

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of September 11, 2013.

1. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Lisa Diamond-Graham and Melissa Dubiel.

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

2. Minutes

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

3. Staff Report

For the Human Services side for the month of July; 190 people were assisted with case management services, 162 benefited from the Rent Rebate Program and 252 from the Senior Farmers Market Food Voucher Program. Also, 137 people were assisted with food from referrals to the Food Bank. In August; 213 people for case management, 40 for Rent Rebate and 20 received the Farmers Market vouchers. 156 were helped with food referrals. The number of people needing assistance with food has been increasing every month. Based on this, Lisa spoke with Janice Jackson, Director of the Senior Center regarding their donations that allow Human Services to purchase Shop Rite gift cards. These gift cards are used for those that come for assistance off hours or for those that have dietary restrictions. Janice presented to her board and their response was that they could not make a donation at this time; they have also seen an increase in need and have purchased \$5,000.00 in food this summer.

For the Youth Services side for the month of July; 239 people benefited from therapy services and 514 in programs. In August; 244 people received therapy services and there were 945 people receiving Youth Services programs.

The Energy Program is starting and the first appointments for oil clients will be in mid September. Anna and Sean attended a training session at TEAM in August and Erica will be attending one in September.

Hillary's last day was 9/4/13; and Lisa has hired Sean Macauley to replace her. There are three new interns that have begun; two at the Master's Level (one is in Art Therapy and one is in Community Psych) and one undergrad majoring in Psychology. There are also 10 graduate therapy interns.

Lisa met with Dr. Feser in August and they have agreed to proceed again with the Satellite Therapy Program for this coming school year. Each contributes \$5,000.00 towards this and that pays for the Therapists time. Mindy, Christie and Lisa's time as supervisors as well as the Interns are not charged.

Christie and Sean have resurrected the Improvisations Program in the High Schools. They wrote a grant to the United Way for funding. There was a meeting yesterday at United Way with the committee to apply for the grant, which will be for student stipends totaling \$1,500.00

Update on the Back Pack Program – Human Services will not be doing this program next year. The program went well; Human Services went from collaborating to assisting. Chapin asked if the Salvation Army said they were taking this over. Lisa replied that the Salvation Army board said that they wanted more involvement and took it out of the Human Services office and put it in the United Way. Hillary and Christie were not involved at all. Rev. Deutzmann stated that it was a radically different program and any concerns that he raised were not received well. Church volunteers had supplies ready for pick up and called the Salvation Army; supplies were picked up by a Major from Bridgeport and were distributed in Bridgeport. There was no personal contact. Lisa originally presented the program to Dr. Feser and the delivery this year was not what was presented; there was uneven distribution, some bags were small, some large, some organizations put notes in bags. Human Services will support the program in any way needed in the future.

4. Fiscal Report

Nelson recommended appropriating funds to purchase Shop Rite gift cards for those in need. A motion was made by Nunno, seconded by Chapin to allocate \$1,000.00 from the Board account for food cards. The motion carried unanimously.

The fiscal report was reviewed and a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Chapin to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rev. Deutzmann, seconded by Candido to enter Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kecko, seconded by Rev. Deutzmann to leave Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. and carried unanimously.

Rev. Deutzmann announced that the Thanksgiving Eve service will be at St. Mary's and he will suggest that funds from this service be donated to the Energy Assistance Program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

MaryLou Kecko,
Recording Secretary