

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

1. Roll Call

Present: Kitty Nelson, Ray Ferguson, Alan Chapin Gary Johnson, MaryLou Kecko and Donna Nunno.

Also Present: Melissa Dubiel.

Absent: Diane Candido and Ross DeLeonardo.

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

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Chapin, seconded by Johnson to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

- Lisa reviewed the outcome of her meeting with Ben Blake, Chairman, Board of Alderman. Blake was unsure about making Human Services officially part of the city and was going to look into it. He suggested charging insurances for therapy services and felt that the department could generate \$100,000.00 in income. Lisa explained to him that that was not feasible. Human Services brings in \$8,000.00 annually in therapy fees. Most clients do not have the kind of insurance that would pay those kinds of fees for family therapy. The only people who could charge would be Mindy and Lisa and the man hours spent billing would be cost prohibitive. Bridges is turning away clients with private insurances – most likely for that reason alone. Lisa met with the Mayor and he felt that Human Services already, essentially is a city department based on original structuring of the agency via ordinance. Lisa sent him the by laws and he was going to investigate also. The Mayor did feel that HS should be able to independently fund raise, similar to the police and fire departments and set up a fund that could be accessed through the discretion of the E.D. and then approved by the Board. However, Lisa does not feel that fund raising is going to adequately address the budget problems; when everyone is really feeling the crunch of their fund raising capabilities. For example; the Rape Crisis just held their indoor golf tournament. Last year they raised over \$20,000.00; this year it was \$10,000.00. Sponsors were down, attendance was down, raffles and auctions were down and costs did not increase. The other issue is that we cannot compete with huge organizations such as Bridges, Kids Count and Boys and Girls Village, Boys and Girls Club, Beth El Shelter who have large staffs and large Boards and have had these mechanisms in place for years. So, while every little bit will certainly help, it will not be a long term solution. Nelson discussed fundraising and what is involved in doing such. A large base is needed to take on tasks. Solicitation for donations from organizations was suggested. The Police and Fire Departments usually hire a private company to do

fundraising. Lisa did write to the Rotary Clubs and received no response. Nelson suggested presentations to Boards. It was discussed that many organizations are seeking funding from the same pot.

- The youth programs all just took place in a state wide survey, conducted through CT Youth Services Association (this is a survey to youth) in an attempt to lobby the State to reinstate the cuts aimed at the Youth Service Bureaus. As you know, they have eliminated all of our enhancement grants, through which we were able to fund our Social Expedition and Family Fun Night Programs, and also are cutting the basic grants to the Youth Service Bureaus.
- FEMA funding has been received in the amount of \$6,500.00 - \$4,000 for the rent/mortgage assistance and \$2,500 for utilities assistance. Cheryl, Melissa and Lisa attended training yesterday in Hamden held by the New Haven United Way. Nelson asked about the mortgage assistance and what criterion there was. Lisa stated that assistance was for one month and can not be for interest and the applicant can not be more than one month in arrearage. The bank must guarantee 30 days stay with a one time payment. This is emergency assistance with no income guidelines.
- Human Services stats: 206 individuals served; 440 family members.
- Youth Services stats: 124 cases ongoing, 396 people in the therapy piece. The prevention based program piece has 533 family members total.
- The Mayor's Youth Award will take place on March 26th at 4:00 p.m. Lisa is happy to report that there were so many nominations that the venue had to be changed to the Parsons Auditorium.
- The Rent A Kid Program – Lindsey contacted the newspapers and there was an article as well as Channel 3 called and they did a story on the program. There has been a high volume of calls from this with interest in being in the program as well as other towns wanting to start a program.
- The Board of Aldermen budget hearing is on April 20th at 7:00 p.m. Lisa would like Kitty Nelson and Donna Nunno to come to this meeting.
- Lisa discussed the Board and its membership. Some members have not been attending and everyone is going to be needed to start becoming involved, particularly if fund raising is being looked at. Kitty will contact absent members. There is also one vacancy and Lisa will look into pursuing this with the Mayor.
- After some discussion, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Kecko to make a donation of \$100.00 to the Special Olympics in Sue Kelleher's husbands' memory. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report

A motion was made by Kecko, seconded by Chapin to accept the fiscal report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit,

MaryLou Kecko,
Recording Secretary