

Human Services Advisory Committee
Minutes – May 3, 2022

Attending: Nan McNicholas (by phone), Pam Manus, Alicia Presti, Luke Simon, Marcia Shell, Mary Reidy, and Dawn Berry

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, and we welcomed Marcia and Luke to the committee. We introduced ourselves to each other. The minutes of the April 5 meeting were approved.

Mary Reidy was elected chairperson and Dawn Berry will continue as the clerk.

We reviewed the committee's charge and decided upon the following changes:

- In the Structure of Committee, *The committee shall consist of **at least five members**.*
- Under Duties and Responsibilities, bullet 3 – adds ***s to suggestion***
- Bullet 4 should now read: To review and recommend to the Select Board the social agencies to be budgeted to receive funds each year; to request follow-up regarding the allocation of funds distributed.
- Bullet 5: To pursue regional cooperation in the advocacy and delivery of human services to our community.
- Add a bullet: Pursue programming and other opportunities to educate and distribute information about human services.

GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Appreciation Luncheon for Food Pantry workers will be scheduled for the second week in September.

We discussed the need to find programming more inclusive of younger families.

Develop a program where High School students could share with Seniors what they have been doing.

We are also thinking about a free yard sale.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATOR – Alicia Presti

- Assisted with tax applications, CAP rental and covid relief applications
- Provided information for homeowners' assistance which is now available
- Medicaid recertifications came due and Alicia worked on those with clients
- The number of welfare visits was lower this month
- Senior meals are continuing to be delivered to homebound seniors by Dial-a-Ride volunteers
- On the off week when the Food Pantry is not open, Alicia has delivered food to senior recipients as a way of also doing a welfare check,
- Feedback from recipients 57 households noted a preference for the food pantry to be available every other week food pantry rather than weekly.

- Families have been reaching out for assistance in elder care and places for residential care.
- Gave two presentations at the High School
- Sat on a committee to determine need based scholarship aid for high school seniors
- Donations are being received for summer camp scholarships
- Dial a Ride representatives and Alicia will meet with Park Avenue residents to explain the program. Because the residents have been more homebound since covid, programs need to be brought to Park Avenue.
- Alicia is partnering with VNA for Community wellness education programing. Wellness Wednesdays will occur every other month, 11 to 11:45 am before Senior Lunch. The first one is aging well. Next program will be July.
- Alicia met with Anna Wells, Economic Development, to begin conversations around affordable housing in Hopkinton. Karen Robertson of Planning will bring input regarding zoning. Luke spoke of his interest to be on the committee exploring affordable housing as a HSAC representative.
- Year to date expenditures: rent \$6,025, fuel assistance \$2506.76 out of the donated funds and \$329.44 out of the town budget for a heating total of \$2,836.20; electric \$886.29; and other \$373.71 for a total of \$7, 614.44 which is 14% of budget. CAP's increased fuel assistance also and SNAP has increased this year which has meant less coming out of the town human services budget.

The meeting closed at 5:15 pm. Next meeting June 7, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn C. Berry