ATTENDING
Board Attendees: Angela Arenas (late) Alan Gunzburg (with Kili), Steve Gross, Abbott Jones, Barbara Nolan, Lauren Rabin and Winston Robinson

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Monica Bruning, Christina Nappi and Martha Reyes

Other Attendees: Carolyn Anderson (Community) and Gerald Anderson (RTM)

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 February 17, 2015 Meeting
MOTION: Mr. Gross moved to approve the minutes of the Board’s Regular Meeting of February 17, 2015. Second: Mr. Jones.
APPROVED 6-0.

Officer Nominations – Mr. Gunzburg presented the 2015/2016 officer slate to be voted on during the April meeting. Barbara Nolan was nominated to continue as Chairperson, Steve Gross was nominated to continue as Vice-chairman and Lauren Rabin was nominated to continue as Secretary.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT
BANC Report – Christina Nappi provided an update on the DSS After School Program, run at the Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center (BANC). The CT state licensed program serves 74 children grade K-3, who also attend New Lebanon School. The program is one of the few in town that accept Kindergarteners. The focus of the After School Program is to promote social and emotional learning as well as partner with the school to close the achievement gap. The license is up for renewal in September of 2015. The program has a staff of ten, which includes direction for a department Social Worker. The program also runs with help from volunteers and enrichment programs including Reading Champions (Greenwich Untied Way Program), Second Step (YWCA Program), Chess, Yoga, Homework/Reading, Swimming (YMCA), and Bruce Museum/Byram Schubert Library field trips. Upcoming programs include Vision Screen (Greenwich Lions Club), Dental Puppet Show (Greenwich Health Department) and Family Enrichment with ESL (Literacy Volunteers) and Abriendo and PEP.
(Opening Doors and People Empowering People) programs run by Mary Ann Murray, District Social Worker for the BOE.

The registration fee is $75 and some families pay an additional sliding scale monthly fee based on the poverty guidelines. The fees collected offset the enrichment programs and the Greenwich United Way is the fiduciary for these funds. There are currently 5 children on the wait list to attend the program.

The recent changes (no longer closed on Tuesday’s and operating for an addition 30 minutes per day) have been welcome by the families. The After School Program is partnering well with the BOE and is sharing many of the items purchased to run the Kindergarten class rooms. The program did have to turn down older kids and most now go to the Boys and Girls Club.

Discussion occurred about publicity for the program via the Greenwich Free Press. Overall this is a success story program.

**Operating Statement & Dashboard Update** - Dr. Barry reviewed the February 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 and homemaker services. Overall the department is at 9% under budget for the year.

**Mental Health First Aid** – Dr. Barry reported that he was approached by the Southwest Regional Mental Health Board to participate in a Mental Health First Aid program being held throughout the state. The program entails training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness as well as what to do when one encounters a person displaying these signs/symptoms. Dr. Barry presented the program to Mr. Tesei, who was enthusiastic to schedule training for Town of Greenwich staff (public facing). Two five-hour sessions will be held on May 1 and 15, 2015. (May is Mental Health Awareness month). Payment for the program will come from the First Selectman’s training budget.

**Client Track Progress Report** – Dr. Barry reported that sessions with the Project Manager (Sara Fladmo) have occurred with the project team (Dr. Barry, Monica Bruning, Jennafer Kalna, George O’Loughlin, Marcia Parker-Lawrence, Martha Reyes, Patsy Schumacher and Elrita South). The team is reviewing capabilities
and exploring custom workflows, such as intake. The team is reviewing the “out-of the box” assessments and self-sufficient surveys to see what needs to be customized. In general, everything is going well and the target to move to Client Track is June. Next big step is to review the current data to determine what to convert and perform an in-depth review with the entire staff. There will be a demo for the board in the June timeframe.

**COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

1) *Community Partnerships Committee Update* – Mr. Gunzburg reported that one quarterly review occurred since our last board meeting. The review was with the Youth Services Coordinator, who also discussed changes to state funding. The Youth Services Bureau (representing 17 coordinators across the state) is being defunded. The town supplies $27,000 a year towards this United Way employee expense. Dr. Barry reported that the RFP process will be starting again soon. As a reminder, this subcommittee needs to supply their minutes (which should include a summary of quarterly reports) to the rest of the board members.

2) *Communications Working Group Update* - Mr. Jones provided an update on the campership program, highlighting the recently provided report by Alison Brush, and a reminder that the next fundraising letter is scheduled to go out in June. As a reminder the department supplies administration and transportation, but all other expenses are funded by private donations. We would like to do some publicity to raise fundraising awareness in order to increase the numbers of “campers” assisted. A review of the program will be scheduled in the future. The Communications Working Group met with the staff to discuss the addition of the use of the Greenwich Free Press. Mr. Abbott also discussed recent newspaper articles on mental health, including Dr. Barry’s rejoinder article.

3) *Strategic Planning Working Group Update* – Mr. Robinson reported the outcome of the recent working group meeting, where the committee determined areas of focus (self-sufficiency and sustainability). Next steps are to perform an environmental scan of community partners and stakeholders, with perhaps using some external guidance to help pull the pieces together.

*Closing comments* – Ms. Nolan publically acknowledged outgoing
board member Angelica Arenas, thanking her for her passionate approach to helping clients. Some of Ms. Arenas’ accomplishments included: increasing the hours of service, BANC program expansion, improving the execution of the Angel Tree program during the holidays, and having communication translated into Spanish. Ms. Arenas also thanked the department and board for all that she learned and for helping the clients. She did not say “goodbye, but see you later.”

ADJOURNED

MOTION: Mr. Gross motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Second: Ms. Arenas. APPROVED 7-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 28, 2015 in the Hayton Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Rabin

Lauren Rabin, Secretary