

CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 10, 2012

7:00 pm

Attendance: Meredith Sturges, Ed Hines, Vicki Canale, Martha Pickett, Patti Flynn-Harris

Staff: Stephanie Ferrall, Kristen Schechter

Call to Order: M. Sturges called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and determined a quorum.

M. Sturges discussed the vacancy issue on the Human Services Committee. She has been in touch with Peter Talbot (Town Ordinance Committee). P. Flynn-Harris provided an explanation of political appointments.

V. Canale has discussed food collection with S. Bogdanski Bourdon at the Park & Recreation Summer Concert series, for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry. Will need approval from Parks & Recreation and will need schedule.

There was a vote to agree to contact Cheshire Herald to support food collection. V. Canale motioned to accept, M. Pickett seconded.

Social Services Report: K. Schechter reported that there were 10 Family Violence Reports referred to the CIU office. Fifty one (51) food vouchers were distributed. The energy assistance program is now ended, but the Renter's Rebate program for the elderly and disabled will officially begin on May 15, 2012

Senior Services Report: S. Ferrall reported that on May 11, 2012, there will be a ceremony at the Senior Center to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the renovation of the Senior Center. S. Ferrall discussed the Vinnie Carr dance party at the Sr. Center, and thought it would be beneficial to ask those attending to bring a food donation to this program. No monetary donation is required for this program.

New Business: Subcommittee for Friendly Visitors Program has met twice now. Chairperson for that committee is M. Pickett.

Progress report- Minimal amount of programs similar to this in CT. M. Pickett has made a contact in New Haven who had run a similar program there in the past. Developing goals and mission statement. Liability and insurance concerns discussed. Committee will begin with phone contact/check in calls as a start to the program.

E. Hines discussed Veteran's benefits that are offered on a Town and State level. There are two basic benefits available. If one is found eligible for these programs, this would result in a significant decrease in tax assessment. The Town program available is income related. Paperwork should be filed at least every other year. There is no age requirement.

The next Subcommittee meeting will be held on 6/14/12 at 6:30 pm. Motion accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Schechter