

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of October 08, 2014.

1. Roll Call

Present: Joan Campbell, Alan Chapin, Rev. Duetzmann, MaryLou Kecko, Sue Stango and Kitty Nelson.

Absent: Diane Candido and Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Lisa Diamond-Graham.

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

2. Minutes

It was noted that Stango was not present at the last meeting. A motion was made by Chapin, seconded by Kecko to accept the minutes of the September meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

Lisa reported that everything continues to be going great. The staff is so busy and the greatest challenge is finding resources to meet the needs of our clients. Also, an additional staff member is still needed and has been requested in the last couple of budget processes and has been denied. Last year with the Energy Program there were 3 people and 1 has since left to go to graduate school. The Energy Program began mid September. 469 calls for appointments have been received to date. Last year, there were 788 appointments total. Also, most Energy appointments also require outreach assessments which need to be rescheduled as they usually take about an hour.

Rev. Karl hosted a collaborative meeting with the Clergy Association and Social Service Agencies in the City to streamline the delivery of funding and resources to those in need. It was very well attended. Some areas of overlap were identified as well as some gaps and are being addressed. Rev. Duetzmann stated that churches get a lot of calls and have no real ability to verify the need and people receive multiple services. So, he had a meeting with the Shelter and Human Services at Mary Taylor Church. This was a good meeting and very productive. 5 organizations were identified that can meet a lot of needs and this is starting to become a little more streamlined. The possibility of a central fund was discussed (10 churches were represented – multi denominational). This was very informative for all as to what resources are available. Lisa agreed and stated that there are some duplication of services and some gaps. Some needs are not being met. Some new people have been invited to the Social Service Network and Lisa is looking to revamp the structure and do more presentations at these meetings. Rev. Duetzmann stated that streamlining communication by email showing those in need and services received is on the agenda of the Church Council.

Lisa has a meeting with the Mayor in the morning regarding the No Freeze Shelter and will report back to the Board on this.

Sean is coordinating the Thanks 4 Giving food basket program – he is collecting about 400 names for the Boy Scouts, Lions, American Legion and Knights. The process has been streamlined this year with the MPS and the schools putting out an email blast requesting that rather than small pockets of food drives; all requests file through Human Services.

Mindy, Christie and Lisa presented at the State Youth Services conference. It went very well. What was surprising and affirming was the uniqueness of Milford's' Human Services relationship with the schools and Police Department. Lisa asked the Principal of The Academy to attend this conference as well. Christie, Mindy and Annalise researched animal therapy as a pilot program for Anger Management for 6 weeks (Spartacus the Dog) and this was so successful that it continued and is now in the third year. The staff draws on the Therapists interests/talents and family needs in order to create programs and building relationships. Rev. Duetzmann agreed and stated that he as been in other towns and there is not the same community connections.

The Satellite Therapy groups have begun in some of the schools; the majority should be up and running by the end of this month. Some newer ones that will be starting at the Academy will include Boxing, Yoga, Art, Spartacus as well as the Individual and Family therapies. In addition to The Academy there are groups at Pumpkin Delight, Calf Penn, Orchard Hills, Harborside, Law and Laurelton Hall. There are 226 clients in therapy and 416 in prevention based programs.

Family Fun Night met this week; Rent a Kid is picking up again with requests already for leaf raking and snow shoveling.

4. Fiscal Report

The financial report was reviewed. Chapin asked if there was an accounting of Therapy fees received. Lisa stated that there is and will be reflected in future reports. It was discussed that there are 12 Interns total; 6 paid, which are graduates or licensed and 6 unpaid, which are unpaid interns. There are intern relationships with Central CT State University, Southern CT State University, Fairfield University, Iona College and Nyack.

A motion was made by Chapin, seconded by Rev. Duetzmann to approve the financial report as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. New Business

None.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit,

MaryLou Kecko,
Recording Secretary