



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, January 15th, 2019

ATTENDING

Board Attendees: Barbara Nolan, Annalisa Fernandez, Jeffrey Medina, Alan Gunzburg. Abbot Jones

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Danielle Sittol

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 November 20th meeting were approved 5-0 as written.

**YOUTH SERVICES
BUREAU**

Ms. Danielle Sittol (Youth Services Bureau Administrator) recently started in the position. Her primary duties are to facilitate the Juvenile Review Board, The Interagency Team, & the First Selectman's Youth Commission. Ms. Sittol's duties involve bringing together many human services entities to support kids and families who are struggling.

The Interagency Team (IAT) is a group of human services agencies who have joined together to meet the needs of kids who are experiencing trauma. They have been referred by school personnel, peers or self after all other measures have been exhausted. The type of kids referred are in middle or high school, and are having difficulties maintaining a behavioral balance. IAT is brought in before DCF and try to work with the families before other steps are taken. Ms. Sittol meets with the kids, their parents, and tries to bring together people who are relevant in their lives and could help make a difference going forward. Ms. Sittol works for the children, tries to advocate for them, empower them to want to better themselves and improve their chances a future success.

Juvenile Review Board involves working with kids who commit crimes. Children are given a chance to avoid going to criminal court by agreeing to a contract and fulfilling their part. These are misdemeanor violations by kids who are first time offenders.

Finally, the First Selectman's Youth Commission which consists of high schoolers from all schools in town. The youth are committed to community engagement. One of the kids will be leading a diversity conference for youth only. The panel consists of kids, the



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curriculum was created by kids and are spearheading the entire process. Other projects include a mental health program where kids will encourage other kids to talk about their mental health issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *Community Partnership Committee* – Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman, announced the committee met with the YMCA in December where they mentioned the Heidenreich program and how well it was coming along. They are looking to add more kids to it and pleased with the funding we provide them.

The committee also met with John Hamilton of the Liberation program. Mr. Hamilton is the new Executive Director and has a very impressive background along with extensive knowledge in the world of addiction. We are working with them to improve their reports so we can better advocate for them when it comes time to get funding for them from the BET.

2. *Finance Committee* – Dr. Barry announced that the budget was reviewed by the First Selectman's office and specifically by the Town Administrator. They decided instead to hire 1 new full-time position and eliminate 2 part time positions. By the time it was all completed the department proposed increase is 0.28% for next fiscal year's budget.
3. *Strategic Planning Committee* – Dr. Barry, announced the committee met and after reviewing the existing plan, decided to continue using the plan for the next 3 years and build off of goals. The goals and objectives will be reviewed with the staff over the next couple days where feedback will be given and ideas will be shared.

**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

Dr. Barry proposed that the board should start reviewing Town resident income eligibility requirements. The rate is currently set at 200% of Federal Poverty Level and was set roughly a decade ago.



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Dr. Barry announced there were no significant variances with clinical activities nor were there any notable changes on the dashboard.

Dr. Barry updated the Board on a few notable projects the department is working on. One of which was the Prevention Council. The council is a substance abuse prevention strategic planning group that had recently completed the Youth Survey. The council has broken down in to subcommittees who are going to work on how to publicize the information to social media, work on the issue of vaping etc. There is also a proposal to change the name of the council

Suicide Prevention – the department is working on various projects through the Health Improvement project that many town agencies are involved with. Programs are being developed that are based around suicide prevention with one of the goals being help raise the visibility of the issue.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on February, 19th 2019 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.
The next Board Meeting will be held on October, _____ 2018 in the Hayton Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina