



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, April 16th, 2019

ATTENDING

Board Attendees: Tom Petrone, Annalisa Fernandez, Jeffrey Medina, Alan Gunzburg. Abbot Jones, Winston Robinson, Natalie Queen

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Alison Brush

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Abbot Jones, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM in the DHS Conference Room at Town Hall.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

The minutes of the March 19th meeting were approved 7-0 as written.

COMMUNITY GIFTS PROGRAM

Ms. Alison Brush discussed the Community Gifts Program. The program itself is a collective group of programs that take place during different times throughout the year. Some of the programs include Campership, Back to School, and Holiday Aid. The program collaborates with others in the community that want to help and give back to those that need additional assistance. There are different forms of aid such as monetary donations, food baskets, clothes, school items for kids. To be eligible for the program, families must live in Greenwich and be within 200% of the poverty line (for a family of 4 that equals \$4,100 total monthly income). Fund raising is done through a mailing but can also now be done online through the DHS fund website.

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

The age range of kids who participate in Campership is 5-14 years old. Ms. Brush added that the program works with several camps throughout CT that reserve slots for kids who meet the criterion, give discounts to those who need it or do both. The program usually has anywhere from 200 – 225 kids. The budget is typically between \$90,00 - \$100,000, which will allow the program to send all kids who have applied to Campership.

BOOTS AND SHOES PROGRAM

Boots and Shoes Program sponsored by the Department and the Salvation Army. The Salvation Arms partners with local shoe stores and Payless to provide shoes to kids starting the new school year. It has been more of a challenge to find shoe stores with kids shoes because of numerous store closings.

HOLIDAY AID PROGRAM

Holiday Aid is another program that provides toys, food cards, food baskets to families that meet the income requirements. This is a



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very popular and useful program that helps families during the Holiday seasons.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Tom Petrone joins the Board to fill the vacancy left by Barbara Nolan. His background is in Finance and he wants to use time to give back to the community and those who are underprivileged. We all welcome Tom to the Board!

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board has voted on new officers and are as follows:

1. Abbot Jones and Winston Robinson both decided to run for Chair. The Board voted Abbot Jones to serve as the new Chair.
2. Alan Gunzburg (unopposed) will now serve as the Vice Chair of the Board.
3. Jeff Medina (unopposed) will continue to serve as the Boards Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *Strategic Planning Committee – Mr. Robinson, Chairman*, announced that the committee recently met and reviewed the draft 20-22 Strategic Plan and progress made on goal development. The committee is coming up with ways to assess these goals and at what time to assess the progress being made on previously determined goals. The Strategic Plan will be completed by the end of the Fiscal year.
2. *Community Partnership Committee – Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman*, announced the committee has had 1 meeting in the last month with Child Guidance. They are dedicated to improving the mental and behavioral health of children and teens through treatment, education, and community support. The community partner serves most towns in lower Fairfield County. Child Guidance offers a broad range of mental health services such as diagnostic, assessment and treatment to help kids overcome psychological, behavioral, developmental issues. They provide crisis services, specialized treatment services, prevention services, and testing and assessments.
3. *Finance Committee – Mrs. Fernandez, Chairwoman*, announced that the most significant variance is due to unfilled positions in the budget. The department has been running with two vacant



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positions, one for a bi-lingual case manager. Any funds not used in the budget are returned to the town.

**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

Dr. Barry announced the department, for the fiscal year, has had a total of 513 referrals, 218 admissions which averages about 22 per month. We are averaging 8 1st time admissions a month and 14 readmissions. In Applications, we are averaging 14 admissions a month vs Case Managers at 8. On average 29 cases a month are not admitted. Reasons for cases not being admitted were provided on supporting documents.

For clients served, we are averaging 705 clients in the Applications area. Projected clients served stood at 247 while actual clients served was much higher at 355. Projected clients served in Case Management was 263 and the department averaged 264 served clients.

Dr. Barry also provided the board with additional information on the department's activity with supporting documents.

The department continues to work on various projects such as The Achievement Gap. Subcommittees continue to provide information and data to the Achievement Gap committee as they continue to move along.

Other programs the department is working on include, but are not limited to, Greenwich Together (Prevention Council), and Suicide Prevention.

Dr. Barry informed the Board that he is meeting with the Health & Human Services RTM committee the first week in May.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 21st, 2019 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina