

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, Connecticut 06786

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

Human Services Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin called the April 18, 2023, Human Services Commission Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin and Commissioner Larry Chiucarello. Also in attendance via ZOOM: Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu and Commissioner Lee Ulinskas. Meg McCreedy from HRA in person.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Invocation:**
Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu gave the invocation.

5. **Public Input:** None

6. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
A motion was made by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu to accept the meeting minutes of March 21, 2023. This motion was approved unanimously.

7. **Communications/Correspondence (If Needed):** None

8. **Human Services Report:** *See attached report*
Meg McCreedy stated that a gentlemen came to see her. He was involved in car accident that was not his fault. The person who hit him does not have insurance. She has a copy of the police report. He is looking for funds to have his car repaired. The amount is \$3,000.00.

Meg is asking if the Commission can approve funds to help this gentleman out.

The Commission would like to see the insurance policy to see what is covered prior to making a decision.

9. **Old Business**
a. **Bylaws review**

Will be discussed next month.

10. **New Business:**

Commissioner Lee Ulinskas will get in touch with Pat Borda to pick up the scholarship applications.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2023 APR 24 AM 9:44
TOWN CLERK

Commissioner Larry Chiucarello gave an ARPA update. He distributed the revised proposal. The first proposal was for \$68,000.00, he was able to reduce the project costs to \$39,900.00.

Commissioner Larry Chiucarello will continue to attend the ARPA meetings.

Meg McCreedy reported that she has an intern. Her name is Chyna Blayr. She is paid through the HRA Youth Services. She works a minimum of 25 hours.

Meg McCreedy reported that the VITA Tax program is done and they surpassed the previous years. She will have the final numbers next month.

Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin received the financial reports. She will forward them to the Commission.

A discussion took place regarding the Cleveland Fund and the TSB Funds.

Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu would like the financial statement emailed to her prior to the meetings.

Commissioner Larry Chiucarello would like to know which expenses are taken from the HS account and TSB account going forward at the meetings.

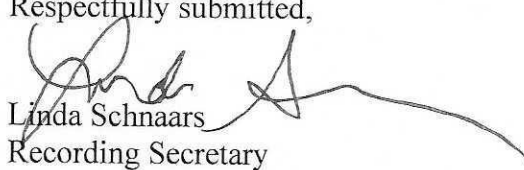
11. **Chairman's Comments:** None

12. **Council Liaison's Comments:** None

13. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business of the Human Services Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Schnaars
Recording Secretary



**Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.
Community Services Department
Plymouth Human Services Monthly Report**

March 2023

Submitted by: Meg McCreedy, Helen Supsinskas and Juan Berrios

Reporting Period: March 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	445
Walk-ins	102
Appointments	129
Energy Assistance	112
Housing Inquiries	13
Medicare/Medicaid/Husky/Access Health	16
SNAP Applications/Renewals/Food Bank Referrals	15
Private/Rotary Fuel Bank	3
Senior Services - Home Care, Renters Rebate, Elder/Disabled Tax Reduction, CHORE Services, Mobility	86
VITA	61
Information Services – Legal, Mental Health Counseling, Homelessness, Financial Services, Employment/Training, Veterans Services, Volunteering, CTWater/Sewer Program, Transportation	114

VITA Tax Return Service:

Plymouth office received 61 calls for tax preparation information, appointment scheduling and referrals to other tax prep locations including virtual tax prep. Plymouth Town Hall, has already surpassed 2021 final totals. Congratulations are relayed to the volunteers and staff at Plymouth Town Hall who have officially surpassed their 2022 numbers as they go into the last two tax preparation dates in April. Marketing through local media partners will continue in order to get the word out about VITA.

Donations Shared With Community:

6 toiletry bags were given out this month. The toiletry bags consist of personal care products. 3 pantry food boxes were shared. Aldi gift cards have been helpful for those experiencing the adjustment in Food Stamps as has the Plymouth Food Pantry in taking on new referrals. Main Street Foundation made a surprise donation of Adams Grocery Gift cards to the Human Services Director after attending an in person area Community Human Services Groups meeting at their location.

Private Funds and Rotary Fuel Bank:

There was only 1 request for Rotary Fuel Funds and 2 requests for Private Funds based on the criteria of grant funds received from Thomaston Savings Bank Grant. The Human Services Director attended the March 23, 2023 Board of Finance Meeting in order to meet and introduce herself to designated persons of this board.



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Energy Assistance:

There have been 112 inquiries this month, regarding the Energy Assistance Program. In-Person/Representative Appointments are available at the Human Services Department in Plymouth Town Hall or at HRA's Bristol Office on 55 South Street. Last date for deliverable fuels was 3/31/2023.

After a month-long program pause, Operation Fuel's **Winter/Spring** season will reopen on **Monday, April 3rd at 8:00 am**. Due to the significant increase in requests for energy assistance this season, there was a tough decision to make, regarding the program implementation going forward. There have been busy seasons before, but never like this. Energy rates have now become a problem for those who traditionally do not need to apply for assistance.

- 1) Beginning on **Monday, April 3rd**, the maximum grant amount will return to \$500 for **ALL** applicants (utility & deliverable fuel customers).
- 2) Applicants are eligible for assistance **ONCE** a calendar year. For example, if a client received a grant on December 19, 2022, they are not eligible again for an Operation Fuel grant until December 19, 2023.
- 3) Operation Fuel staff will take calls Monday and Tuesday 8:00 am and 12:00 pm.

Plymouth Police Department:

The officers performed 4 wellness visits to seniors in the community at the request of the Human Services Office. Follow-up with Elder Protective Services from the prior month, has Case Managers working with 16 residents to improve living conditions for health and safety as well as provide assistance with in Home Care.

Veterans Services:

There were 9 referrals to Veterans Strong Community Center in Bristol for veterans that required physical health and wellness services, transportation and mental health needs. There is interest from the community in having a Veterans Coffee House, for those Veterans who want to gather at a place where alcohol is not served and a location that is within an easy commute or walk. Conversations will continue with VSCC representatives and veterans interested.

Renters Rebate:

The application period for renters begins on April 1st and ends on October 1st. All applications will be submitted electronically to the OPM Portal for processing and tracking.