

## Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of September 18, 2018

Sue Stango called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Sue Stango, Gina Badalamenti, Joan Campbell, Brendan Casey, Rev. Karl Duetzmann, Barbara Genovese, Kitty Hurley, Donna Nunno, Aldermen Ellen Beatty, and Alderman James Tranquilli.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deepa Joseph and Beth Simpson

### **2. Public Comments**

None.

### **3. Minutes**

A motion was made by K. Duetzmann, seconded by B. Casey, that the minutes of 3/20/18 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Director's Report**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) hired two new Community Outreach Workers: Sandra Carmichael and Kaja Guilmette. They both come with a lot of experience in the human services field and have hit the ground running. Both of them have been working with agency partners and attending meetings within the community.

The Renters' Rebate program is ending on October 1st. The department is transitioning into the Energy Assistance program that provides heating assistance to residents in need. Energy Assistance appointments started today, September 18th.

The department is gearing up for the Thanksgiving food programs.

There have been a large amount of Outreach referrals pertaining to shut-offs and large balances for specific utility bills. The DHS has fully expended the utility funding received from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) and the Milford Bank Foundation, therefore, DHS is currently looking at other sources to assist with the payment of these bills. The department is still dispersing funds from the EFSP-Rent and Mortgage grant. There has also been an increase

in requests to help with security deposits. DHS staff is trying to address this by providing assistance with the first month rent, as security deposits are not grant eligible under the EFSP.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that were awarded for rent and mortgage assistance, for this program year, have been completely utilized. The DHS has been approved for CDBG funding in the next program year, in the amount of \$ 9,700, beginning October 1, 2018.

Backpacks were distributed to students in need on August 21st. The families and kids were extremely happy and thankful to receive these school supplies. We also gave out shoe gift cards with the backpacks.

This Monday, September 17th, there was a meeting regarding the homeless population in Milford. Representatives from various City departments and Beth El attended. The DHS staff will continue to work with these groups using a multi-tiered approach with the overall goal of connecting homeless individuals with social support services.

Regarding Youth and Family Services (YFS), the Clinical Coordinator and Program Coordinator positions are still open. Many families that were receiving therapy services from YFS were transitioned over to Bridges. Additionally, the Department compiled a list of other mental health treatment centers in the area for therapy services. Milford Public Schools has been made aware of these changes and is keeping the Department updated as to their needs. Bridges has offered to provide coverage for the schools until the vacancies are filled, if Milford Public Schools is in need of services. The Department hopes to be able to fill the vacancies shortly.

## **5. Old Business**

None

## **6. New Business - Nomination of Officers:**

The following nominations were made by B. Casey:

Donna Nunno – Chairman

Sue Stango – Vice Chairman

B. Genovese seconded the nominations. A call to accept the nominations as presented carried unanimously.

## **7. Adjournment**

G. Badalamenti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

S. Stango adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Simpson  
Recorder