

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of June 20, 2017

Donna Nunno called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Donna Nunno, Sue Stango, Gina Badalamenti, Rev. Karl Duetzmann, Scott Moulton, and Aldermen Ellen Beatty.

Absent: Karen Barnett, Joan Campbell, Brendan Casey, Kitty Hurley, and Alderman Anthony Giannattasio.

Also Present: Deepa Joseph and Beth Simpson

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Minutes

A motion was made by G. Badalamenti, seconded by K. Duetzmann, that the minutes of 4/18/17 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Director's Report

Human Services:

The Energy Assistance Program has ended and the Department of Human Services (DHS) staff made a quick transition to the Renters' Rebate Program. In concluding Energy Assistance (EA), the staff had a debrief meeting. A review of the program results revealed that changing the length of time for each appointment from ½ hour to one hour did not significantly impact the total number of EA applications taken at the Milford office. This additional length of time did have a positive effect for clients, as it allowed the Outreach Staff to help with other needs that clients had. As a result of the EA program debrief, DHS staff will be meeting with TEAM, Inc. (Community Action Agency) to discuss how the two agencies can make the Energy Assistance Program a cleaner process.

The DHS staff participated in a Food Summit, organized by the Milford Clergy Association. At this meeting the issue of food pantry utilization was examined. A representative from the Connecticut Food Bank attended and shared information regarding food services within the state. The distribution of holiday food baskets was also discussed. The Cornerstone Christian Center coordinates many diverse food programs within Milford. At the meeting several other programs were looked at, such as those where grocery chains donate food that can't be sold within stores.

In planning for the holiday programs, DHS staff will meet with community leaders and agencies to discuss how we can change the culture, and distribute food and resources throughout the year, not just at the Thanksgiving holiday.

DHS will be hosting an event at the Milford Public Library, on July 27th, where P.U.R.A. (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) will lead a presentation to educate residents on how to better navigate their electric bills and on being more informed consumers.

DHS has been awarded an increase in grant funding from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). In addition to emergency utilities and food, the department will receive grant funds for rent and mortgage and emergency shelter expenses.

The Director is looking for an intern to help finalize a data management system that DHS has been working on with MIS.

Youth and Family Services:

The Mayor's Youth Award took place on May 4th. Over 400 youth were nominated within individual and group categories. The Parson's Auditorium was full to capacity. The staff is currently conducting a debrief of the event.

Therapy continues.

The Clinical Coordinator is staying educated regarding possible changes to state wide mandates, with respect to the diversion program. The State may be using Youth Service Bureau's (YSB) as a central hub for diversion, truancy and families with special services needs. Our agency may see a higher number of youths coming in and there may be other significant changes. The YFS staff is looking to meet with Bridges, Milford Collaboration and the Milford Public Schools.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

None.

7. Adjournment

S. Moulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Stango seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Nunno adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Simpson
Recorder