

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 6, 2023

Present: Marcia Shell, Mary Reidy, David White, Alicia Presti, and Dawn Berry.

Park Avenue Social: June 13 at 1 pm. Dave will check about ice cream. If that doesn't work, Alicia will pick up some desserts. Bingo with gift cards to the Villager and Riverside. Short ice breaker about memories of childhood before bingo. Mary and Marcia will arrive 15 to 30 minutes earlier.

Senior Luncheon: the dining room will be set up for 30-50 people. Committee members will arrive at 11 am for prepping and serving food. We will be responsible for clean-up. The VNA will present Change the Way We Age, 7 Dimensions of Wellness at 11 am.

Survey Results: Take Aways on what people are looking for – Resource Fair; Decluttering and Downsizing; Mental Health; End of Life Planning and writing an obituary; continuum of care. We could plan an Aging in Place Health Fair. Brainstormed ideas for a Service Fair.

Community HHS Resources: Marcia suggested we tweak the brochure that we have. Marcia will send Mary the parts of the brochure that need to be updated. We will design what information we want on the website and submit it to be loaded.

Housing Committee Update: Dawn Berry

The Housing Committee meets the first and third Thursdays of the month from 5-7 pm. We reviewed the draft of the Grant proposal and edits were suggested. Tricia Morin, Louise Carr, and I have been participating in the Housing Academy sessions to develop more knowledge and skills for the process of engaging the public to solicit their feedback for drafting our report to the Select Board.

Report of the Human Services Coordinator: Alicia Presti

- Promoted and assisted with applications for low/moderate income tax relief.
- Continued welfare checks and running food to homebound seniors. Dial-a-ride has now resumed the senior lunch delivery for spring, summer, and fall.
- Completed camp scholarship distribution and payments. 14 donors provided 26 weeks of camp. After putting out her public thank you, 1 new donation came in and 2 more will be received. The two incoming donations are being made in honor of 2 retiring Hopkinton teachers- Lori Aubertin and Bob Woolner, in lieu of gifts for themselves. Additional donated funds will be available to assist with children/youth programming and camps during the year.
- Put together food pantry volunteer schedule for remainder of the 2023 calendar year. Have had to do some recruitment to fill open spots. Some openings remain and Alicia is in the process of reaching out and training new volunteers.

- Park Avenue social was set up with Bonnie and made it into their June newsletter. Alicia will create and hang flyers in the building tomorrow once we finalize our details for next week.
- Participated in NCOA (National Coalition of Older Adults) online training on mental health. Sessions = substance abuse, chronic pain, mental health support for caregivers
- Organizing and cleaning out the Food Pantry provided Alicia the opportunity to distribute products into the community proactively. Placed a new food donation box at Colonial Village and prepped one for Basket and Barrell.
- Supported one new family in using the food pantry, signed them for Got Lunch, and secured donated items that they needed.
- Continued to promote the Human Services' survey. Collected responses and analyzed results after closing on Friday. Started grouping and formulating ideas for the department based on input provided.
- Met with Marcia last week to discuss resource links and information for our department and website. I was able to provide her with responses from the survey which might be helpful in prioritizing information we present.
- Welfare Assistance for May: Rent \$585.00, Electric \$603.49.
- Donated expenses: vehicle repair \$358.68, Camp scholarships \$5200.
- A High School student is helping to create the wish list and flyer to promote the Backpack program in July for distribution August 16.
- A clothing swap for the beginning of the school year will be organized by a high school student.

We discussed the Appreciation dinner for Food Pantry workers in the fall, but no decision was made on the date or program.

Next meeting July 11 at 4 pm at Beech Hill Farm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn C. Berry