Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, November 21st, 2017

ATTENDING


Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Christina Nappi

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Barbara Nolan, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM in the DHS Conference Room at Town Hall.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

The minutes of the October 17th Meeting were approved 7-0 as written.

BANC

Christina Nanni, Youth Program Administrator, presented a BANC update to the Board. The BANC Afterschool Program dedicates itself to the surrounding community by nurturing children through social and emotional growth. BANC provides educational enrichment programs to help close the achievement gap. BANC hosts 74 children with 10 staff members and has grown significantly over the last 11 years. The program works with kids from K-3rd grades in the Byram area. They no longer accept 4th & 5th graders due to the influx of Kindergarten students (they are only program in Byram that accepts Kindergarteners).

BANC no longer accepts fees for the program due to the formation of the foundation. They do, however, accept suggested donations for the program.

BANC offers many different enrichment activities including but not limited to the following:
1. Reading Champions – 52 Children with 15 Volunteers
2. Second Step – Social Emotional Learning Program run by YWCA
3. Gym Activities
4. Chess Program
5. Field Trips to Bruce Museum
6. Yoga
7. Arts & Crafts
8. Homework

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mrs. Fernandez, Chairwoman, announced the committee met last week to discuss the draft proposal of the...
department’s budget in the context of the BET guidelines of a 2.5% increase. There are two draft proposals being presented. The first asks for a 1.9% increase and the second reflects a 15.85% increase (which includes external entities budget items being moved from the Selectman’s budget to the Human Services Department).

The board voted 6-1 (6 in favor and 1 abstention) on the budget that reflects moving the Selectman’s external entities programs over to the Health & Human Services Department budget. First Selectman Tesei presented to the Board the reasons for moving the 3 external entity items: Kids in Crisis Teen Talk, River House and YWCA to the DHS Budget. He pledged his support and taking an active role in advocating this funding shift in the presentation to BET and RTM.

Community Partnership Committee – Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman, announced that the board will be voting on the partnerships in tonight’s meeting as part of the department’s budget.

1. There is one new program, WEE-ACT. This program will sponsor 4 GHS students to go on college tours to HBCU’s.
2. The Department is making one change from funding an ABILIS program for safety and reallocating those funds to a pre-employment program so a job coach will help ABILIS clients find more competitive employment.
3. Raising funding for 2 programs: Boys & Girls Club, YWCA (second step).
5. YMCA funding has been reduced to 5k per their request.

Client Relations – Ms. Queen, Chairwoman, announced that she has received the home care client survey and the results were positive and clients are happy with the services that are provided. 43% of clients responded to the survey.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

1. October Operating Statement and Dashboard – Dr. Barry stated we are running 3% below budget and there were no significant variances.
2. Dr. Barry has been appointed to the First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee. He was charged to meet with our community partners to review their interests. One theme was that of immigration. Bobby Walker (CEO of Boys & Girls Club) who is a community partner, also sits on the Diversity Committee with Dr. Barry and held a panel discussion at the YWCA to talk about immigration issues as they affect the town.

3. An audit has been completed on business office. The recommendations are as follows: obtain a new safe, any surplus of food cards, gas cards, bus passes must reside in the finance departments safe. Lastly, the department will complete monthly audits on petty cash.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on December 19th 2017 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina