1. Meeting Materials

Documents:

MAY 19, 2015 BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGENDA.PDF
APRIL 28, 2015 MINUTES - DRAFT.PDF
APRIL 28, 2015 MINUTES - APPROVED.PDF
BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MAY 19, 2015 - AT 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL - HAYTON CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING AGENDA

I. ACTION/ FOLLOW–UP ITEMS
   1. Approve Minutes of April 28, 2015 Meeting  Mrs. Nolan
   2. Committee/Work Group Assignments  Mrs. Nolan

II. COMMISSIONER’S REPORT
   1. Homemaker Presentation  Ms. Parkin-Lawrence
   2. April Operating Statement & Dashboard Report  Dr. Barry
   3. ClientTrack Update  Dr. Barry

III. COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP UPDATES
   1. Strategic Planning Committee  Mr. Robinson
   2. Community Development Block Grant  Mr. Jones

NEXT MEETING DATE IS JUNE 16, 2015
ATTENDING

Board Attendees: Alan Gunzburg (with Kili), Steve Gross, Barbara Nolan, Lauren Rabin and Winston Robinson

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Tina Corlett, George O’Loughlin, Martha Reyes and Patsy Schumacher

Other Attendees: Carolyn Anderson (Community), Gerald Anderson (RTM), Natalie Queen (Community) and Michael Sandifer (Community)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ms. Nolan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Hayton Conference Room at Town Hall.

ACTION/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Approved Minutes of March 17, 2015 Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Gunzburg moved to approve the minutes of the Board’s Regular Meeting of March 17, 2015. Second: Mr. Gross. APPROVED 5-0.

Officer Nominations – Mr. Gunzburg presented the 2015/2016 officer slate: Barbara Nolan Chairperson, Steve Gross Vice-chairman and Lauren Rabin Secretary.

MOTION: Mr. Gunzburg moved to approve the nominations. Second: Mr. Robinson. APPROVED 5-0.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

1) Mental Health Services Update – Patsy Schumacher provided an update on Mental Health Services. Most case managers work on clients with mental health issues. Each mental health client is an individual. Mental health issues present a wide variety of symptoms and concerns, and those with depression do not all have the same symptoms. Emphasis is on recovery and managing recovery. Clients move in and out of successful recovery depending on what is happening to the client in their lives. Mental health clients usually require more help and for a longer period of time. Case managers typically check in with the client every 90 days to see if the case needs to be closed. Case managers focus on helping clients plan things through and focus on strengths. Clients needing therapy or medication are referred to other agencies such as F.S. DuBois Center or Family Centers. Private practitioners typically do not accept low income patients (most are on Medicaid). Self-sufficiency and resiliency are stressed, case
managers are always finding out what clients can do for themselves. The path is resiliency → recovery → celebrate success. For clients that are disabled, the key is to get them functioning to their ability. Clients can be referred from police, landlords or their families. DSS is part of the Mental Health Provider Group where a key initiative is to promote mental health information and referrals. The group also does outreach to Faith Community leaders, and would like to facilitate the start of a Community Care Team, to reduce emergency room visits (depends on Greenwich Hospitals desire to pursue). DSS partners with conservators and can help get one assigned. Majority of conservatorships are voluntary and of estate (person can still vote, etc.) Involuntary would mean the person lacks capacity and may be a danger to himself or the community. Involuntary conservership requires a medical assessment and written doctor recommendation. The biggest issue the DSS team faces is the fact that Mental Health Services are underfunded from the state.

2) March Operating Statement & Dashboard Update - Dr. Barry reviewed the March 2015 Operating Statement and Year to Date Dashboard Report. As presented in prior months the major variance continues to be due to underage on personnel services for escorted transportation, homemaker services and client aid. Overall the department is at 9% under budget for the year.

3) Client Track Progress Report – Dr. Barry reported that sessions with Client Track have been intense. The DSS team is tweaking the system a bit, but trying not to over customize it. Evolve data has been sent to Client Track, where they are currently reviewing the data mapping. Some of the data is still encrypted and some “translations” will be needed for data from Evolve custom fields. Staff training will occur in June and the system will be in use by July.

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATES

1) Community Partnerships Committee Update – Mr. Gunzburg reported that the program is coming to the end of its fiscal year and a letter of intent was sent to existing partners and prior submitters notifying them the RFP will go out in May (for FY17). The committee met with CCI and discussed the homework program at Hamilton Avenue School. The committee is happy with the cost/benefit and the fact that CCI is taking all kids that are
interested in participating, not just those referred. The committee also met with Liberation Program and learned a drug counselor is now on-site at Greenwich High School, working with guidance counselors, school social workers and the school resource officer. Even though our funding to this program was decreased, Liberation is still doing what DSS expects of them. The committee also met with Pathways to discuss how the agency is helping clients take classes and obtain their GED.

2) Strategic Planning Working Group Update – Mr. Robinson reported the committee met with a consultant (Deborah Hertz) to discuss the framework for our strategic plan. Ms. Hertz helped CCI develop their strategic plan. One of the key elements during the planning process will be to conduct an environmental scan. Should we decide to pursue the use of a consultant, we may need to develop an RFP.

ADJOURNED

MOTION: Mr. Gross motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. Second: Mr. Robinson APPROVED 5-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 19, 2015 in the Hayton Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Rabin
Secretary
Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, April 28, 2015

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