

**RECEIVED BY EMAIL  
NOT ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting  
February 9, 2011

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK

11 JUN 21 AM 11:32

Meeting location: Vernon Youth Services Bureau, 9 Elm Street, Vernon, CT. 06066

Those members in attendance were: Wes Shorts, Chairperson, Jean Bostrom, Phil Bunick, Judy Hany, James Krupinski, and staff liaisons: Joy Giuliano and Alan Slobodien

Agenda items covered were as follows;

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:30PM
2. Ethics Ordinance- members were asked to complete signature sheet and review Ordinance #173
3. Human Service Agency interviews were held as follows:
  - A. David Engelson, Executive Director Hockanum Valley Community Council - recommendation \$165,000  
Their financials and budget request were reviewed in detail. They are requesting \$195,000 for 2011-2012. The pantry serves 600 plus families per month. Two food drives were held this past year and 749 turkeys were given for the Thanksgiving holiday. Administrative costs are held under 9% of revenue. Shuttle service is provided for counseling and the food pantry if needed. Donation received of a automobile with a wheelchair and a wheelchair lift. Bus maintenance has cost \$42,000 this past year. A new 20 passenger van is needed with \$49,000 grant from the Department of Transportation and a deficit of \$13,000 remaining. Snow days result in a \$7,500 per day loss. The thrift shop has been closed due to snow and ice. The newly implemented \$1.00 per ride generates \$140 per week. The new food pantry resulted in the need for more paid employees. Food costs have increased by approximately \$6,000 per month.
  - B. Angela Atwater, Executive Director KID SAFE CT (Exchange Club Center) - recommendation \$8,000.  
Their financials and budget request were reviewed in detail. Their request remains the same. The in-home parent education program has a waiting list of 3 families and 4 children for Vernon residents. Two important parent education group sessions include step by step development and anger management. Referrals are from many sources including Department of Children and Families. Newly expanded youth center will include up to 90 children per week. New Juvenile Review Board will require one case manager from this unit. Two mentoring programs - 20 matches in residential placement and up to 25 for 10-14 year old group. Work 7 days a week as supervised visitation is usually on weekends. 12 furlough days per year and no raises in 3 years. Leaks in building and snowplowing have increased costs. Health insurance will increase by 21% this year. Reduced grants this year.
  - C. Todd Rose, President/CEO Visiting Nurse and Health Services, CT -recommendation \$12,249.  
Their financials and budget request were reviewed in detail. Fiscally strong now. Challenges continue for home healthcare. Medicaid has not increased in 4 years resulting in a 40% loss on dollar from Medicaid. 20 million dollar budget of which 4.5 million is state funded essentially showing a 1.6 million dollar loss. Medicare from the federal government is reduced by 7%. Possibility of a decision not to take Medicaid patients in the future. Unable to pay staff competitively so long term employment an issue. Training a nurse for home care takes 4-6 months. New investment in technology has been very successful. Request for funding remains the same as the Town of Vernon and its residents are a large piece of their mission.
  - D. Andre Crutch, Acting Executive Director Hockanum Industries - recommendation \$7,000 with quarterly billing and documentation due to their previous and present difficulties. State of Connecticut is closely overseeing the agency as annual reports are a few years behind. A new executive director position will be interviewed and appointed in the next few months. Temps were hired previously at a high expense. Recently hired 5 permanent employees. Building that housed their shredding equipment collapsed so no shredding income since October/November. Info Shred has taken over temporarily. The new move is in process. Green house is open but only planting seedlings. New orders are being taken for green house income. Green house experienced a small financial loss the past year. All vehicles are leased other than one van which is owned. Income: State is going back to contract per

client payment. Town of Vernon funds are used for recreational activities. Fund raising includes bowl a thon, tag sale and hopefully new ventures.

E. Shelter Services - recommendation \$9,000

1. John Ryan, President; Mary Engel, Executive Director; Tom Wilk, Treasurer Cornerstone Foundation - recommendation \$2,500. Buildings house community center, clothing bank, soup kitchen and shelter. Snow and ice removal expense is estimated at \$5,000. The shelter housed 37 Vernon residents and 1026 bed nights for year 2010. This is a 30 day shelter, with exceptions for positive transitioning including support services. Cornerstone is a 15 bed shelter and will search for alternate shelters if full. Four part time staff. Vernon Continuing Education gave 3 computers. Tri-Town Shelter will sometimes take their clients after 30 days. The foundation employs five people at less than \$85,000 per year salary per unaudited 2010 records. Cost of shelter is approximately \$17.49 per day per client without overhead which would increase to over \$20.00 per day per client. Soup kitchen gives two meals per day 8:00AM to 6:00PM Monday through Friday and one meal on weekends. Chef volunteered to teach clients how to cook. Group prepared hearty soup. Food Share helps 167 Vernon families. They have an eyeglass program for free glasses with \$15.00 co-pay. Clothing bank served 1048 clients in 2010. Hartford Foundation helps to fund paid employees salaries.

2. June Blacksten, Board Member Tri-Town Shelter - recommendation \$6,500.

Rockville Bank loans are outstanding as Tri-Town Shelter ran out of money this past year. \$16,000 shortfall. Steps will be taken this year to close the gap. Vernon clients increased this past year and will surpass past funding of \$9,000 per year, therefore the \$12,000 request. Third quarter 2010 398 bed nights and fourth quarter 2010 666 bed nights for Vernon residents. No salary increases for 2-3 years. Three full time employees-two Service Coordinators and Pieter Nijssen. 6-8 part time people mostly for weekends. Volunteers help out and do projects. Turn aways are for substance abuse and/or domestic abuse as well as the configuration of the building. Fund raising: Art auction, golf tournament and private donations as well as the annual appeal.

F. Peter DeBiasi, President/CEO ACCESS Denied as format improperly presented.

G. Telephone interviews by various board members for the following

1. YWCA Sexual Assault Services - recommend \$2,000

Multiple visits to the police department and other sources. Receives money from other towns.

2. MARC, Inc. of Manchester - recommend \$4,000

State of Connecticut pays per client and MARC estimates loss at \$15,000 per week.

3. Hockanum Valley School Readiness - recommend \$4,000

State of Connecticut reduced capacity from 15 to 13 slots at \$7,900 per child.

4. Connecticut Legal Services - recommend \$4,000

Three new projects. Four hour group training for all towns with manuals provided for information on all assistance programs and best utilization. Health Outcome working with Komen Association and Medical Efficiency Review Board. New web site with resources and self help guides.

5. Child Guidance Clinic - recommend \$11,000

Interview was not conducted for this applicant. Review of financials and budget request show no notable changes.

6. Hartford Interval House - recommend \$2,500

Interview was not conducted for this applicant. Review of financials and budget request show no notable changes.

4. Meeting adjourned 5:40PM

Prepared by:

Jean Bostrom  
Board Member  
Human Services Advisory Commission