

Human Services Report August 2014

Foot Clinics- had one in July, we had to unexpectedly move due to a visit from Governor Malloy! Next one Aug 7th at Eli Terry.

AARP Driving Course- went very well, got complimentary feed back on our hospitality from AARP.

Energy Assistance- We have already gone through half of our 5000 Operation Fuel Allocation for the summer/fall assistance season.

Gosinski Park- Would like to have Jane doing out reach 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. A

Grants- Did not receive Tai Chi grant. They stated they needed evidence that Tai Chi is beneficial; however we could not apply for evidenced based funding since we do not have the capacity or resources to have someone specially trained. This would be cost prohibitive (thousands of dollars plus air fair, lodging and time away from the office) and there is only one other person in CT that we could find who does evidenced based tai chi. It is frustrating because the trend is that most of the money goes to evidenced based programs which unfairly leaves out us small communities.

Triad- meeting on Aug 7

PECC- “Pinwheels for prevention” to bring awareness to child abuse. Wheeler clinic will be providing a class for local agencies that work with families regarding child abuse. PECC is coordinating a small event to run concurrently with our backpack distribution at Plymouth Center School. 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.

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.

Technology- “Charity Tracker” is 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.

Small Wonders- 114 kids from 53 families signed up by July 31-this is record numbers, 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. I 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 signed up so far.

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.