

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of November 14, 2012.

1. Roll Call

Present: Kitty Nelson, Alan Chapin, Rev. Deutzmann MaryLou Kecko, Donna Nunno and Sue Stango.

Absent: Diane Candido, Paul Geer and Gary Johnson.

Also Present: Lisa Diamond-Graham, Melissa Dubiel and Alderman Bob Nunno.

Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Nunno, seconded by Rev. Deutzmann to accept the minutes of the October meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

None.

4. Fiscal Report

Workman's Compensation line item was discussed; the City pays full salary and gets reimbursed a percentage. An issue has not yet been deemed a claim.

5. Staff Report

- The office has been in full Storm Sandy Recover Relief mode. Lisa thanked the staff (Hillary and Erica are the Outreach Workers; but all staff pitched in) for going above and beyond during this time of extreme demand and need. She also thanked Board member Donna Nunno who contacted Lisa a few days into the storm and asked how she could help and hasn't stopped since. The Mayor has been great; since before the storm Lisa has been attending daily EOC briefings. Human Services staffed the informational resource and recovery fairs. Lisa has met with the City Attorney's, the Mayor and the Health Department several times to attempt to define the Relocation Program. Lisa was contacted by the FEMA Recovery Volunteer Group and has since met with them to help to identify needs and resources in the community. Kitty, staff and Lisa are meeting with the Mayor tomorrow to discuss issues and funding for clients affected by the storm.
- ShopRite and the Garafalo family have been incredibly generous to Human Services and Milford families not only during this latest crisis; but always. The Board will send a letter of thanks to Harry and Ann Garafalo.

- Lisa reached out to Dr. Feser and Mindy proposed some creative programs and groups for the families both in school and in the Human Services offices. Fees have been waived for all programs and therapy for families affected by the storm. Individual therapy has been opened for this as well.
- The storm crisis has highlighted the deficiencies that have been known of and attempting to correct for the past few years. The budget process is beginning again and Lisa has put in for a full time position. The concept is to make this position be part time Human Services and part time Youth Services so that there is seamless coverage on both sides so that in the event of an emergency, busy season, long term employee absences or vacancies clients won't suffer. The Planning and Personnel Committees will work together on a plan for presentation. Lisa feels that pursuing becoming a City Department should move forward for sustainability. Cross training of staff was discussed; some areas can be and some cannot. The issue of qualifications and salaries was discussed regarding employee retention.

5. New Business

Nelson reported that Geer has retired from the Fire Department. His position on the Board is appointed by the Mayor and represents Organized Labor. His term expires in December. The need for a new member to have an understanding of Human Services was discussed and a member of the Police Department or a Health Teacher would meet this need. Alderman Nunno stated that he would speak to the Mayor regarding this.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

MaryLou Kecko,
Recording Secretary