4:30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Lisa will be organizing a group, a smaller version of the social service/youth service networks of clinical services providers. It would include Human Services, Bridges, Catholic Charities and Boys and Girls Village to begin with. There are some serious gaps in services and lack of coordination and Lisa is hoping that meeting monthly or every other month can bridge this gap. It is anticipated that this will happen in the summer months when things are a little calmer.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

MaryLou Kecko,  
Recording Secretary