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HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Minutes of Metting
February 18,2012

Location: Vernon Youth Services Bureau, 9 Elm Street, Vernon, CT 06066

Those in attendance were: Phil Bunick, Chairperson, Wes Shorts, Jean Bostrom, Bill Fox, Joan O'Donnell, Judy Hany, Staff Liaison; Marina Rodriguez, Director Vernon Social Services; Alan Slobodien, Vernon Youth Services Director
Absent: Virginia Gengras
Agenda items covered as follows:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM
2. Agenda interviews and review of grant applications were held as follows:
A. Hockanum Valley Community Council; David Engelson, Stephanie Charney, John Paul Roden
Their financials were reviewed in detail. The July 2011 calendar year was difficult because of the October storm and the economy. One thousand four hundred and fifty families received meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Funding has not changed for several years. Many donors are now clients. Administrative costs are 9%. Mention of services reduced if a fair meeting of finances cannot be reached. The pantry serves 800 families per month with $10,000 funded by the Town of Vernon. Dial-a-ride senior citizens are using the service to save gas on their own automobile. Possibility of a registration fee along with the $2.00 per ride fee which became effective January 2012. Both Manchester and East Hartford pay fee for service through an RFP lowest bid. The difference between those towns and Vernon being the automobile gas used by Hockanum Valley Community Council is purchased through the Town of Vernon at a reduced price. Maintenance costs of existing vehicles is about $3,000.00 per month. Leasing vehicles was not considered as an option. Dial-a-ride provided 243 rides for January 2012 with 46 no shows. No penalty is presently assessed against no shows. Counseling is kept at the same level.

B. Kidsafe; Angela Atwater
There financials wer reviewed in detail. The child abuse prevention center operates through parent education and in-home services. The program is strength based and is generally for four months. Numerous counseling groups, supervised visitation and "serve the youth" via drop in centers. The organization is also part of a juvenile review board serving in a case management capacity. Staffing is primarily through employment but a large intern program provides hands on experience. The request made through this application is for staff and expenses due to a waiting list for the parent program. Flat funding through the State so private sources are relied on for funding. Bundy Motors "cars for kids" and Hartford Foundation are funding sources. The organization owns their building and will refinance the mortgage soon.

C. Visiting Nurse and Health Services, CT; Todd Rose
Their financials were reviewed in detail. Health care is going through disruptive changes. No increase in medicare or medicaid since 2007. To combat the limitations more efficiency and consolidation has been employed. Cannot see any way to further cut costs at this time. Financial margins are very slim. Home health agencys in the State are in financial difficulties with two having closed. Partnering with ECHN will decrease costs and increase volume in this very demanding environment. This organization is a 25-26 million dollar agency. Agency has grown due to Caring Hand. Home health care is growing but is mostly private pay with some State and Federal funding. There is a definite shift in culture. Organization is not unionized but must invest in staff. The Town of Vernon is always payor of last resort.

D. Child Guidance Clinic; Clifford Johnson, Mary Gracyalny
Their financials were reviewed in detail. Fifty five years serving the region. Thirty percent are Vernon residents. Request for funds are spread throughout the entire program. Decreased expenses for prior fiscal year due to vacant positions not filled and school children sent back to their schools in June. Gradually referrals come back after the new school year in September. Board of Education through

the towns pays the entire tuition for the school. Programs are to keep child in the community and in the family. 1. Outpatient services twelve hundred individuals 2. Community based programs i.e. ICAPPS - schools and families 3. Day programs for children with serious phychological and special needs education. The organization would like to expand and increase size of school due to more refferals of children and to provide services for alcohol and drug abuse of children.

E. Tri-County ARC, Inc; Lynn Sherman, Dennis Plante
Their financials were reviewed in detail. Twenty one Vernon clients. This organization did not know towns could partially fund their needs. Once steps are concluded in taking on Hockanum Industries funding will be pursued through other towns. This request for funding concerns a new program. It will be a social group in the evening with transportation for the disabled but is open to the community. Speakers will be brought in as well as whatever social activities attendees may request. Transportation for Vernon residents is the biggest part of this application.The Greenhouse has renegotiated a five year lease with a five year option. Three Vernon residents are involved with the Greenhouse. Paper shedding business will eventually move to the Hale Street building when remortgaged. Shelter workshop is evolving into base support option program(day care). Hockanum Industries is still processing transfer and paying creditors.When transfer is completed their fund raising committee will look toward goals. Flat funding for the last five years. 9% administrative costs.

F.Shelter Services
Tri-Town Services, Betty Anderson
Their financials were reviewed in detail. Attendance is down. Golf tournament and art auction are fund raisers. Targeted appeals rather than general appeals will be pursued. Trying to build connections with donors. Fund raising building and education is ongoing with board members. Budget contraints resulted in adjusted expenses, new phone connection and review of staffing needs. 2010 audit- line of credit went up. Revenue down from 2009 to 2010. Expenses up a little over 2%. Community service individuals help with maintenance issues. FEMA taken out of budget because no funding has been received for some time. About a $45,000.00 shortfall with line of credit to cover shortfall. Vernon residents are steady in number and make up about 31% of clients served The dynamics are different with more families, better educated people coming to the shelter. The only families turned away, due to physical limitations of the building, have more than four children. No maximum length of stay - case by case. Length of stay and readmission statistics will be provided as followup as it was unavailable at this interview.

Cornerstone Foundation; Mary Engel, Helen Syriac, John Ryan, John Wilk
Their financials were reviewed in detail. Fifteen bed shelter, ten men and five women. Casemanagement involves transportation to appointments, medication and job search. Computers for job search and applications. Cash advances given to clients from bottle, can refunds. Shelter was full several times this past year and is presently full. Thirty day maximum stay. No financial restrictions for shelter or food kitchen. Forty one Vernon residents in the shelter for 2011. Financials reported for 2010. Capital improvements $400.00, $92,300 program expenses. Funding received for 2011 $26,500.00. 45,000 - 50,000 meals a year. Clothing 40,000 pieces free per year and 100,000 received as donations. Seven hundred volunteers, two certified cooks paid and three certified cooks unpaid.

G. MARC, Collen Pillard
Their financials were reviewed in detail. A five year campaign for funding has been ongoing for buildings and land. Purchased two buildings August 2011 increasing space to 32,000 sq.ft. Both buildings required updating and renovation. Land has been purchased for a new building. Additional costs for space and maintenance. A waiting list of 20 clients to come to the agency. Client base is increasing every year. Challenging with flat line state funding. Looking for ways to cut costs and increase funding. Administrative costs 11%. Income of 9,000 - 11,000 member fees each year. Finished this past year with no profit or loss. Respite support, day care option, senior center, shelter workshop, in home support and job opportunities. Twenty one Vernon residents. Town funding would be used in different programs.

H. Hartford Interval House; telephone interview Bill Fox
Ninety Vernon residents this past year. A big fund raiser is coming soon. Good financials. recommend $2,500.00

I. CT Legal Services; Wes Shorts unable to reach person by telephone
Excellent funding report to town finance. Town Social Services uses this agency frequently per Marina Rodriguez. recommend $4,000.00

J. YMCA Sexual Assault Crisis Service; telephone interview Phil Bunick
Nothing has changed this past year. Money request based on five visits to Rockville General Hospital, hotline and visits to Vernon. recommend $2,000.00
3. Discussion
No direction of budget restraint from Mayor. Agency request fy2012-2013 $265,049.00 which includes $6,000.00 for Family Shelter Placement Services. Approved request fy2012-2013 $240,749.00.

Note to review Tri-County ARC and MARC funding for next year as services are similar in nature.
Motion to accept Cornerstone Agency request funding of $3,700.00 fy2012-2013. Motion by Phil Bunick and seconded by Joan O'Donnell. Approved unanimously.
Motion to accept Tri-Town Shelter funding at $5,000.00. Motion by Jean Bostrom and seconded by Wes Shorts. Passed unanimously.
Motion to accept Hockanum Valley Community Council funding request of $200,000.00 fy2012-2013. Motion by Bill Fox. Motion not passed.
Motion to accept Hockanum Valley Community Council funding at $171,000.00. Motion by Jean Bostrom and seconded by Wes Shorts. Passed unanimously.
Motion for $6,000.00 funding fy2012-2013 Shelter Services Family Placement. Motion by Wes Shorts and passed unanimously.
Shelter Services Family Placement document discussed with changes recommended.
4. Recommendations for funding:

Child Guidance Clinic $11,000.00
Connecticut Legal Services$4,000.00
Cornerstone Foundation $3,700.00
Exchange Club Center $8,000.00
Hartford Interval House $2,500.00
Tri-County ARC $7,000.00
Hockanum Community Council $171,000.00
Hockanum Valley School Readiness $4,000.00
MARC, Inc of Manchester $4,000.00
Tri-Town Shelter $5,000.00
Visiting Nurse and Health Services, CT $12,249.00
YMCA Sexual Assault Services $$2,000.00
Shelter Services Family Placement $6,000.00
4. Meeting adjourned 3:00 PM

Prepared by:

Jean Bostrom
Human Services Advisory Committee
February 20,2012