

PLYMOUTH HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
(860) 585-4028

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

August 7, 2014

I. CALLED TO ORDER AND EXITS NOTED – 7:05 P.M. by Chairwoman, Heidi Caron

Attendance:

Chairwoman Heidi Caron, Vice Chair Sally Bain-Picard, Rev. Chris Drew, Secretary Karen Saccu, Helena Schwalm, Dickie Zalaski, Human Service Coordinator Abby Eagan, Alternate Fred Schwalm

Absent: Tracy DuPont, John Pajeski, Council Liaison

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lead by Heidi Caron

III. HUMAN SERVICE COORDINATOR – Abby Eagen

July was a very busy month with Farmer's Market vouchers and Back to School Program.

- a. Charity Tracker: Getting better and better! Jane is working hard inputting all of our back to school families, and we have cleaned up the categories so it is easier to be consistent. June and July are still incomplete, but the data starting for August should be more comprehensive. Operation Fuel has promised up laptops that they got through a grant but there has been a delay in obtaining those.
- b. Foot Clinic: July's Foot Clinic rescheduled to August 7, 2014 at Eli Terry. Foot clinic was not fully booked but filled up quickly with Eli Terry residents. Next Foot Clinic will be scheduled for the end of September.
- c. AARP Driving Course: Went very well. Got complimentary feedback on our hospitality from AARP.
- d. Energy Assistance: Gone through more than half of our 5000 Operation Fuel Allocation for the summer/fall assistance season. Funds available to assist one more client.
- e. Gosinski Park: Would like to have Jane doing outreach at Gosinski Park on days that we are both here. Many of the issues they have over there would be solved by hiring a resident services coordinator and in the meantime if the town could help it would benefit everyone, but we cannot do this unless we get a lap top and wifi.
- f. Grants: Did not receive Tai Chi grant not able to meet their criteria.
- g. TRIAD: Met today. Partner with the Cigna Health Insurance to sponsor a program regarding SCAMS during the holidays, Wednesday, November 19th. No charge.
- h. PECC: "Pinwheels for Prevention" will be sold until end of August. PECC is coordinating a small event to run concurrently with our backpack distribution at Plymouth Center School on Friday, August 15th. Wheeler Clinic will be presenting on Positive Parenting, which is a strategy to prevent child abuse. There will be strong incentive door prizes and the hope is to capture parents who might not usually attend this type of thing will stop by.

III. **HUMAN SERVICE COORDINATOR** – Abby Eagen – (continued)

- i. **CT Dept. Of Social Services**: Long phone waiting times continue, I attended the Regional SNAP (food stamps) advisory board meeting in July and learned about the serious problem of SNAP fraud. They are hoping more services will be available online soon.
- j. **Resource Guide**: Will be published with a limited number of paper copies available at the Terryville Fair. There are also magnets with a link to the more comprehensive online resource guide! If anyone has input please let me know!! The online guide will be constantly updated.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Small Wonders Back To School Program**: 120 kids from 55 families signed up, this is record numbers. The Ad Hoc Committee has been a big help with getting donations! Some new businesses like Grela Wells and Plymouth Oil participating. IGA has let us put a box out, they were the only store in town who agreed to this. Abby ordered 40 shoe cards using small wonders money (\$1080) and Salvation Army gave us 69 through the Thomaston Savings Grant. If we put a (generous) cap of 4 cards, per family, we will be able to help all the families. Donors will be dropping off backpacks on Wednesday, August 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Plymouth Center School Cafeteria. Backpacks will be distributed on Friday, August 15th.

V. **CHAIRWOMEN'S COMMENTS**

Wonderful job with the Small Wonders Back to School Program.

VI. **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

None

VII. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, September 7, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Senior Lounge

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rev. Chris Drew; seconded by Dickie Zalaski to adjourn meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Voted: To adjourn August 7, 2014 meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Saccu

Karen Saccu
Secretary
Human Services Commission
08/18/2014