

## Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of November 14, 2017

Donna Nunno called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Donna Nunno, Sue Stango, Gina Badalamenti, Brendan Casey, Kitty Hurley, and Rev. Karl Duetzmann.

Absent: Joan Campbell, Scott Moulton, Aldermen Ellen Beatty, and Alderman Anthony Giannattasio.

Also Present: Deepa Joseph and Beth Simpson

### **2. Public Comments**

None.

### **3. Minutes**

A motion was made by B. Casey, seconded by G. Badalamenti, that the minutes of 9/19/17 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Director's Report**

#### **Human Services:**

The department continues to be busy with outreach calls. There is a significant increase in utility shut offs. The Department was able to hire, on an interim basis, a temporary staff member to assist with Human Services related work. Rebekah DeRosa started at the beginning of October and has been a great help to the staff while working with energy assistance, outreach and holiday programs. There is about a three week wait for a non-emergency outreach appointment. Clients with urgent situations, such as no heat or low on heating oil, are scheduled with an appointment during the same week. We continue to encourage people to go directly to TEAM, Inc. to apply for energy assistance, if they are willing and able to do so. There are about 90 energy assistance appointments left in Milford for this heating season.

The Renters' Rebate program concluded with a total of 498 applications taken in Milford, both at the office and at housing site visits. Although a state budget has been approved, during the budget process responsibility for the Renters' Rebate program was transferred to the local government. Legislators in the general assembly are working on this issue. By statute, Renters' Rebate checks were supposed to be distributed by October 31, 2017, and the budget was not passed at that time. There has been a huge volume of calls pertaining to the status of these payments.

Regarding the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the outreach staff will completely expend the grant dollars given to the department for assistance with utilities, food, shelter and rent and mortgage.

The department's award for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) increased to \$ 9,336 for this upcoming year (from \$ 5,000 last year).

The increases in funding from all grants has enabled the Human Services department to participate in cost sharing with partner groups within the community to provided assistance to residents.

Human Services has been working with various charity groups to provide Thanksgiving food baskets and dinners to those in need. We continue to promote the conversation that food is scarce for these families throughout the entire year. Food gift cards are helpful at all times. The Adopt-A Family, holiday program, is also underway for this season. Christie Roche is helping the outreach team, working with Sean Macauley and Rebekah. The staff is trying to eliminate duplication of efforts regarding holiday gift donations. To assess the scope of holiday programs within Milford, Human Services has created a survey that will be sent out to community organizations. This information will help us evaluate the best way to extend our resources. The department focuses on what families need, primarily, and secondarily what they want.

### **Youth and Family Services:**

The Youth and Family Services staff continues to coordinate both individual and family therapy, including satellite programs within the schools.

Mindy Natale works with Police Department on the Juvenile Justice Diversion Program and with the Fire Department to provide intervention services through the Juvenile Fire Setter's program.

Christie continues to enroll youth in the Rent-A-Kid program.

Christie submitted an application for the DeLuca Foundation Grant. If awarded, the funds will be used to host two family painting nights.

We are still waiting to hear back from the state regarding our grant from the CT Department of Education.

### **Administration:**

A representative from the CT Department of Social Services came to the office for a monitoring visit. The DSS Representative was impressed at the amount of services the staff provides with

limited resources. The report concluded that the City of Milford is compliant in all contractual aspects within the DSS grant.

Deepa is meeting with the Mayor this week, regarding the open Outreach Clinician position

The Human Services, Youth and Family Services 2018-2019 department budget has been submitted to the Finance Department. In December, Deepa will meet with the Mayor regarding the budget.

**5. Old Business**

None.

**6. New Business**

None.

**7. Adjournment**

S. Stango made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Nunno adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Simpson  
Recorder