

**CHESHIRE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Committee Members Present:

B. Barlok, M. Pickett, D. Kelleher (arrived at 7:07 p.m.) and R. Veleber

Committee Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

S. Ferrall, Coordinator of Senior Services and K. Schechter, Town Social Worker/Crisis Intervention

Others Present:

George Pawlush, potential nominee to the Human Services Committee; Susan Pappas, potential nominee to the Human Services Committee; Diane Visconti, potential nominee to the Human Services Committee; Edmund Bogrette, Chairman of the Senior Center Board; Evelyn Heinrichs, member of the Senior Center Board

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 NOVEMBER 2015 MINUTES

MOTION by D. Kelleher that the Human Services Committee approves the minutes from the November 12, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by M. Pickett.

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 48 food vouchers distributed for the month of December. K. Schechter stated that there are were 16 referrals from the Police Department and 6 family violence referrals, the number of individuals assisted in December was 130. The 2015 Holiday program was very successful; the Cheshire Rotary Club helped with bell ringing at Stop & Shop and then matched the funds collected so \$4,000 was donated. K. Schechter also mentioned that the Cheshire Fire Department had a food and toy drive which brought in a huge number of toys for the Holidays and allowed for each family to come in and select 6 toys per child; there were 47 families that took part in the Adopt A Family program, which is lower than the previous years.

5. SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

There were 15 working days for the month of December. There were 208 inquires (telephone calls, emails) and 39 appointments (including transportation evaluations/home visits). S. Theroux attended a CHAT Planning Meeting and training session.

S. Ferrall mentioned that the extra hours for the part time Senior Center staff began January 1st, which brings them up to 24 hours each and everyone is thrilled. S. Ferrall thanked everyone who advocated for the extra hours.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Committee members would like to look into options to make signs and symptoms of Heroin / Opiate overdoses more well know as the community sees the number of these incidents on the rise. D. Kelleher mentioned that there is a push nationally, as this is a national problem not just local, to have police officers carry Nar-Can. K. Schechter stated that the Cheshire Police Officers do not carry Nar-Can but it is on the ambulance in Town. D. Kelleher stated that there are Nar-Can kits that come with 3 doses and gives verbal instructions on using the medication; these kits cost \$ 700. She also noted that the Southbury Chief of Police has been quoted as saying that his officers carry Nar-Can and have used these kits frequently and have saved at least 3 people since June because they had these Nar-Can kits.

D. Kelleher stated that you can go to some pharmacists to get Nar-Can if they have a family member with a known problem, so that they have it, if needed.

D. Visconti asked if the group should lobby for the Police Department to carry Nar-Can? K. Schechter stated that she would look into where the Police Department stands on this issue. M. Pickett asked to get an idea of how many units the Cheshire Police Department would need if they were going to have them.

A. Video Game / Internet Addiction Program

D. Kelleher agreed to spearhead the Video Game / Internet Addition program and will be contacting Dr. Paul Weigle, of Natchaug Hospital, to see about putting a program

together for the Spring or possibly the Fall if a date is note available this Spring. K. Schechter stated that she would get the funding in line for this program.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Committee members reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the 2016 Human Services Committee to make sure there were no conflicts.

MOTION by D. Kelleher to approve the 2016 Human Services Committee regular meeting dates as presented. **SECONDED** by M. Pickett.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

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 allow for the appointment of new members to replace the 3 members that have recently resigned. It was agreed that R. Veleber would continue to run the meetings in the interim.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by B. Barlok to adjourned the January 14th Regular Meeting of the Human Services Committee at 7:45 p.m.; **SECONDED** by D. Kelleher.

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