

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

October 11, 2013

**Present:** Olive Hauser, Debra Hertz, Holly Hawes, Nancy Herling, Beverly Kelsey, Ali Ramsteck and Inta Adams

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2013 were approved as Presented.

### **Agenda Items Covered:**

- **Review of Quarterly Report:**

Operation Fuel applications will be taken by Human Services directly this year for the first time. Our clients are permitted to apply for these funds once a year in amounts up to \$500.

The Heights homes are all heated by electricity, a new experience for most of our clients living there. There is confusion on this as the electric bills for some units are still going to Imagineers rather than the residents directly.

The reduction in Food Stamp allocations in November will increase demands on our Home Goods Closet as well as financial assistance to cover food purchases.

- **Human Services Planning Council:**

Olive Hauser attended the October meeting and presented an overview of the department's services. A member from the committee of Darien School Parents (CDSP) was very interested in our Back to School program and the holiday programs. Olive and she spoke after the meeting and Olive will e-mail here with more information.

The Special Needs Resource Directory has been updated by Joan Davies and is ready to print. This guide was developed in collaboration with the Community Fund.

- **Energy Assistance and Operation Fuel:**

Human Services started taking applications for energy assistance in mid-September. We anticipate that funding will be consistent with last year. As previously mentioned we are also now taking applications for Operation Fuel.

- **The Heights:**

Completed units are two thirds filled with sixty families. Human Services is seeing an increase in clients from the Heights as well as from apartments in town with larger number of occupants.

- **Holiday Programs:**

We anticipate a significant increase in requests for food baskets for Thanksgiving as well as demand for our Christmas programs. We are developing more input on the new families that accessed the back to school program, in anticipation of this increased demand.

- **Salvation Army:**

Kathy Larsen has replaced Bob Locke as head of the Salvation Army's Darien unit.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Beverly Kelsey*

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