

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Directors meeting of February 11, 2009.

1. Roll Call

Present: Kitty Nelson, Ray Ferguson, Alan Chapin and Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Melissa Dubiel.

Absent: Diane Candido, Gary Johnson, MaryLou Kecko and Ross DeLeonardo.

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

Due to a lack of quorum, the following was briefly discussed:

2. Staff Report

- Lisa welcomed new board member, Donna Nunno. Lisa met with Donna last month to familiarize her with the Department and the services offered.
- Human Services stats: 207 individuals served; 489 family members.
- Youth Services stats: 118 cases ongoing, 380 people in the therapy piece. The prevention based program piece has 489 family members total.
- On the Youth Services side, all programs; the Family Fun Night, Social Expedition, Improvisations and the Police and Youth Program met and are status quo. Lindsey did recruitment for the Rent a Kid Program and had a huge turn out. She now has 142 kids on the roster. She now has more kids than residents so, she is going to put out some press releases to increase awareness in the community; particularly among the seniors, that this service is available to them. The Mayor's Youth Award is going well and we seem to be getting more nominations this year, earlier than last year. It is making a difference that both Lindsey this year, and Mindy last year took nomination forms directly to the schools. Lisa met with Harvey Polansky about different issues and asked him to send out an email to his Principals to encourage their staff to participate, which he did while Lisa was there. Hopefully, that will help also.
- Lisa is looking to revamp the MYSN and she met with the Mayor, then with the YMCA (who HS serves as the Fiduciary for) and then Harvey Polansky. Lisa tried to clarify everyone's roles and look at expanding the functions of the network. Possibly applying for some grants together (since most funding sources are looking for collaborations now), set up a web site, etc. An Executive Committee has been formed and they are meeting later this month. A discussion followed regarding collaboration and Agency structure to avoid duplication of services. Also, collaboration regarding fundraising.

- Immediately following this meeting, Lisa and Melissa will be going to the Board of Finance for the second step in the budget process. Lisa will report this status.
- The Governor's budget reported zero funding to the HRD grant as part of her cuts. Upon closer look, it seems that that refers to any new funding after the 2008 budget; and Lisa wrote a 2 year budget this past year, so it does not appear to apply. This grant in total is \$12,271/year. The state grant for the Youth Service side is \$37,299 and no word has been received for this as of yet. However, the enhancement grant that was applied for and received for Mindy's Social Expedition Program (\$7,500) is not going to be available again and that would unfortunately mean that this program can no longer be offered. This is a support program to the Board of Education as well because many of the day trips are on school closure days and most are in the summer. The concept for this program was to create a program for the kids that would allow the parents to work and give the kids some psycho educational entertainment, and then intersperse it with family get togethers. A second group could have been started if there were the staff and funds. Lisa is very concerned about all of these prevention based programs with all the budget cuts at both the state and particularly the city levels.
- Lisa discussed the status of the Department. Human Services is not technically a city department, nor fully a non profit due to the fact that they are not a 501C3 designation. This means that most grants can not be applied for and there is a lot of difficulty in obtaining another non profit to be deemed the fiduciary. Independent fundraising is not done because this has brought up issues around the city side. So, technically HS is not a City Department nor a non profit yet, when it comes to budget time on the City end; HS is treated as a grant agency and last year suffered severe cuts in the budget; worse than other grant funded agencies such as Bridges, the Shelter, etc. Bridges receives almost as much from the city as HS does and yet HS provides services exclusively to Milford residents and they do not. Bridges also is a 5013C and can apply for any grant and can also fund raise and has a multi million dollar budget. HS can not fund raise or apply for many grants. Last year Bridges was cut by the city \$2,500 and HS was cut \$5,000. Meanwhile, HS receives several referrals a week from Bridges for Milford families that they have refused clinical services to for a variety of reasons. When HS tries to access their services for psychiatric assessments, they are unable to do so. This is just one example of issues that are increasing and why Lisa would like the Board to consider the following: to become fully a city department. Currently all rules of city employees are being followed; sick time, vacation time, as well as participating in the pension and health benefit program. Currently HS is 89% city funded and clients served are solely Milford residents. The fear is that with the climate of funding cuts, a day may come when the city will not be able to afford to fund non city departments. Lisa has a meeting with Ben Blake, Chairman of the Board of Alderman on 2/19/09 and a meeting with the Mayor will be scheduled as well.
- Lisa and Lisa Streit attended the Building Committee meeting last week to address issues from the walk thru that was held a few weeks ago with the Contractor and the

Architect. The issue of having a secure building was addressed and the Building Committee agreed with this. They are looking into pricing for this as well as conference room furniture.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit,

MaryLou Kecko, Recording Secretary