



Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Virtual Meeting, June 16th, 2020

ATTENDING

Board Members Present: Abbott Jones, Alan Gunzburg, Natalie Queen, Jeffrey Medina, Winston Robinson, Annalisa Fernandez

Staff/Other Attendees: Alan Barry

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Abbott Jones, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM via Zoom.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

The minutes of the May 19th meeting were approved 6-0 as written.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

All Nominations have been voted on and approved by the board.

1. Chairman: Alan Gunzburg
2. Vice-Chairman: Winston Robinson
3. Secretary: Natalie Queen

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Gunzburg, Chairman, announced the department has sent out the RFP's and only received 2 applications and 18 letters of intent.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE/
OPERATING
STATEMENT**

Mrs. Fernandez, Chairwoman, and *Dr. Barry, Commissioner,* announced the budget was presented to the RTM Health and Human Services Committee which was subsequently approved unanimously and then sent to the full RTM where it was also approved. The budget remained the same as the previous year with some cuts coming from salaries, YWCA, and Kids in Crisis which we considered to be fully funded. Client financial assistance was raised by \$14,000 due to the ongoing Corona Virus crisis. A grant was approved by CDBG for \$50,000 which will go towards rental assistance.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

1. Dr. Barry announced we were approved to restart our search for an additional Bilingual Case Manager position which will help provide relief to the current staff while also aiding in providing the right kind of coverage to our clients.
2. GYCP – in years past, GYCP held four 2-week sessions of 28 participants. Due to the ongoing Corona Virus Crisis GYCP will now be holding three 2-week sessions with 2 groups of 10 in each session. Transportation for these children will be done by parents of the participants and TAG.
3. Land Trust Program – This program will also be operating throughout the summer as it has in years past.



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4. Dr. Barry announced the departments staff has done an excellent job at managing the surge in clients. The addition of the Bilingual Case Manager will also provide some much-needed relief for the current staff.
5. The Department had seen a steady increase in new referrals from Jan-March before almost doubling in April. That number has come down some in May but is still higher than Jan-March referrals. While uncertainty remains in the economy and people continue to lose jobs, the department is prepared for another surge should the economic recovery lag.
6. Dr. Barry complimented the departments home care team in the face of the rising cases and potential exposure to the Corona Virus, they continue, without hesitation, helping those that utilize their services.
7. In terms of readmissions, through the first 8 months of this fiscal year, we have had 70 readmissions. In the last 3 months we have had 50 readmissions. Of those 50 readmissions, 56% were people who had not needed the departments services for at least the past 3 years.
8. Average monthly admissions over the last 3 months have doubled while average monthly referrals have nearly doubled over the last 3 months.
9. Dr. Barry suggested that the department propose an idea to the town that would include shifting funding from the Police Department to the Human Services Department as it relates to issues of substance abuse, domestic violence, and mentally ill residents. When tending to these calls it may help to bring a professional in these areas to assist when necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on July 21st 2020 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Medina