

Darien Human Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 13, 2015

Attending: Olive Hauser, Debra Hertz, Holly Hawes, Rachael Martin, Melisse Reardon, Lisa Stout, Polly Lowman, Ali Ramsteck, and Beverly Kelsey.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2014 were approved.

Agenda Items Covered:

- **Review of Strategic Planning Process:** Debra and Olive reviewed the Strategic Plan Priority Issues and SWOT Analysis (see copy attached). Priority issues addressed in the staff meeting on January 15th include staff efficiency and structure, using volunteers more robustly, and strengthening of community relationships. The commission will continue discussion on strategic planning in the March 13 meeting.
- **Review of the Quarterly Report:** Holiday programs were successful in 2014 with an increase of 21% in clients receiving Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Clients receiving Christmas gifts and toys also increased by 27%. The Salvation Army Kettle Program did well although funds raised were slightly less than last year. Volunteers from the Men's Club were very effective in soliciting donations. The number of clients served remained stable although there was an increase in the services provided to those clients.
- **Client Issues:** We are seeing more cases of hoarding. This issue has attracted State attention with a mandate from Hartford to get local fire departments more involved.
- **Budget Status:** The draft budget presentation to the Board of Selectman went well with no changes from last year. The budget now goes to the Board of Finance and RTM for final approval, expected in April.
- **Commission on Aging:** No new report. The Senior Center is very busy with an increase in seniors accessing the new facility. Ina Adams or Ali Ramsteck is there one day a week, representing Human Services.
- **Old/New Business:** Olive reported that we continue to have a great relationship with the Community Fund and the HSPC, collaborating on a number of programs that may have potential impact on promoting Human Services and the Community Fund..

Respectively Submitted,
Beverly Kelsey
Beverly Kelsey, Secretary