

Minutes of the Human Services Board of Director's meeting of February 18, 2020

Donna Nunno called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Donna Nunno, Joan Campbell, Jessica DeYoung, Joy Duva, Barbara Genovese, and Aldermen James Tranquilli.

Absent: Sue Stango, Brendan Casey, Rev. Karl Duetzmann, and Aldermen Ellen Beatty

Also Present: Deepa Joseph and Beth Simpson

2. Public Comments

None

3. Minutes

A motion was made by B. Genovese, seconded by J. Duva, that the minutes of September 17, 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Director's Report

Introductions were made to welcome new Board member, Jessica DeYoung.

Milford Youth & Family Services (YFS) Program Coordinator, Lesley Darling, is involved in a variety of community meetings.

The Department of Children and Family (DCF) has embarked on an initiative called Connecticut Family First. Lesley attends these monthly meetings and is part of the Community Partnership and Family & Child Engagement workgroup. This group is tasked with creating a document specifying eligible populations which would benefit from Family First funding. DCF established these work groups in order to improve their processes.

This year YFS is running a new leadership program called Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (Parents SEE). Lesley kicked off the program on Monday, February 10th with a retreat where Dr. Anna Cutaia, Peggy Kelly, Gary Johnson and Deepa greeted the class. Parents SEE is a 13 week program designed to provide parents and other adults with skills and knowledge to advocate for children within the community. The participants will also learn about educational initiatives. Seventeen people are enrolled. The program aligns with the YFS mission.

The 32nd Mayor's Youth Award will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 5:00pm at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Communication and forms are being distributed throughout the schools and the community. All Board members are welcome to attend the ceremony.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) staff has been providing regular Outreach Services to residents. The department has been down one position for many months. Interviews are scheduled this week for the Community Outreach Worker opening. Lesley Darling, Program Coordinator, and Lisa Streit, Employment & Training Director, have been supporting the department by taking Energy Assistance applications and meeting with clients for emergency outreach assistance.

DHS is now an intake site for the Dollar Energy Fund, through South Central CT Regional Water Authority. DHS staff will be taking applications that could provide clients with up to \$175 assistance towards their water bill.

The Board of Finance budget hearing for our department is Monday, February 24, 2020. A flat budget has been submitted.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business - Set meeting dates for 2020

The following 2020 meeting schedule was presented for vote:

- February 18, 2020
- May 19, 2020
- September 15, 2020
- November 17, 2020

A motion to approve these dates was made by J. Campbell. B. Genovese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment

J. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. DeYoung seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Nunno adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth Simpson
Recorder