

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, Connecticut 06786

Human Services Commission
Telephone: (860)585-4001
Fax: (860)585-4015

Human Services Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2017

I. Call Meeting to Order: Chairwoman Heidi Caron called the May 16, 2017, Human Services Commission Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Senior Lounge at Plymouth Town Hall.

Fire Exit Notifications:

Chairman Heidi Caron noted the fire exits.

II. Attendance: Chairwoman Heidi Caron, Commissioner Tracy Dupont, Commissioner Karen Saccu, Commissioner Helena Schwalm and Commissioner Fred Schwalm, Vice-Chairwoman Sally Bain-Picard and Commissioner Reverend Joel D. Kotila. Also in attendance were: Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Rose Bracero, Angela Morris, Barbara Parsons, Marlo Greponne and Juan Berrios from HRA.

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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TOWN CLERK

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairwoman Heidi Caron led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments: None

V. Minutes March 21, 2017 & April 26, 2017:

A motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Tracy Dupont to approve the March 21, 2017 minutes. This motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tracy Dupont, seconded by Commissioner Helena Schwalm to approve the April 26, 2017 minutes. This motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Human Services Report:

Rose Bracero, Angela Morris, Barbara Parsons, Marlo Greponne and Juan Berrios from HRA were in attendance.

Marlo stated they will be starting with eight (8) boxes of commodities. They can get more if needed.

Backpack applications will be going out to the schools on June 5th... July 7th applications are due. They will still accept the applications after the due date.

Backpacks will be distributed in August.

A discussion took place about the process of collecting donations and volunteers.

HRA will qualify the children.

Marlo went through the Plymouth Service Area Update. See Attached.

Juan talked about the tax program. They distribute out mailing cards with important information.

Foot clinic – June 30th – The physician bills the insurance company directly.

AARP Drive Smart – June 9th & October 6th

Does HRA attend any outside meetings?

Marlo stated they will review which town specific meetings that they will be attending.

Blood pressure clinic – Rose will look into it.

Marlo talked about refreshments being supplied at meetings. HRA would like funds in advanced or give them gift cards. Can the Commission purchase gift cards of amount per meeting?

A motion was made by Commissioner Karen Saccu, seconded by Commissioner Tracy Dupont to spend \$50 for the AARP meeting at the IGA. This motion was approved unanimously.

A discussion took place about the HRA contract. The HRA contract is up on June 30th. The Commission will lobby to have the Town sign them on again. Hopefully, for a three (3) year contract.

The Commission will look into having clients fill out an evaluation survey form.

VIII. Old Business:

a. Budget – Budget didn't get passed. Nothing was cut from Human Services.

b. Special Accounts – Chairwoman Caron sent an email to the Director of Finance. Still has not received a response. She would like to get a balance on the accounts

c. **501c3 Non-Profit Status** – Chairwoman Caron has not started this. Hopefully, over the summer it will get started.

d. **Dial-A-Ride** – Waiting to hear back about the new van and the extended services.

e. **Grants** – Thomaston Savings Bank due by end of June.

A motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Karen Saccu to apply for the Thomaston Savings Bank in the amount of \$1500 for backpacks.

f. **Outreach Visit** – The residents wanted to know when HRA will be out to do outreach. Rose stated Eli Terry is all set. Gosinski Park will be scheduled.

g. **Eli Terry Fund** – Nothing from Waterbury Hospital.

h. **Food Bag distribution follow-up** – Juan stated Melissa contacted Fred at the CT Food Bank. All set to start next week. It will be distributed on the 3rd Wednesday of the month 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Marlo stated that Plymouth is on the waiting list. She applied for 50 coupons.

i. **Small Wonders Holiday Program** – Chairwoman Caron is waiting to hear back from Eric McCoy. The Lions Club offered to help. Need to define duties for this group. The Churches will help with volunteers and supplies.

Sargent Cesar Berrios usually gets the school supplies.

Commissioner Dupont will reach out to Lori Borysewicz from FRC to see if she can help.

August 14th, 15th and 16th will be the distribution dates.

j. **Emergency Needs** – Food pantry has bags at Gosinski Park and in town hall. There will be some brought to Eli Terry.

IX. New Business:

a. **Terryville High School Scholarship** – Commissioner Tracy Dupont, Vice-Chairwoman Sally Bain-Picard and Commissioner Karen Saccu went over the eight (8) scholarships. They narrowed it down to two (2).

John Grimes – he was very sincere in his essay and answers, wrote about extenuating services both parents retired, involved in sports. 7 year college for physical therapy. 10th in his class of 112. GPA 100.22

Kelsey Turgeon - GAP 98.49 13th in her class. Going for nursing. Dedicated to the field. Working with elderly. Volunteers at Bristol Hospital. Class president. Works 22 per hours per week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Reverend Joel Kotila to approve two (2) \$250 scholarships to John Grimes and Kelsey Turgeon. This motion was approved unanimously.

b. Election of Officers –

A motion was made by Commissioner Karen Saccu, seconded by Commissioner Helena Schwalm to table the election of officers and to keep the current officers until their Annual Meeting in October. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Commission Vacancies – 1 commission position and 1 alternate is still opened.

d. Human Services Department Meetings Attended – HRA will handle this.

e. Torrington Health – Vice-Chairwoman Bain-Picard wanted to know what this was. Chairwoman Caron stated they are contracted. They handle new restaurants. Sanitarian – inspects restaurants, church kitchens and Gosinski park where food service.

061 and 062 – Councilwoman Murawski will find out what the difference is in the accounts. Cleaveland Trust and Small Wonders account balances.- old VNA account. Community Fund. Would like a breakdown quarterly report.

A discussion took place regarding donations letters that are sent out in Newington and Farmington. The Commission decided they will be reviewing this for the fall to send out letters.

f. Town Prescription Cards – Vice-Chairwoman Bain-Picard stated that Heather Burns went on the website. She was able to get prescription cards that would give a town discount. Commissioner Saccu will get the card and bring it to the next meeting.

g. Senior Packets for Residents – Vice-Chairwoman Bain-Picard would like to put together welcome packets which will include dial-a-ride, farmer market information and a gift card to a local market. This is for new residents coming into town. Advertise in the Plymouth Connection for new residents letting them know what is available at town hall. Will talk more about this next month.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairwoman Sally Bain-Picard, seconded by Commission Tracy Dupont to table the Senior Packets for Residents until next month. This motion was approved unanimously.

X. Chairwoman's Comments: Everything was discussed.

Chairwoman Caron reported she went to Charter Revision meeting a few weeks ago. There is no outcome at this point. They are in the process of removing non-mandatory commissions in the Charter.


XI. Council Liaison's Comments: None

XIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

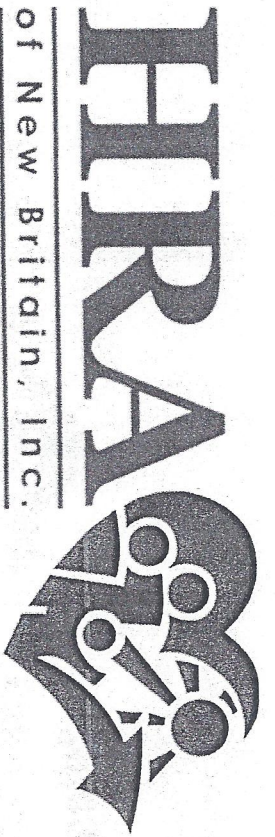
XVIII. Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Human Services Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Karen Saccu, seconded by Commissioner Helena Schwalm to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Schnaars
Recording Secretary



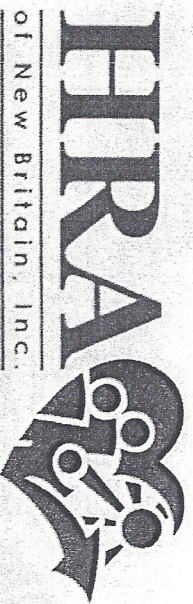
Plymouth Service Area Update
Presented to the Human Services Commission
by Marlo Greponne & Barbara Parsons
Tuesday, May 16, 2017



HRA's Commitment to Community Action



The mission of the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA) is to improve the quality of life by helping people achieve economic and social potential; responding to the causes and conditions of poverty; and building stronger individuals, families and communities in the greater New Britain area.



HRA Plymouth Community On-Site Services

- 39 customers from 26 households served

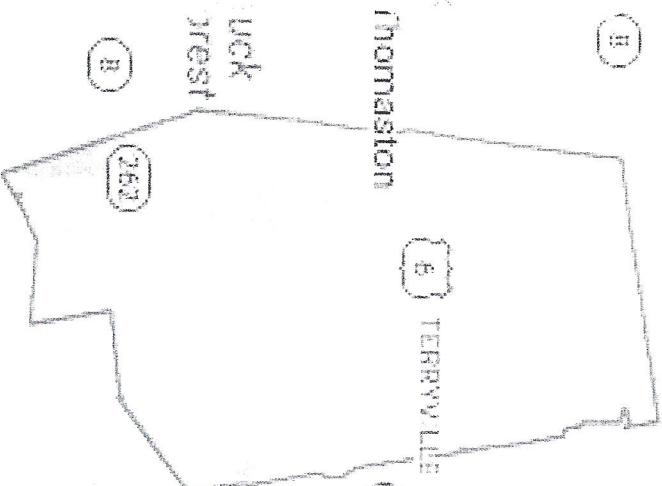
- 82% of customers have a High School Diploma or better

- 100% White

- 59% of customers were disabled, 1 veteran served and 100% had health insurance

- 18% 65 + over
- 59% 45 - 64
- 23% 25 - 44

- 55% single persons, 4 families with children served, with 6.9% of customers live at or below poverty



HRA Plymouth Community On-Site Services

Case Management

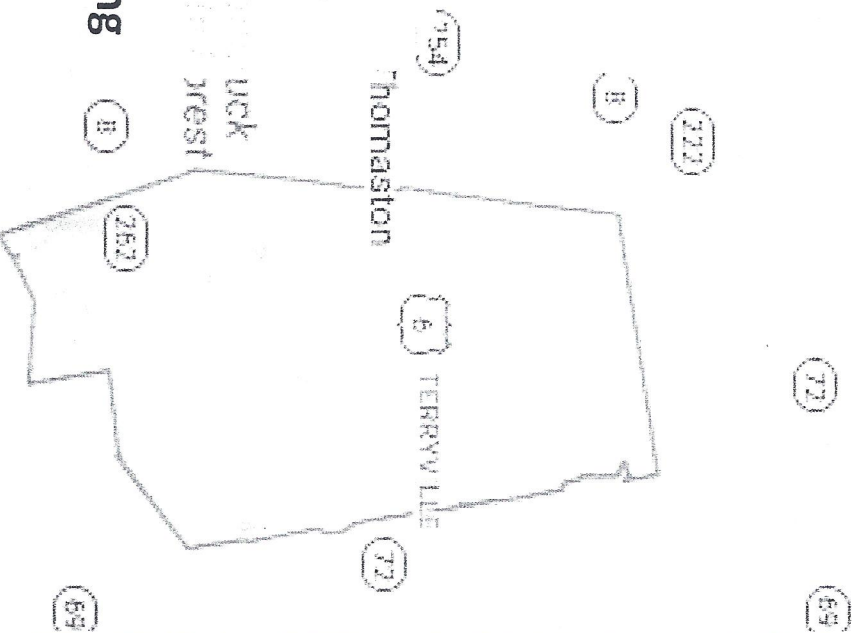
- 27 customers from 22 households established a service plan

Result Summary

- 11 customers achieved an outcome
- 18 customers still progressing

Outcome Summary

- Employment
- Energy Assistance
- Food
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Public Assistance



HRA Plymouth Community Energy Services Final Count 2017

Population
Applied for
Services

- 609 customers from 290 households applied for services

Population
Applications
Approved

- 512 customers from 244 households approved for services

Household
Age

- 24% 60 + over
- 44% 22 - 59
- 32% under 22



WATERLOO
DARVILLE

Watertown

Wolcott

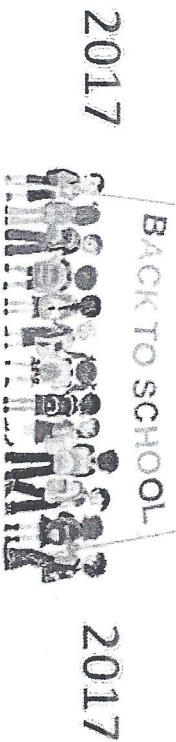
Southington

School Backpack Sign-up 2017

School Backpack Sign-up 2017

Proposed sign up June 5 – July 14, 2017

- Sign-up will be distributed via schools
- Completed forms will go to HRA Staff
- Children must be eligible for Free or Reduced school lunch to participate
- Human Services Commissioners to approve, collect and distribute items



Help is available to ensure all Plymouth School children start school off with the supplies needed!

Please return completed applications by July 14th to:

Plymouth Human Services 80 Main Street, Tarryville, CT 06786 (Town Hall)

My Child is _____ male _____ female
My Child is entering grade _____ at _____ school.
My Child's shirt size is _____ pant size is _____ (please specify jrs, etc.)
My Child likes (color, sport, etc.) _____
My Child Dislikes _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information
(will be kept confidential from donors)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Please share any other help your family needs _____

Supplies will be distributed during the week before school starts. If you have not heard from us by then, please give us a call at 860-585-4028 to find out where to pick up your child's items. We will do our best to meet everyone's needs but we cannot guarantee you will receive items requested.

It is VERY Important to sign up by the deadline of July 14, 2017.
Child must be a resident of Plymouth and eligible for free/reduced school lunch to qualify.
Proof of hardship may be requested.