

## Human Services Advisory Committee

Minutes, June 7, 2022

Present: Mary Reidy, Luke Simon, Marcia Shell, Dawn Berry, and Alicia Presti.

The May Minutes were updated and approved.

### Human Services Report – Alicia Presti

- Assisted with low/moderate tax relief applications from the NH Dept of Revenue
- Promoted Eversource's New Start Program which provides a payment plan and forgiveness for some debt
- Assisted 3 clients for redetermination of the covid relief program for renters is now. Redetermination is now required every six months from CAP. CAP is offering Housing Stability Services.
- Provided emergency shelter for a homeless family who are now connected with CAP.
- Attended the Workforce Housing Planning Board Meeting; the Board decided to move forward with a working group to explore bringing workforce housing to Hopkinton. Alicia was invited to be part of the working group. Workforce housing is based on the average income of NH residents which is not the same as low income. Hopkinton needs to have zoning and other factors in place before the town can access grants.
- Trained new Food Pantry volunteer; substitutes are needed.
- Received a request for dental assistance so Alicia researched programs that will charge small fees.
- Assistance year to date: electric \$1,356.29, rent \$6025, fuel from budget \$1435.95, and other \$373.71. At 17% of budget because of CAP grants.

Merrimack County Human Service will be exploring where there are gaps of service.

The first Aging Well program with VNA was successful with 17 people in attendance.

On July 20 Human Services will be serving the Senior Luncheon along with the VNA program Wellness visits. Members of the HSAC were asked to help serve, clean up, and submit ideas for the luncheon.

In response to a question about the needs for food in the community, Alicia informed us that 3 new clients( 2 Seniors and a Family) came to the Food Pantry. Total families using Food Pantry is now at 60.

It was suggested the gas cards and housing voucher donations could be sought.

\$3520 in donations for camp scholarships for a total of 21 weeks of camp for 5 different families who need camp for childcare to work.

Update on Housing in Hopkinton can be found at:

[https://www.hopkintonnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf716/f/uploads/hopkinton\\_planning\\_board\\_presentation\\_april\\_2022.pdf](https://www.hopkintonnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf716/f/uploads/hopkinton_planning_board_presentation_april_2022.pdf)

### The Committee Charge

The HSAC approved revisions to the Charge. Alicia will contact Neal regarding updating the website with current committee members, the revised Charge and locate minutes in one accessible place.

We reviewed the Letter to Select Board regarding the updated information of CAP and a thank to the Town for financial support.

### Goals of the Committee - Ideas for Possible Programs (This Year and Beyond)

- i. July 20 Senior luncheon for town
- ii. Appreciation cookout for Food Pantry and human service volunteers in town in Sept – Mary will check with Kay about including Dial a Ride  
Alicia will check with Paula
- iii. Down-sizing / Decluttering
- iv. Legal – wills, trusts, death planning
- v. Other – scams, social media, mental health programs, compiling resources services, Hopkinton Police resources, support Shawn Powers wood bank day, technology help

Luke will begin compiling a list of resources.

Logo for human services – Marcia will come up with designs from other agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn C. Berry

Next meeting July 5, 2022