

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

October 20, 2008

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

Those members in attendance were: Wes Shorts – Chairperson, Jean Bostrom, Bill Fox, Kim Rivest, Phil Bunick, Nancy Herold and staff liaison: Paula Claydon and Alan Slobodien.

Absent: Gloria Collins

Agenda items covered were as follows:

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM
2. Tri-Town Shelter Update – Paula and Wes presented and update on the several meetings that have been held with Tom Smith, the Board President, June Blacksten, Chair of the Shelter's Personnel Committee and also with Tom Wolff a friend of the Shelter. The meetings for the most part have also included Wendy Wanchuk a lawyer with Connecticut Legal Services and Doris Crayton, Director of Human Services for the Town of Ellington. Paula reviewed the Chronology of Complaints about the Shelter over the past couple of years as compiled by Wendy Wanchuk. Paula, Wes and Wendy Wanchuk will be meeting with the new Tri-Town Shelter Board President on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 4PM.
3. Dial-A-Ride Update – Paula brought members up to date regarding the article that had appeared in the Journal regarding an alleged decrease in funding by the Town of Vernon that caused hours of service to be reduced. David Engelson from Hockanum Valley did respond to the article indicating that it was not the Town of Vernon that caused a problem of decreased hours but rather an internal problem which has since been rectified. Hockanum Valley is stopping transportation for routine visits like shopping at 2PM but will continue transportation for medical appointments until 4PM as has been the custom in the past.
4. Additional Monies for Hockanum Valley Transportation – Nancy Herold had contacted Wes and Paula about possible addition dollars for Hockanum Valley for increased transportation costs indicating that other towns had already stepped forward with additional monies. The Commission really had no additional funding to award except that possibly some unused dollars by Visiting Nurse could be reallocated to Hockanum Valley. Approximately \$4,000 was not used by Visiting Nurse and could possibly be used for this purpose. Paula checked with the Finance Department and found this was possible if approved by the Commission and the Town Council. An e-mail ballot by the Commission approved this transfer of funds and was forwarded to Finance and then to the Town Council which approved it at their September meeting. In the future, the Commission will need to begin to watch for unused funds as the fiscal year ends and perhaps set up a process where all Agencies could be contacted about needs for additional funding.
5. Discussion of 2009-2010 Process – The Commission discussed ways of improving the

process for the coming year. After discussion it was decided to make personal calls to each of the Agencies requesting \$3,000 or less. The purpose of the call would be to become familiar with the agency and get some pre-approved questions answered. The process of having all the other Agencies come before the Commission would remain the same. Paula was also asked to check with Finance to see if the “Requests for Funding” could be sent out earlier like in December and to also see what paperwork is actually required by the Finance Department and or Town Council. It would be desirable to decrease the amount of paperwork that needs to be submitted by each Agency.

6. Election of Chairperson – Wes Shorts was elected to serve as Chairperson for the coming year, 2009-2010.
6. Possible additional Agencies for 2009-2010 – Paula indicated that she is aware of at least one new Agency, Community Renewal Team for the coming year. Phil questioned how we can find out if there are other Agencies out there in need of additional funding. We could not come up with a way of seeking out this information
8. Other – Wes was asked to check with Gloria Collins to see if she is able to remain on the Commission.
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Prepared by:

Wes Shorts
Chairperson, Human Services Advisory Commission
October 21, 2008