

**CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Committee Members Present:

B. Barlok, M. Pickett, D. Kelleher and R. Veleber

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

S. Ferrall and K. Schechter

Others Present:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Veleber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present for this meeting. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2015 MINUTES

MOTION by D. Kelleher that the Human Services Committee approves the minutes from the September 10, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by B. Barlok.

VOTE: In Favor – B. Barlok, D. Kelleher, M. Pickett and R. Veleber
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

There were 44 food vouchers distributed for the month of September and 54 food vouchers distributed for the month of October. K. Schechter stated that there are already numerous

inquiries for the energy assistance program, which runs through March 2016. She noted that there are a lot of new people looking for assistance this year.

5. SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

There were 15 working days for the month of October. There were numerous inquiries (telephone calls, emails) and 39 appointments (including 6 transportation evaluations/home visits). S. Theroux attended 3 CHAT Programs with approximately 12 people at each program.

S. Ferrall mentioned that open enrollment has begun for Medicare so there have been a lot of questions coming in.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Gambling program

D. Kelleher mentioned that the program she had suggested was not actually a gambling program but rather a video game / internet addiction program that Paul Weigle, of Natchaug Hospital, puts on. She noted that Dr. Weigle charges \$ 500 for this program and K. Schechter stated that she would talk to Michelle Piccerillo to see what funding options are available. Once a source for funding is established, D. Kelleher will contact Mr. Weigle to see about putting a program together for the Spring.

7. NEW BUSINESS

R. Veleber talked about the Cheshire Community Food Pantry and mentioned their hours for drop off of donations are M / W / F from 9 am until Noon and T / TH from 3pm until 6pm. The Food Pantry is currently located on Railroad Ave but a new, larger location will be built on Sandbank Road in the coming year.

M. Pickett mentioned that she recently saw a commercial for a “clean out your medicine cabinet” program in Southington and a reminder to be aware of teenagers / young adults that may be tempted to take medications from a medicine cabinet. S. Ferrall mentioned that the Cheshire Police Department held an expired / unwanted medication collection program at the Cheshire Senior Center about a month ago and they will be doing it on a more regular basis in the future. K. Schechter stated that there is a locked dropped box in the Cheshire Police Department lobby for expired / unwanted medications that the public can use at any time.

D. Kelleher brought up the issue of heroin use by Cheshire teenagers / residents, noting that there was a heroin overdose by a teenage girl over the Summer in Cheshire. She asked if Narcan is carried by Cheshire Police Officers and K. Schechter replied no, they do not. K. Schechter mentioned that there is a private treatment center on Highland Avenue currently and there is another clinic looking to come to Town, in the Ricci building on South Main Street. D.

Kelleher talked about putting a program together so that parents can learn the signs and symptoms to look for. Committee members also talked about suicide prevention as a topic for a future program.

K, Schechter mentioned that an attitude and behavior assessment will be distributed to Cheshire High School and Dodd Middle School students next week. The results of the survey will be on Survey Monkey; R. Veleber asked that the results of the survey be presented to the Committee when they are available.

A. Election of New Chairman

D. Kelleher suggested that the Committee defer the election of a new Chairman until the next Human Services Committee meeting to see if new members are appointed to replace the 3 members that have recently resigned. It was agreed that R. Veleber would continue to run the meetings in the interim.

Committee members were reminded that there is not a December meeting scheduled.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by D. Kelleher to adjourned the November 12th Regular Meeting of the Human Services Committee at 7:44 p.m.; **SECONDED** by B. Barlok.

VOTE: In Favor – B. Barlok, D. Kelleher, M. Pickett, and R. Veleber
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary