



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, February 20th, 2018

ATTENDING

Board Attendees: Barbara Nolan, Abbott Jones, Annalisa Fernandez, Jeffrey Medina, Natalie Queen, Alan Gunzburg, Winston Robinson.

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry

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 January 16th meeting were approved 7-0 as written.

ADVOCACY

Cynthia Bowser, Department of Human Services Case Manager, spoke to the Board on how she and the department helps clients who need assistance. One case in particular involves referring an adolescent client to an agency in Bridgeport called Youth Works. The agency helps at risk children learn to overcome special education barriers that may have not been previously addressed. She stated many clients come in feeling frustrated with an attitude of "I CAN'T" and her job is to try and help them understand that "THEY CAN". She wants them to be able to get to a place where they can be self-reliant and full of confidence. Cynthia describes the role of a Case Manager not only an advocate for their client, but also their "brokers, educators, facilitators".

Like her colleagues, Cynthia is very passionate and loves what she does. People don't get in to this line of work for the money, they do it because they want to make a positive impact in people's lives. It's clear that the roles Case Managers take on and the various programs offered by the department truly make a positive difference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Partnership Committee – Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman, announced the committee had two meetings in January with partner agencies the department works with.

On the 18th the committee met with Child Guidance. They mentioned the new office site is working very well and offers better parking and security for their staff and visitors. They are fully staffed and wait times are short. One of the programs at Child Guidance is called Child First, for families with children between 0-



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6yrs who are in crisis mode and need extra help in their homes. It's a full-service wrap around program that offers support services.

The committee also met with Gaby Ratner, Executive Director of CCI. Among the items discussed was a program the department supports. CCI's Homework Club is at Hamilton Avenue School. Children who have needs are referred by school personnel to the club. There are about 12-15 students between grade 2 to grade 5.

One of their significant needs is recruiting tutors to provide homework help. Some of the issues they are dealing with are lack of volunteers. High School students are not donating their time as much and this can be attributed to High School students getting out later than their younger counterparts. They are looking at other alternatives for bringing volunteers in for homework help.

**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

1. January Operating Statement and Dashboard – Dr. Barry stated there were no significant variances to report. We are still on pace to be 3% under budget by the end of the fiscal year.
2. Dr. Barry went over department data in the handouts provided. Comparisons are shown between fiscal '17 and fiscal '18. The department is serving more clients in applications during fiscal '18' than the previous year. Case management hours served is in line with fiscal '17 data. 66% of goals are achieved by our clients.
3. Youth Survey has been completed by both the public and private schools. There were over 1,600 surveys sent out to the private schools that participated. There was a 95% return rate, meaning 95% of the students surveyed completed and submitted them back. This was significantly higher than what we expected. We hope to have the data back from the public schools within the next week. At some point in the future, parents will also be asked to fill out the survey.
4. The department met with the BET Budget Committee to review the budget proposal for FY '19. Dr. Barry stated the goal of the meeting was to establish who we are, what we are, and how we go about establishing need. Dr. Barry showed that between 200% and 300% of the poverty line there are over 1500 families in Greenwich that are vulnerable. Should anything change in



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their lives, they would easily fall below the 200% poverty line. Dr. Barry also went over how we gather our data and how we fund the various agencies we work with. The BET has not completed all of their reviews but should be done in March. Once they approve the budget it will go to a vote with the RTM in May.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 17, 2018 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina