



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Virtual Meeting, February 16, 2021

ATTENDING

Board Members Present: Alan Gunzburg, Natalie Queen, Dawn Turner, Winston Robinson, Patty Roberts, Jeffrey Medina

Staff/Other Attendees: Demetria Nelson, Jennafer Kalna, Monica Bruning

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Alan Gunzburg, called the meeting to order at 7:01PM via Zoom.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

Alan Gunzburg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January Meeting-Patty Roberts and Winston Robinson Seconded.

**PRESENTATION BY
MONICA BRUNING,
PRESIDENT, GDHS
FUND INC.**

Monica gave her background while she worked in the department. She is now the President of the Foundation since October of 2020. Foundation founded in 2017 - Monica provided a history of the GHDS fund - a 501 (c)(3). The mission of the foundation is to support all the direct community impact programs. One current initiative is a COVID emergency fund was formed during the pandemic that went to rental assistance and utility assistance. The foundation continues to raise funds for the community impact programs. The website for the foundation can be found on the Department's link. In the past, the foundation was not permitted to use social media (with hopes that this will change).

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership (CP) Committee:

Alan Gunzburg – The CP report was completed, so the Commissioner could bring it to the budget meeting. We also discussed the YWCA and other programs that were inherited through the First Selectman's budget. Winston talked about the Strategic Plan that gets revitalized every three years if needed and would like for a few members to join this committee.

Finance Committee:

Patty Roberts - Presentation was given with positive feedback from the commissioner's reports and plans for budgeting. The size of the community partnership fund was a point of discussion. The BET Budget Committee (BET BC) had two questions which require follow-up related to TAG (the impact of not receiving funds from River House for transportation) and the history and function of the GDHS Fund. Finance Committee will discuss and bring back to the March 6th meeting. A meeting will be scheduled with TAG, Town



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Administrator, and GDHS. Patty will gather information regarding the Fund to present to the BET BC. The Finance committee will discuss with the Board of Education the programs that were given to the department through the First Selectman's budget. The committee will also discuss with the First Selectman. Winston discussed the function of 501(c)(3)s and how they fund programs like the ones the department is operating. BET BC mentioned exploring looking into public private partnerships. Patty discussed the change in River House's transportation model as it relates to TAG.

Communications Committee:

Patty discussed developing a charter description for the committee, doing a quarterly newsletter for donors for those who sign up on the website, weekly blasts for the services that the department does for its clients or community services beneficial to the residents, possible periodic topics to give to First Selectman that can be in Community Connections, and giving presentations to the organizations in the town about the department.

**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

Commissioner Nelson discussed the major meetings she attended over the past month: Senior Provider Network Meeting, BANC ESL Program, IAT Steering Committee Meeting, Restorative Justice and Addiction Outreach, Suicide Postvention Initiative Meeting with the First Selectman, Greenwich Community Health Improvement Partnership (GCHIP), FS Diversity Advisory Committee, BET Budget Committee - Budget Presentation.

The Commissioner participated in the following trainings/conferences: Second Annual Suicide Prevention Policy Summit, Suicide Prevention in Healthcare Settings, Methamphetamines for Public Health, Role of the ADA Coordinator, Self-Evaluation and Title II, and ADA - 2010 Standards and Public Rights of Way.

The Commissioner reviewed the operating statement. Overall, the Department is functioning at 9% under budget. Regarding the Clinical Activity Dashboard, the average number of referrals decreased from 44 to 43 (actual 47 to 43). Employment and Education were in Top Ten Services Provided by Hours instead of Renters Rebate and Community Gifts. The Overall Staff



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Productivity for both units continues to be 75% (goal – 65%). Average Total Goals increased from 22 to 25. Average Goals Achieved increased from 15 to 18. The Goals Discontinued remained the same at 7. For Clients Served, the average number of clients enrolled remained the same for Applications. The number of Actual clients served decreased from 358 to 349 – continues to be above the projected average goals. There was also a drop in FY2020 in Actual. There were minimal changes in Case Management.

FY 22 BUDGET

Demetria gave her thanks to everyone for their input and feedback for the budget presentation. Demetria put in a request for CDBG \$5,200 to help fund school supplies for the BANC program students. The fund would assist with the cost of the initiative as needed. We may be able to get lower rates from the vendors that the department uses for the school supplies. Demetria will meet with Tatiana for usage of the \$50,000 for rental assistance.

Winston thanked Demetria and Patty for their Budget presentation. He also discussed that there was conversation to combine the Dept. of Health and Commission on Aging with the Dept. of Human Services. This conversation would be very lengthy and one for another day.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn Patty Roberts and Winston Robinson seconded.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on March 16, 2021 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Queen