

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, August 8, 2019

Town Hall

Attendees: S. Stekloff, M. Pickett, S. Pappas, N. DeFrancesco
Staff Liaisons- S. Theroux, K. Schechter

Call to order – Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call – Determination of Quorum
Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Approval of May minutes: Minutes were reviewed and N. DeFrancesco made a motion to approve minutes for the last meeting held in May. S. Pappas seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion passed.

Social Services Report: 46 Food vouchers were distributed in the month of July. Renter Rebate applications are still being accepted. The program ends October 1, 2019.

Human Services social worker will begin taking appointments for the Energy Assistance program September 9, 2019.

Senior Services Report: There were 19 working days in July. There were 30 scheduled appointments, this includes 5 home visits, and 169 inquiries (scheduled, unscheduled apts., emails, and phone calls). Additionally, there was an “Ask the Social Worker” program at Beachport with 9 attendees, one M-team meeting and a half day conference.

Senior Center Program Report: Newsletters were distributed to HSC members for information reference. There will be a Savvy Caregiver group which will be open to the community. This is being coordinated in partnership with LiveWell and is a 6 session training program for caregivers who care for someone with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia. Program begins September 5, 2019 and individuals may contact the senior center for more information.

Old Business: Combining Human and Youth Services – S. Stekloff reported communication from Town Council member J. Falk regarding the proposed merger of Youth and Human Services Committees. Discussion has been taken off the agenda for the next Council meeting on August 13, 2019, however, the idea of getting members of both committees together along with members of the Council in the near future to further discuss this merger has been brought up.

Discussion among HSC members present followed. All present were in support of the merger of the two committees. Both committees are there to support members of the community, and there are more topics that address ages across the lifespan. The opioid crisis can be used an example. Youth and elderly, and all in between are or can be affected by this issue. Members of the HSC would like to hear perspectives of Youth Services and felt that working together can only lead to more successful community programs and more opportunities for such. Those present decided to vote on the proposal and a motion was presented to support merger of Youth and Human Services Committees. S. Pappas made initial motion and M. Pickett seconded. All were in favor of combining the committees. Those present stated interest in speaking to Council members to contribute input for the support of merging the two committees.

Adjournment: N. DeFrancesco made a motion to adjourn meeting, S. Pappas seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Schechter