

**CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207 - 209**

Attendance: D. Kelleher, M. Pickett, R. Veleber, S. Pappas, G. Pawlush, D. Visconti, L. Linehan

Staff: S. Theroux, K. Schechter, M. Piccerillo

Quorum determined, Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by D. Kelleher, seconded by D. Visconti. All in favor.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT: There were 49 food vouchers distributed for the month of February. There were 19 referrals to CIU, 8 Family violence reports. Confirmed date of online gaming/addiction for April 26th at 6:00pm in Council Chambers. In-depth article in Cheshire Herald.

SENIOR SERVICES: S. Theroux reported there were 12 working days in February. During that time, there were 39 scheduled appointments, 7 home visits, 208 inquiries including phone calls and emails. A CHAT meeting was also held. It was reported that the lower level of the senior center should be completed by the end of April.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS: Motion to accept slate of nomination. G. Pawlush accepted, D. Visconti seconded. All in favor. D. Kelleher made a motion to have those already an officer on the committee stay in the position they are. S. Pappas seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS OF OPIATE/ADDICTION PROGRAM: M. Piccerillo informed committee and attendees about our guests attending this meeting. Guests and committee will work toward the goal of an awareness program on opiate addiction. Sheryl Sprague from Rushford spoke about her experience with her program on opiates and how successful it was. It is geared toward prevention and treatment. Ms. Sprague suggested that surrounding towns be invited as to educate more people and have better attendance. Maura Esposito, Director of Health at Chesprocott also commented on the importance of prevention and education given the topic has been in the news more frequently.

Jennifer DeWitt, the Executive Director of Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council, discussed the success and the content of the program she hosted. She had brought up such points as to who the target audience will be, type of presentation, panel discussion, all which will dictate how we organize such a program in Cheshire. Ms. DeWitt also discussed evidence based intervention. Another attendee, Michael Mitchell, was speaking about recovery and would like to see families included in the target audience. He represents the Young People in Recovery chapter in Cheshire.

Jamie Ferguson, Townwide PTA, agreed the program is needed and suggested it be designed as people telling their stories of addiction and recovery. Anna Gopoiian, attendee, shared her story and life experience with recovery. She is a co-facilitator at a support group in Wallingford.

M. Piccerillo introduced an idea of having this program be a series of discussions. There are too many issues to discuss in one program. All supported the ideas of M. Piccerillo and J. DeWitt.

A Motion was made by D. Visconti to establish a subcommittee for the opiate program. D. Kelleher seconded. All in favor. Subcommittee meeting will be on March 24, 2016 at 7:00pm.

M. Pickett made a motion to adjourn meeting, S. Pappas seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Schechter