



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Regular Meeting, April 17th, 2018

ATTENDING

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

Staff Attendees: Alan Barry, Sarah Muccio

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 March 20th Regular Meeting were approved 6-0 as written.

ADVOCACY CASE REPORT

Sarah Muccio, Case Manager (part-time) explained to the committee how she advocates for her clients to navigate their benefits and understand the systems available to support them. She presented the example of a Limited English Proficient married couple receiving DHS benefits. One of the spouses suffers from chronic health problems and receives state disability payments, and the other is working part time. Ms. Muccio reviewed the complications that ensued when the working spouse started a second part-time job and the additional income resulted in a devastating reduction in benefits, including public housing rental subsidies. The Case Manager advocates for this client on many levels, including renegotiation of medical bills and rental subsidies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gunzburg indicated that a slate of officers would be presented next month, proposing the same board positions continue in place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Ms. Fernandez reported that the Finance Committee met with the newly hired business office manager, Tatiana Nichiforova. The committee also reviewed the departmental budget for the nine months ending in March 2018.

Community Partnership Committee: The RFP for the FY 2020 Community Partnership Program is being prepared. The committee will be reviewing third quarter reports to ensure strong data, demonstrated positive outcomes, ensuring accountability for department funding and information requests by Town boards.

Meetings were held with the Family Centers, and the Reaching Independence Through Employment (RITE) program, which had 56 referrals through last quarter; was commended for its seamless



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integration with the DHS Case Managers. The RITE program's School to Work program with the Windrose School Program is now almost fully developed, with most of the students in the school participating and availing themselves of the "work experience" stipend-supported program and enjoying successful work outcomes. There also is now an intern social worker onsite for additional support.

Meetings were also held with the Boys & Girls Club, which continues to offer a wide range of athletic and academic support programs for its participants despite reductions in grants and other funding. The club also suffers from its funding allocation based on the needs of the surrounding area, which in the case of Greenwich represents a high-income population, with the constituency of the Club drawing from outside these defined borders. While the club has a large endowment fund, the Club's bylaws, and board policy in support of them, prohibit withdrawals. Finally, the Club was asked to redefine its reports to meet DHS informational needs.

**COMMISSIONER'S
REPORT**

Operating Statement and Dashboard – the Department is running 9% under budget, mainly due to unfilled positions in the salaries category. Fiscal year spending is expected to end at 2-4% under budget, consistent with the last few years. The Department received 48 referrals in March, in line with a year-to-date average of 45 referrals per month, of which 46% have been admitted. Approximate 45% of admits are first-time, and 55% are re-admitted. On average there are 730 clients in the applications program, of which 48% on average have been served monthly, versus the 35% budgeted. Case management clients served, along with staff productivity and goal achievement, are in line with budget. Year to date, 480 referrals were made, mainly to the CT Department of Social Services and Neighbor to Neighbor. Other relevant statistics in the dashboard were presented and discussed.

Department Update – the Board and Department have advocated for increased services for the younger constituents of vulnerable families, and the Department has made progress, together with school involvement. The Department is now working with the Coalition of Community Agencies, following up on the Achievement Gap, and developing a community asset mapping project. The next step is to review the listings of agency programs



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broken down by age group, match up where programming is available, and identify the gaps.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM. The next Board Meeting will be held on May 15, 2018 in the DHS Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annalisa Fernandez