

CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Cheshire Town Hall

ATTENDANCE: D. Kelleher, B. Trussell, C. Trussell, M. Pickett, R. Veleber

Staff: K. Schechter, S. Ferrall

CALL TO ORDER: D. Kelleher determined a quorum, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION:

Patty Hartmann, Executive Director of the Cheshire Community Food Pantry.

P. Hartmann informed the committee about the number of clients served per week, and how many volunteers the Pantry had. The Pantry is a client choice model. That means that clients can come in and shop as if they were in a store. They can shop for their preferences and needs.

P. Hartmann stated that the pantry relies on donations from the food drives that are done in town, faith based organizations, local stores such as Foodworks, sometimes Bozzutto's, and staff also shops for items at the Ct. Food Bank. The food pantry also offers programs such as birthday baskets, holiday meals, back to school assistance, and a holiday gift tree. They also provide Easter or spring baskets to those in need. They have a new garden at the pantry so that clients can have fresh produce as well. P. Hartmann went on to explain that the Cheshire Community Food Pantry just received a grant for over \$460,000 and two acres of land on Sandbank Road to build a new, larger pantry. They hope to break ground in the fall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: R. Veleber made a motion to accept the minutes for May, B. Trussell Seconded. All in favor.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT: K. Schechter reported that 55 food vouchers were distributed in the month of May. The Renters Rebate program continues, she explained the program does have income guidelines and is based on amount of rent, basic utilities (i.e., electric, gas), and the applicant has to meet other criteria such as age and/or disability.

Social Worker does work with the Food Pantry to assess an individual's needs and determine eligibility. Senior Services Social Worker and Social Worker collaborate efforts to meet the needs of clients if that is necessary.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT: S. Farrell reported that over the course of 15 working days, the Senior Services Social Worker had 31 scheduled appts., 157 Inquiries, 2 transportation assessments. There was also a CHAT meeting held, caregiver support group, and a Senior Provider Luncheon.

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S. Farrell explained transportation assessments. She also discussed the telephone assurance program. There will be interns at the Senior Center in the fall and they will assist with the new programs. Policies and procedures are still in process of being developed.

SLATE OF OFFICERS: Cochairs of the committee were introduced – D. Kelleher and K. Selleck. M. Pickett for Secretary of Committee. B. Trussell made a motion to accept the vote for candidates and R. Veleber seconded. All members in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Pickett made a motion to adjourn and B. Trussell seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Schechter