

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of November 16, 2021.

Meeting held via Audio/Tele Conferencing.

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

1. Roll Call

Present: Donna Nunno, Brendan Casey, Joan Campbell, Melissa Tranquilli,
Rev. Karl Duetzmann, Joy Duva and Barbara Genovese

Absent: Aldermen Ellen Beatty and Aldermen James Tranquilli

Also Present: Deepa Joseph and Beth Simpson

2. Public Comments

None

3. Minutes

A motion was made by J. Campbell, seconded by Rev. Duetzmann, that the minutes of September 21, 2021 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Director's Report

D. Joseph stated that the fall is generally a busy time for the Department of Human Services (DHS) with programs overlapping and the staff preparing for the holiday programs.

The DHS Community Outreach Workers continue to provide services in the areas of emergency rent/mortgage, utility and food assistance. They've also been working with UniteCT, specifically to obtain COVID relief funds for Milford residents. The UniteCT program is administered by the Department of Housing. UniteCT provides assistance to Connecticut residents impacted by COVID-19. The Outreach staff continues to assist Milford residents in navigating through this application process.

The Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) spending deadline was October 31, 2021. Towards the end of this grant end date, the DHS staff reached out to clients and worked diligently to spend all remaining funds and assist residents in need. Beth has also been working on the EFSP reports.

The department has not yet seen the full effect of the moratorium on rent and utilities being lifted.

Outreach Workers have processed all Renters' Rebate applications for this year. They are now working on extensions, as this program allows for extensions to be filed due to medical reasons.

The Energy Assistance (EA) program has begun for this heating season. The program began on August 1st and is administered through TEAM, Inc, in Derby. From August, 491 Milford residents have applied and 324 have been approved for EA. For the months of October and November, 178 residents have applied and 78 were approved. TEAM staff and Milford Outreach Workers are continuing with the model of taking applications over the telephone and through email.

The Youth and Family Services (YFS) Program Coordinator participates within groups throughout Milford, such as the Homeless & Unsheltered Multi-Agency Network (H.U.M.A.N.) and the Health Improvement Alliance Behavioral Health Task Force.

The YFS recently completed the online parenting series “Strong Families Create Strong Minds: A Positive Strategy.”

The Program Coordinator has also been working with the Milford Fire Department and Milford Police Department on the Juvenile Diversion Program.

All staff members within the DHS agency have been working on Thanksgiving programs and partnering with many of local clubs to provide holiday meals for those in need.

Rev. Duetzmann asked when the Adopt A Family (AAF) gift donations are due to the office. Deepa indicated that gifts are requested for December 10th. This will give the Outreach staff time to pair donors with families in need.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business – Set Meeting Dates for 2022:

The following 2022 meeting schedule was presented for vote:

- February 15, 2022
- May 17, 2022
- September 20, 2022
- November 15, 2022

A motion to approve these dates was made by B. Genovese. Seconded by Rev. Duetzmann. The motion carried unanimously.

Rev. Duetzmann asked if these meetings will be held virtually or in person. Deepa responded that the Human Services conference room is not large enough to social distance adequately and therefore to be cautious at this time, upcoming meetings will be held through Zoom. The goal is for in persons meetings to resume, dependent on community transmission rates of COVID-19 decreasing and maintaining low transmission rates.

7. Adjournment

Rev. Duetzmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Nunno adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Simpson".

Beth Simpson
Recorder