Town of Greenwich
BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES
Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, October 19, 2021

ATTENDING

Board Members Present: Patty Roberts, Natalie Queen, Winston Robinson, Dawn Turner, Debbie Appelbaum, Gillian Ingraham, Tara Restieri, Greg Pauletta, Susan Warner

Staff/Other Attendees: Commissioner Demetria Nelson, Jennafer Kalna, Linda Sandiaes, Maggie Young, Joanne Montgomery

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Patty Roberts, called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

BOARD PROTOCOLS

Patty Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Meeting. Tara Restieri and Debbie Appelbaum seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION BY LIBERATION PROGRAMS, MAGGIE YOUNG - CHIEF RECOVERY OFFICER AND JOANNE MONTGOMERY - CHIEF CLINICAL AND OUTREACH OFFICER

Discussion took place about the Wellness Outreach Van provided through Liberation Programs. Joanne and Maggie talked about the many services that Liberation Programs provides including Narcan (Naloxone) training sessions. Liberation provides outpatient and inpatient treatment services. In Greenwich, they have a counselor in Greenwich High School and at the YMCA. The opioid epidemic prompted Liberation to offer Narcan training within the community. The pandemic has increased the use of opiates throughout the USA. Just this year, unintentional overdoses have increased 22%. A Narcan training was provided to BHS members. The training included an explanation of how to use Naloxone and how to recognize an opioid overdosed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership - Debbie Appelbaum explained that the committee completed evaluating the Community Partnership RFP applicants and agreed on recommendations for the allocation of funds. In the coming months, the committee will work to develop and distribute a survey for the community partners and to standardize community partner quarterly reports. Regarding the community partnership funds, the total amount of $896,400 was approved for distribution (an increase of $5,000 from FY2022). A motion was made by Debbie to approve the allocation of funds as recommended by the committee and the total community partnership amount. The entire Board approved the motion.

Strategic Planning - Winston Robinson communicated that strategic planning for the Department entails numerous elements. The committee continues to work collaboratively to structure subcommittees to complete this important function for the
Department. Funds have been identified within the existing budget to hire a consultant to assist with this process.

Communications – Susan Warner communicated the timing of the distribution of the annual report. A rough draft will be available around the end of December. Newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram widgets have been added to the GDHS website for ease of access. Our social media presence has increased, and we are still looking to increase it further. The committee would like to propose an idea for a contest to the First Selectman’s Youth Board to create a logo for the Greenwich Department of Human Services. This will be done publicly so that all the youth in town can be involved with the creation of the logo. A motion to approve the logo contest was made by Tara Restieri and seconded by Natalie Queen. All members approved.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Nelson provided a summary of the meetings, events, and trainings that she attended over the past month, e.g., Greenwich Together, American Rescue Plan Committee, Greenwich United Way Community Planning Council Meeting, Greenwich Suicide Postvention Task Force, and Greenwich Together Youth Survey Presentation.

Commissioner Nelson reviewed the Operation Statement. The Department is currently 9% under budget due to: (1) an unfilled staff position, (2) fewer professional services for BANC After School Program due to COVID-19, and (3) reduced expenses related to mileage allowance, program transportation, and office services due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Nelson reviewed the Clinical Activity Dashboard. The highlights included: The Average Number of Referrals increased from 40 to 44. The Top Ten Services Provided by Hours included Education and Legal. There was a decrease in the Average Number of Clients Served by Applications for this month, but the number was above the projected goal.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion was made by Debbie Appelbaum and Winston Robinson and seconded by Patty Roberts.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Queen