

Sullivan, Diane

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From: Claydon, Paula
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 12:35 PM
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Cc: Campolongo, Leslie; Bill Fox; duprey25@peoplepc.com; James Krupienski; Judy Hany (external); Kim Rivest; Phil Bunick; Slobodien, Alan; Wesley.Shorts@jmhosp.org
Subject: FW: Meeting

10 MAR -2 PM 12:36

From: jbostrom [mailto:duprey25@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:28 AM
To: Claydon, Paula; Bostrom Jean A; Shorts Wesley
Subject: Meeting

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

February 20, 2010

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

Those members in attendance were: Wes Shorts Chairperson, Jean Bostrom Co-Chairperson, Bill Fox, Phil Bunick, Kim Rivest, Judy Hany, James Krupienski and staff liaison; Paula Claydon and Alan Slobodien

Agenda items covered were as follows:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM
2. Human Service Agency interviews were held as follows;

A. David Engelson, Executive Director of Hockanum Valley Community Council. Their financials and budget request were reviewed in detail. They are requesting \$165,000 for 2010-2011. This year is their 40th anniversary with a new location at Naek Road. **Transportation Services** include transport of 35,916 residents and 164,000 during the past year. Effective January 1, 2010 each dial a ride will cost clients \$1.00 in an effort to further contain costs. **Counseling Services** total 10,468 clients within the past year with 1068 new clients. A shuttle service is provided for clients with 250-300 clients seen each week. **The Food Pantry** services 600 families per month. The new location provides an area of 50' by 50' with a new 22' freezer. People do their own shopping and shop two evenings per week as well as during the day. Local produce and dairy is used with the new addition of cold storage. **Elder Services** assist 3200 clients to live independently. 367 clients receive chore assistance. 1,300 calls were placed to check on people at home and to say hello. 2,100 clients take advantage of personal assistance and 179 received counseling. 576 were given rides. **The Thrift Store** suffered a loss this year. Other functions of the store make it a worthwhile effort. Among those are job training, clothing for job interviews and clothing utensils etc for fire victims.

B. Betty Anderson, President and June Blacksten, Board Member Tri-Town Shelter Services Their financials and budget request were reviewed in detail. Their focus will be to improve the quality of service and involvement by the board and its members. In-service training will be a part of this process and will be provided to all board members. The Human Resource

Advisory Commission suggested more networking and outreach to the local community. The shelter has 18 beds; 8 men, 8 women and 2 cribs. The physical limitations of the building does not allow full capacity at all times. Increased needs by out of area clients. Human Resource Advisory Commission recommended going to out of area towns for more funding. Changes in programs have been made to better mirror Department of Social Services Regulations.

C. Todd Rose, President Visiting Nurse and Health Services CT

Their financial and budget request were reviewed in detail. Financial difficulty was part of the past fiscal year due to a major computer conversion and staff shortage. Salaries have increased due to conversion but net gains are down. 160 clinicians in field are now able to access electronic medical care. 280 homecare employees create a base for growth and the future. The Organization is a community based public care business and no client is refused. Request is a 0 based line item budget. The Organization works with needs of the town to see if demands have changed. More clients are uninsured. Nationally noted as top 500 of 9,000 agencies of which only 3 are in Connecticut.

D. Clifford Johnson, Executive Director and Mary Gracyalny, Business Director Child Guidance Clinic.

The State of Connecticut cut 2% from the previous years budget. Funding is unknown for the coming year. Client numbers are high and more are uninsured. Costs have increased 9% over the past year. An increase net of \$190,078 was due to loss of staff but with more students new staff will increase proportionately. Autism Assessment Program has about 2 clients per month. A comprehensive report is completed then meetings are scheduled with families and school systems. Funding is primarily from insurance. Parenting Education Class is Court ordered. A 6 hour course is mandated when divorce and children are involved.

E. Angela Atwater, Executive Director KID SAFECT (Exchange Club Center)

Many programs in place. In home parent-child education program is mostly by referral. It encompasses a 4 to 6 month period twice a week. Volunteers with in-service training and internships with colleges help with programming. Parent Education Workshop is parenting piece by piece and is for 8 weeks. Parenting Journey explores how they were parented and how it effects the child. The program is 12 weeks. Other programs include Anger management, Fathers Group, Youth Programs and one on one mentoring. Temporary Child Care Program and Supervised Visitation. Trends run toward families who have mental illness, autism and how to interact within the family. Many are misdiagnosed. Family economic problems are increasing.

F. Joan McMahon, Executive Director Hockanum Industries

Goals include: Thrift Store/gift store which is not public to date. Brooklyn Street Shredding Business is active. Recommendation was to open both Saturday and Sunday to encourage the public to make use of the service. Paper making in conjunction with shredding is almost ready to implement. Transportation services from school to work helps families and the disabled clients. 23% are Vernon residents. Other surrounding towns do not contribute to the transportation service. Fund raising includes Bowlathon, Town wide tag sale, spaghetti supper, pancake breakfast. The Department of Social Services will change its grant to an attendance based payment resulting in decreased funding. The federal tax information was not included with the packet submitted. It will be delivered February 22, 2010.

G Shirley Bergert, Regional Director CT Legal Services

Telephone interview. Most funds are from interest account. Salaries have decreased by 20%. Furlough days were one a week but now one every two weeks. The State Judicial System is the funding source. Assistance was given to Tri-Town Shelter Services this past year by CT Legal Services. Increasing needs and increasing numbers served.

H. Cecile Enrico, Executive Director Hartford Interval House

Personal Interview. 100 residents who receive help with employment, counseling and advocacy. This is one of the largest shelters in the area. Funding is down so there is an increased request for interns and volunteers. Hot lines, travel services and support groups for children and minority support.

I. Bruce Blair Executive Director Hockanum School Readiness
Personal Interview. No funding increase from the town since 1997. Fifteen children all town residents. Fund raising is increasing. Maintenance costs have increased by 4%. Funding is needed for a teaching assistant.

J. Ken Charpentier, Executive Director MARC
Personal interview. Turmoil because of change to per client funding by Department of Social services. Estimated cut of \$30,000 to \$40,000. The request is the same as last year and is .05% of budget. Also fee per service contributes to budget.

K. Sheryl Breetz, Executive Director North Central Reg Mental Health Board
Training and outreach work. An advocacy agency with no direct service. Overseen by Connecticut Mental Health.

L. April Raczka, Executive Directive YWCA Sexual Assault Services
Personal interview. Twenty one clients in Vernon. The last budget year showed eleven, a 50% increase. Services include outreach and counseling, hot line, pay for taxi if no transport and prevention presentations at towns and schools. A sliding scale fee. Cost is approximately \$1,000 per client. Interns from colleges, 2,000 volunteers, training offered twice a year. More specific budget information relative to this geographical area will be requested and made available for February 22, 2010.

3. Meeting adjourned at 2;15 PM

4. The next meeting will be February 22, 2010 7:00PM at Vernon Youth Services Bureau, 9 Elm Street, Vernon, CT 06066

Prepared by:
Jean Bostrom, Co-Chairperson
Human Services Advisory Commission
March 2, 2010

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