

Minutes  
Human Services Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:00PM  
Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Litsa Aniskovich, Shelby Auletta, Michelle Bailey, Brian Corbin, Erin Gaudet, Alan Samet, Gerry Vece (joined at 6:55PM)

Board Members Absent: Dylan Ayer, Donielle Didiano, Jane Scully Welch

Staff Members Present: David Melillo, Cheryl Church, Carol Sanzero

Meeting called to order at 6:04PM by E. Gaudet.

Chairperson's Remarks: E. Gaudet noted absences but there were enough board members for a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting December 15, 2020: Motioned by M. Bailey, seconded by S. Auletta passed unanimously.

Correspondence: E. Gaudet sent an email thanking staff, volunteers, and especially C. Church for their work on the Holiday Toy Program. Town Council Chair C. Aniskovich replied to reinforce the good effort. Correspondence also included Winter Blood Drive poster for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and thank you note to John DellaVentura for donated bicycles.

Treasurer's Report: D. Melillo provided two months of budget reports. He noted that no account has been over expended and spending is actually behind normal at this point due to COVID. He included the department's budget request submitted to the Town for the FY21-22 Budget Hearing scheduled on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00PM. Department Heads will attend the meeting and the Town Manager will respond.

Election of Officers: Current incumbents E. Gaudet, Chairperson, and S. Auletta, Secretary, were reappointed to those positions by a motion from M. Bailey, seconded by L. Aniskovich that passed unanimously.

Staff Update: C. Church gave an update of the holiday programs. She noted that they came off successfully in spite of the snow storm and delayed opening of the Town Hall. As Charity Tracker is still updating, exact numbers are not yet available. She opened the discussion for questions from the Board. Items discussed were the continuance of the Amazon gift list, the difference between Toys for Tots sponsored by the police department and Social Service's Christmas program, and a possible Christmas in July event. E. Gaudet asked what she and the other board members can do to ease the pressure during the holidays. Cheryl noted that additional hours for her department would be best since she cannot have volunteers upstairs for client confidentiality reasons.

Mental Health: As K. Edwards already runs a mental health committee (with S. Auletta and E. Gaudet on said committee), E. Gaudet suggested interested members J. Scully Welch and M. Bailey join this

committee and notify members of the next March meeting. E. Gaudet noted that school will be back in session Monday and D. Melillo will check to see if programs can restart in small groups.

Directors Report: D. Melillo informed the Board that although he had been expecting a cut in Middlesex United Way funds, this grant will not be renewed. This grant funded the Job Shadow and camper scholarships programs. They can be funded short term from the Peer-to-Peer fund but he is looking for other sponsors. There are new programs for February, including a scavenger hunt this Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, a yoga class for Morgan students, and Eliot Winter Series offering activities such as jewelry making, theater, baking, crafting and journaling.

Revised Counseling Fee Scale: There will be no private insurance billing and the sliding scale for new clients will be effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. S. Auletta motioned to approve, seconded by G. Vece passed unanimously.

D. Melillo summarized B. Francis's report from Scout Collective of the December 15<sup>th</sup> HSAB Team Development Meeting. He referred to the report that noted the members' personal reasons for being drawn to Board and the skills they bring. He commented on their involvement in PiC, the holiday program, mental health committee, bike build, yoga classes and more. He briefly outlined the differences between Governing Boards, Advisory Boards, and Clinton Human Services Advisory Board. He noted that staff appreciate the Board's involvement and asked that they hone their priorities.

Annual Town Meeting January 25<sup>th</sup>: It was noted that the meeting was adjourned after only four departments made their presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted by C. Sanzero