

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
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Human Services Commission
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Human Services Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2017

I. Call Meeting to Order: Chairwoman Heidi Caron called the April 26, 2017, Human Services Commission Special Meeting to order at 7:00 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 Helena Schwalm, Commissioner Fred Schwalm and Vice-Chair Sally Bain-Picard. Also in attendance were: Councilman John Pajeski.

Excused Absent: Commissioner Karen Saccu, Reverend Joel D. Kotila. and Councilwoman Sue Murawski

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

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

IV. Public Comments: None

V. HRS-Human Resources Agency – presentation by: Marlo Greponne and Team:

Marlo Greponne, Director of Planning and Programs

Barbara Parsons, Director of Community Services

Rose Bracero, Community Caseworker

Angela Morris, Community Services Case Manager

Marlo distributed the presentation of the Plymouth Service Area Update. See attached.

Marlo discussed how BCO merged with HRA.

The mission of the Humans 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

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and conditions of poverty; and building stronger individuals, families and communities in the greater New Britain area.

She went thru the Plymouth Community Demographics..

12,085 residents (based on 2014)

1400 students enrolled.

\$14,000 for a family of four 6.9% of Plymouth are living below the poverty level

A discussion took place regarding bus transportation needs of the Community.

HRA will provide to the Commission a report stating the sum of the individuals that live in the house and the household that have applied.

Vice –Chairwoman Bain-Picard asked about the age... the age is the head of the household that is represented and wanted to clarify 45-64 years of age.

Marlo stated she can provide a better age breakdown.

Marlo went through the difference of achieved outcome.

If emergency food was given, that is an achieved outcome.

Progressing outcome is obtaining high school degree, employment or finding a place to live.

The outcomes that were achieved: employment, energy assistance, food, healthcare, housing (shelter for homeless or finding an apartment) and public assistance.

Marlo went through the Energy Services.

The goal is to service all Plymouth residents.

Rose stated that the elderly were not aware about the budget to get energy assistance. HRA is able to help with the other programs. The residents are able to get a match to their budget amount.

Medical protection - residents didn't know about it. Eversource is good with notifying to get a doctor notes.

HRA goes to sites to help with the application filing. They also assist with volunteer income tax assistance.

A discussion took place about the different programs that DSS has.

SSBG – leverage other resources. They are part of a network of providers. They can help with homelessness, food, receiving High School degree.

Marlo stated they would like to establish protocols to ensure communication is clear and consistent.

HRA serves: New Britain, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, Plainville and Plymouth.

HRA helps with the following:

Community Services Case Management, Early Childhood 0-5 including Head Start, Elder Home Care & Transportation, LIHEAP Energy Assistance, Ryan White Parts A & B (HIV/AIDS), Youth and Adult Employment & Training and Financial Capability VITA & IDA.

Commissioner Helena Schwalm stated that there is no senior center. However, the Seniors meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 1:30 PM. She would like the staff to come and introduce themselves at the next meeting.

June 2 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM - hot dogs, raffles, tag sale and a bake sale.

Marlo explained the transition with HRA coming to Plymouth. She stated they arrived in March. Marlo stated it went smooth and the customers have been receptive of the staff. She said the Director of Finance, Mayor, IT Dept and Trish Hale are all fabulous and very helpful.

Rose stated the residents have been fine. They do an intake sheet for the clients.

Chairwoman Caron asked if the office is manageable for one (1) person. Rose stated that two (2) people are needed there.

HRA would like a full-time and a part-time person dedicated to Plymouth.

VI. Chairwoman's Comments:

Contract is up June 30th with HRA. The Mayor and the Town Council have to decide.

Chairwoman Caron stated she has heard very good things.

Chairwoman Caron and Vinnie Klimas, Chairman of the Plymouth Housing Authority wrote a grant for Dial-A-Ride to get a new van and she also wrote one for \$25,000 to get weekend services.

Chairwoman Caron stated that she would like HRA to do outreach for Eli Terry and Gosinski Park. Karen at Gosinski Park can advertise it.

Foot clinic – scheduled for this Fri.

Blood pressure clinic – call Bristol Hospital homecare.

HRA would like a calendar of scheduled events.

Food programs... Rose stated she has the food share and farmer's market application; along with the coupon books for the farmer's market.

The commodities program... will start again.

Chairwoman Caron stated the Human Services Commission meets every 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. She would someone from HRA to attend the meetings.

Chairwoman Caron will send the Commission emails to HRA

Marlo will put together a one (1) page report with data for the meetings.

Chairwoman Caron explained the Cleveland Trust Fund which can be utilized for the residents in need and approved by the Human Services Commission.

Operation Fuel – funded by the Salvation Army and Thomaston Savings Bank.

Small Wonders account – donated money and items for the kids in the Town.. back pack and small wonders. Chairwoman Caron stated that Sgt. Cesar Beiros helps with that program.

VNA fund – The town residents were happy with the nurses that they provided and put money in an account to help pay for hospice, medical expenses or a scholarship.

Waterbury Hospital/Eli Terry Trust Fund – The fund was set up for medical expenses for Plymouth, Terryville and Thomaston residents. Applications are available at Waterbury Hospital.

Back pack program – Chairwoman Caron would like flyers distributed to the schools. HRA will start qualifying the applicants. Applications should be back by July 1st. Backpacks will be distributed in August. Sgt. Cesar Beiros helps with the donations.

The Commission gave toiletries for the seniors at Christmas, along with an IGA \$15 gift card.

Marlo stated she would like in between meetings, for Commission to discuss concepts for services that are needed; that are not-existing or non-available. She would like to develop new models and build other services.

VII. Council Liaison's Comments:

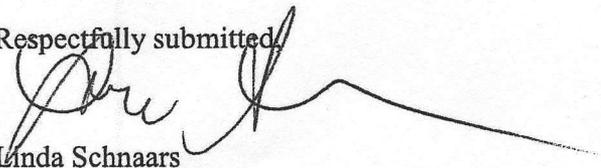
Councilman Pajeski stated he likes what he is hearing.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 16th @ 7:00 PM

Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Human Services Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Fred Schwalm to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Schnaars
Recording Secretary