



**Town of Greenwich**  
**BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**ATTENDING**

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

**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 February 19th meeting were approved 7-0 as written.

**DHS FUND**

Mr. Steve Gross, chair DHS Fund, previous member of the GDHS Board, was asked for an update on the Department of Human Services Fund. He began by saying shortly after his term on the GDHS Board Dr. Barry asked if he would be interested in working on a new board that was just beginning to take shape. The purpose of the board was to create a fund that would accept donations that would help fund various GDHS programs such as BANC, GYCP and Campership.

After almost a year of work, the efforts resulted in the formation of the Board, The Fund received its tax-exempt status in June 2018. Bylaws were created, and the Fund now up and running. Mr. Gross also talked about the website that was created for the fund and introduced it to the board. The website is fully functional and lists the various programs the fund supports. The website looks great and people can donate to the fund directly through the website.

To date, the fund has raised roughly \$220,000. The next step for the board is to be more proactive in soliciting donations.

**OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

*Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman*, announced the Board will be voting on new officers at the next meeting. Members of the board were contacted to assess interest in an officer position and would run for an officer position on the board. Mr. Medina had indicated that he would like to continue as Secretary. Mr. Gunzburg spoke with current Vice Chair Abbot Jones who indicated he would like to run for Chair of the board. Mr. Gunzburg also received notice from Mr.



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Winston Robinson that he would also like to run for Chair of the Board. Mr. Gunzburg notified the board of his intention to run for Vice chair.

Vote for new officers at next Board meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Strategic Planning Committee – Mr. Robinson, Chairman, announced that the committee recently met and continued their discussion from their last meeting where they were updating and eliminating some of the goals and objectives that have already been accomplished in the Strategic Plan while adding others. The next step is to rank the new goals and establish a timeline on when they should be reached.
2. Community Partnership – Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman, announced the committee has had 3 meetings in the last month with local community partners.
3. The committee met with New Covenant House on Feb. 21st. They deliver screening and legal services to people who are looking for legal status or citizenship. The partnership has been very strong with several monthly referrals from the Department to New Covenant House. The Department assigns clients to New Covenant House and are then met by them to review their case. The cost of becoming a citizen is very expensive (\$875 per person). A family of 4 would need to pay \$3,500 in fees which for many is very difficult.
4. On March 4th the committee met with Pathways. Mr. Gunzburg mentioned he met with the new Executive Director. Mr. Gunzburg voiced to her our interest in improved metrics which has lacked recently due to their search for a new Executive Director. She has a big learning curve but is eager to get up to speed as quickly as possible.
5. Finally, the committee met with Nancy Coughlin, Executive Director at Neighbor to Neighbor on March 7th. Nancy really takes the concern of feeding people who are hungry in this town to heart. She is very passionate and empathetic



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for those she serves. Discussion on a food program (backpack program) where N2N drop off food in a backpack to schools for kids to take home. Also discussed about ways to increase snacks for kids in the homework club since they have asked for that. Nancy is always looking for ways where she can help. Some of the other things they have done were coat drives, Prom giveaway, clothing pop-up ect..

**COMMISSIONER'S  
REPORT**

1. Dr. Barry announced the department is currently running 7% under budget due to unfilled positions. He said they had recently filled the bi-lingual full-time position.
2. Clinical Update - Dr. Barry also announced that the department is averaging 52 referrals a month and admit on average 22. That is a slight increase recently. In Applications we average about 700 clients and 400 in case management.
3. Dr. Barry also mentioned that we are waiting on approval from the BET to combine 2 part time positions in to one full time position.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina