

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

January 8, 2016

Minutes

Attending: Olive Hauser, Rachel Martin, Beverly Kelsey, Jennifer Geddes, Ali Ramsteck, Lisa Stout, Holly Hawes, Polly Lowman.

Minutes: The minutes of November 13, 2015, December 11, 2015 and Special Meeting December 18, 2015 were approved as presented.

Chairperson's Update: The closed Facebook page Darien Human Services is up and live. Friend Rachel Paul Martin on Facebook to join the group. Rachel and Olive will approve content with specific, informative postings. These posts can be shared by members to broaden our outreach. Rachel has offered to provide help with the use of Facebook and other social media, she will also begin sending electronic calendar updates for Commission meetings.

Plans continue to solicit commission and other volunteer help with programs - Homegoods closet, Back- to-school, Thanksgiving and Christmas, specifically with soliciting donations. In addition, building a list of donors past and future as well as evaluating the need in each program will be undertaken.

Review of Quarterly Report: Olive reported ABCD and the Eversource portal have been very helpful in the ongoing administration of energy assistance. Numbers for meals, toys and gifts are lower but it was felt that last year was high and numbers for this year are a good representation of the need. The large increase in evictions (5) during the quarter is abnormally high and not expected to continue. The biggest issue continues to be ongoing support for individuals with mental health issues. The statistics for case management are being completed and will be forwarded.

Review of FY 2016-2017 Budget: The Human Services budget is flat except for Personnel. Proposal for staffing includes reduction in Admin Secretary, Case Manager to full time and the addition of a half-time Program Assistant.

Commission on Aging Update: Jennifer reported that the Commission will invite Jeremy Ginsberg to discuss the number of new affordable units in town, where and when they will be available and the regulations.

Old/New Business: Nancy Herling has officially resigned from the Commission. The Human Services Commission is looking to fill 2 positions. Inta Adams has retired.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Stout