

## Darien Human Services Commission

### Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2014

Attending: Debra Hertz, Nancy Herling, Holly Hawes, Rachel Martin, Lisa Stout,

Jennifer Geddes, Olive Hauser, Ali Ramsteck

Guest: Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman

- The November meeting minutes were accepted as read.
- The application process for EAP (Energy Assistance Program) is working out very well with ABCD. They are very professional and responsive. It is a huge difference from last year. Operation Fuel has opened their winter program and working with them is as pleasant as working with ABCD. They too are very professional and remarkably quick in certifying and responding.
- Our Christmas store is open but our donations have been slow in coming in and our volunteers for ringing the bell for the Salvation Army are also down. Commission members made some suggestions and offered their help.
- Julie Evans Starr, Executive Director, CT Legislative commission on Aging was the guest speaker at the At Home in Darien Annual Luncheon. She was a very good speaker and a real cheerleader for the state's programs. People felt they had learned some worthwhile information while others thought she painted a rosier picture of available services than met with reality.
- The Human Services Planning Council (HSP) this month met at the Mather Center and had a senior centered agenda. Speakers were Beth Paris, Peter Eder (At Home), and Inta Adams. All the speakers were very informative and well received.  
The Co- Chairs of CDSP (Council of Darien School Parents) announced that they had succeeded in getting some space, once a month, in the elementary school blasts for HSPC information and announcements. This is a HUGE accomplishment. HSPC will be discussing the format of these contributions.  
After the HSPC meeting Olive spoke with Maude Purcell about both Human Services and Person to Person's desire to find a financial training course that would work with our clients. Maude said she had some talented financial staff and clients who might be able to help. More to come on that at a later date.  
Carrie Bernier and Olive spoke about the Speakers Bureau they were hoping to collaborate on. Beth Paris voiced a desire to be included in on senior topics.
- A discussion ensued about a Strategic Planning process for Human Services. Debra gave an outline of how the process will work. The first meeting will be with staff on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Commission meetings, planning and discussions will continue after that. The resulting plan will lay a new foundation and updated focus for the department.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Olive J Hauser*

Director