

Human Services Commission Meeting

Minutes

July 8, 2016

Attending: Olive Hauser, Rachel Martin, Lisa Stout, Holly Hawes, Polly Lowman, Jennifer Geddes

Minutes: The minutes of June 17, 2016 were approved as presented.

Chairperson's Update: Regarding new commission members, Elisa Kristensen's appointment is moving along and Landon Resser will be joining us as well. No HSC meeting in August.

Speaker: Gayle Paquin, Director of Social Services at Person-to-Person (P2P) has been in the job four months, however, is very familiar with the organization. Gail had worked at both the DCF and PSE and appreciated the responsiveness and resources of P2P in helping clients. P2P's mission is one of self-sufficiency through different programs and types of support including food, clothing, emergency financial assistance, scholarship, camperships and holiday programs. They have 2 locations, Darien and Norwalk. P2P uses a large number of volunteers of all ages.

Program Updates: Back to School supplies are ordered and in, Joan is managing the supplies and will begin to schedule clients to come in, hoping to avoid last minute rush. Polly and Olive will check at Costco for backpacks for older children MS and HS. Program will open Aug 8th. Donations are still welcome.

Eviction activity is increasing, from a couple a year to nearly monthly. Many are resolved and we are not directly involved but some require us to store personal property for a short period of time. In nearly all cases the tenants have been in the arears with their rent for months and intervention is impossible. DHS in notified of evictions after a decision has been made by the court. They are notified by a State Marshall.

Hoarding clients are being followed up with. The private database is working - notes, visits and comments are only shared with necessary parties

The Program Assistant position has been posted. 17 1/2 hours a week from 1:00-4:30 M-F.

Following up on unclaimed decedents: Jed Lawrence at Lawrence Funeral Home has been very helpful and will offer support going forward. In addition, Olive is working with Jed and Spring Grove Cemetery to replace nine temporary markers with permanent ones as soon as possible.

Old/New Business: The replacement of the Senior Housing on the Post Road has been approved. Some suggestions from Olive have been included but not all.

No Human Services Commission meeting in August. Jayme Stevenson is scheduled for September.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Stout