

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of September 14, 2011.

1. Roll Call

Present: Alan Chapin, Ross DeLeonardo, Kitty Nelson, Rev. Deutzmann, MaryLou Kecko and Donna Nunno.

Absent: Diane Candido, Paul Geer and Gary Johnson.

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 Chapin, seconded by Rev. Deutzmann to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented and carried unanimously.

3. Staff Report

- The summer was exceptionally busy; all visits to the Senior and Disabled Housing sites for the Rent Rebate Program and the Farmers Market Food Voucher Program have been completed. People were also able to apply at the office. The program officially ends on September 15th.
- The Energy Program begins on September 15th. The income guidelines have not been received as of yet. However, it is anticipated that funding may be cut as much as 40%. Scheduling appointments has already begun and there have been a large volume of calls.
- The Back to School Back Pack Program has been completed. This program has also seen an increase in demand this year. Over 300 school children have been provided back packs and school supplies this year. In addition, Payless Shoe Vouchers were provided to families. Due to the storm (Hurricane Irene), Human Services was able to facilitate with the schools that free lunch be provided to these 300 families until October 18th. All of the families were contacted to review what was necessary for them to access the lunches.
- Storm Report: there was no power loss at 150 Gulf Street. Lisa officially thanked the staff that went over and above their normal obligations to provide for Milford residents in the aftermath of the storm. Everyone put in 12-14 hour days. Everyone coordinated with other city departments and worked with the Emergency Operations Center to do whatever could be done to assist the Milford families. Now that power is restored, more people are coming in with changing needs. Lisa is in contact with the Mayor and is addressing these needs. People are in need of food, clothing, appliances, shelter, etc. Lisa is anticipating that this will continue for some time. A FEMA grant was applied for this morning. It is also anticipated that as storm related issues

begin to settle down, there will be an increase in therapy referrals as well as outreach services.

- Lisa met this morning with the United Way Investment Review Committee to give them some ideas for what should be funded in terms of programs, etc. Staff met to compile a list that was presented and what became clear is that more than anything, additional staff is needed. Nelson asked if volunteers could be used. A discussion followed regarding partnering with other agencies and how volunteers could be used for some short term programs.
- The first Fall Family Fun Night was held. Over 20 families attended.
- Rent-A-Kid has over 175 youth signed up. This program will be posted specifically on the Storm related web site so that residents can utilize the youth to assist with yard clean up.
- Milford Youth and Family Services is beginning a workshop series at the Boys and Girls Club – Surviving the Tween Years. Although it will be held at the club, it will be open to the public as well. A satellite Improvisations group will be held there as well.
- Novembers' meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. due to a prior staff commitment that same evening.

4. Fiscal Report

A motion was made by DeLeonardo, seconded by Rev. Deutzmann to accept the financial report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit,

MaryLou Kecko, Recording
Secretary