

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2012

Present: Olive Hauser, Debra Hertz, Ali Ramsteck, Melisse Reardon, Polly Lowman, Holly Hawes, Rachael, Martin, Jennifer Geddes, Beverly Kelsey

Minutes: Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 7, 2012 were approved as presented.

Agenda Items Covered:

1. **RTM Meeting:** The change in name from Darien Social Services Commission to Human Services Commission was approved in the last RTM meeting. A slow roll out of the new name will start after the new year.
2. **Review of the Quarterly Report:** Olive reviewed the July – September quarterly report and highlighted the following:
 - **EAP:** New software is improving the staff's ability to track applications and make sure that each client receives all of their benefits. Funding to the program will be 70% less than previous years. Last year was a remarkably warm winter. If we have a cold winter this reduction will be a huge issue. Neon and CTE have merged and has new leadership. We look forward to learning about their new programs and projects.
 - **Renters Rebate Program:** This program ended on Sept. 15; we took a few more applications, and rebates were smaller.
 - **Back to School:** 86 children were served by this program. That is 39% increase from 2011 and a 55% increase from 2010.
 - **Home Goods Closet:** Continues to grow and they need donations badly!
 - **Case Management:** While numbers of unduplicated and new clients are stable, complexity of cases and number of contacts continue to increase.
 - **Issues potentially impacting 2013 Budget:** The Heights redevelopment project doubling number the existing units, Senior Center move to the Town Hall bringing more seniors to our office, and the increase of Back to School clients will all have an impact on next year's budget.
3. **Donations:** We have received a \$ 500 donation from Kiwanis as well as a \$1,000 from a private individual.
4. **Election of Officers:** We will elect officers for the coming year at next month's meeting

5. **Thanksgiving and Christmas Programs:** We expect an increase in clients served by these programs, based on experience with Back to School this year. This will require additional funding, more trees, and involvement from more groups.
6. **Choices Program:** Inta and Ali are certified Choices counselors and have begun to make appointments with individuals who are seeking help in choosing a Medicare Part D provider
7. **Other Business:** Darien Human Services has agreed to add a line item in their budget dedicated to the donated funds made to The Darien Domestic Abuse Partnership. This allows the partnership easy access to their funds when they need them. Inta and Jennifer are members of the Partnership.

Respectively Submitted:

Beverly Kelsey

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