

Minutes
Human Services Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 26, 2022 6:00PM
Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Shelby Auletta, Mark Barillaro, Celeste Ciabotta, Brian Corbin, Erin Gaudet, Amanda Stevens

Board Members Absent: Donielle Didiano, Sydney Robinson, Gerry Vece

Staff Members Present: Ben Eaves, David Melillo, Carol Sanzero

Meeting called to order at 6:03PM by E. Gaudet.

Chairperson's Remarks: E. Gaudet welcomed Board members and staff.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting May 17, 2022: motioned by S. Auletta, seconded by M. Barillaro passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Town budget was 99% spent at the close of the fiscal year. There is no money left in the DMHAS grant, and the SAMHSA grant fiscal year ends September 30th. Community Foundation of Middlesex County issued a \$1,500 special "grant" to support youth programs.

Correspondence: Jane Scully Welch's resignation email and Donielle Didiano's email regarding her June and July absences.

Personnel Update: 1. Prevention Coordinator – our new coordinator, Ben Eaves, was introduced and gave a brief summary of his background. He noted his excitement to be working at CHS with youth and community. 2. Replacement for Marie Pinette: Response has been disappointing and applicants' qualifications have been minimal. It was noted that the pay is low and can't be boosted because of the union contract. It was suggested to vote this position out of Clerical and into Supervisory. 3. A discussion was had regarding medical benefits. At this time, grant employees have medical coverage only for themselves (no spouse or children). This is different than David's impression of what was intended (that benefits would equal Town staff with the exception of not being able to "bump" employees, if laid off). The cost to the Town would be \$0 as grant funds would be utilized. Presently, we are at a competitive disadvantage in hiring due to this.

Director's Report: 1. D. Melillo noted J. Paglino's hard work in bringing together and running four concurrent summer programs. 2. He also commented on the recent CADCA and Y2Y conferences and the excellent workshop presented by REACT students at CADCA. It was noted that the kids prefer the Y2Y conference over the CADCA conference. 3. Suicide Prevention – M. Barillaro commented on the presentation scheduled for September 21st at 7PM at the library. This event is listed on the website and is being advertised. Notes regarding this event and Ben's lack of insurance have been emailed to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31PM due to a time limit set by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by C. Sanzero