

Town of Hopkinton, NH  
Human Services Advisory Committee  
Minutes – August 7, 2018

Present: Marilyn Ceriello-Bresaw, Allita Paine, Luciele Gaskill, Nan McNicholas, and Dawn Berry

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. The minutes of the June 5, 2018, need to be submitted, so approval was postponed.

Marilyn provided an update of services to the town over the summer.

- 20 camper scholarships were provided, and everyone who applied received a scholarship.
- The Contoocook Carry Race will not be held this year. The Contoocook Carry program will now include surrounding towns for heating help.
- The Fuel Assistance and Donation accounts have money.
- 57% of the budget has been spent which is level spending for this time of year.
- There are five homeless families in town; others may be couch surfing.
- 50 families are using the food pantry.
- 7 households in Hopkinton/Contoocook received construction projects for their homes from the workcamps. All the recipients were pleased with the work. It was noted that, in at least two instances, the clean up by the volunteer construction crew was not adequate. Nails, screws, and other debris were left behind. Marilyn was encouraged to share this with the organizers of the workcamps.

#### New Business

- ✓ The school supplies and clothing drive is going well. 37 youth applied, while the 7 families using the Got Lunch program will receive school supplies. Nan will check with First Church about putting out a basket for school supply donations.
- ✓ Our suggestion for a fall program of helping seniors with fall chores could be picked up by the Rotary. Marilyn is meeting with Rotary representatives at 3:30 pm on Monday. The committee encouraged contact with the Interact Kids, a youth group of Rotary, to also help in the fall chores.
- ✓ The Scout troops are helping with the food bank, and a particular Girl Scout Troop provides birthday bags.
- ✓ The VNA program on Aging Mastery at the Senior Center did not have enough registrations to make the program worthwhile. The Library was considered as another venue, but that has now changed. The VNA could come back in the spring. Discussion followed about the declining use of the Senior Center by those coming into Senior Life.
- ✓ The committee brainstormed fall or spring programs to address needs in the community:
  1. Grandparents who are parenting

2. Respite program, particularly those not connected with churches who provide support to members. The Dial A Ride Program could be a vehicle for outreach.
3. Mary Reddy, a retired nurse, has offered to accompany people to doctors' appointments. She could provide that extra pair of ears to recall and interpret what the doctor said. Issues of liability and who would sponsor her need to be explored.
4. Outreach visits to people isolated and alone.
5. Opioid crisis
6. Gun safety – Marilyn will check with Police Chief Steve Pecora to see what programs are available through Fish and Game.
7. Welcoming Diversity in Community, including racial, economic, religious, and mental health diversity, and/or empowering bystanders to interrupt bullying at all ages. Dawn will check with the school to see what has been done or will be done.

The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting: September 4 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn C. Berry