

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, Connecticut 06786

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

Human Services Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin called the August 15, 2023, Human Services Commission Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. **Attendance:** Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin, Commissioner Mark Malley, Commissioner Larry Chiucarello and Commissioner Lee Ulinskas (via ZOOM). Also in attendance: Meg McCreedy from HRA.

Excused: Vice-Chairwoman Karen Saccu

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

4. **Invocation:**
Commissioner Larry Chiucarello gave the invocation.

5. **Public Input:** None

6. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
A motion was made by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello, seconded by Commissioner Lee Ulinskas to accept the meeting minutes of July 18, 2023. This motion was approved unanimously.

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

8. **Human Services Report:** *See attached report*

9. **Old Business**

a. **Bylaws final review**

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Malley, seconded by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello to forward the Bylaws to the Mayor's office and ask him to put it on the agenda for the town council's approval. This motion as approved unanimously.

b. **Scholarship funds**

Commissioner Mark Malley talked to the Mayor and reported that he is in favor of having the scholarship fund be held at the Main Street Community Foundation. Commissioner Mark Malley talked to Susan Sadecki, President of the Main Street Community Foundation and they are willing to accept the funds even though the balance is under \$25,000. Main Street Community Foundation will provide the town with a letter stating they will accept the funds with the understanding that the Commission will try to get the balance to \$25,000. The Mayor is okay with fundraising for the scholarship.

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Commissioner Larry Chiucarello stated that he saw on Facebook there was a Dance-A-Thon to raise funds for the Human Services Commission. The Baptist Church put this on. Chairman Beaudoin will look into this.

A discussion took place about ideas to raise funds for the scholarship.

The name of scholarship will be:

The Plymouth Human Services Scholarship Fund for healthcare students originated by the Plymouth Visting Nurses Association.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello, seconded by Commissioner Lee Ulinskas to authorize Commissioner Mark Malley to get the letter from Main Street Community Foundation to present to the Mayor stating that they will allow us to deposit our scholarship money into their funds. This motion was approved unanimously.

10. New Business:

a. Seniors Holiday Season

Chairman Beaudoin stated that the Commission in prior years had given seniors gift bags to the residents at Gosinki Park and Eli Terry. They would get a grant from Thomaston Savings Bank in the amount of \$1,200.00-1,500.00 to purchase gift cards and toiletry items. .

A discussion took place if the commission wants to start the gift bags for the seniors. The commission decided a gift card would be best.

Commissioner Mark Malley will ask Thomaston Savings Bank if they still have Gift cards.

The Commission will ask the schools to make Holiday cards.


11. Chairman's Comments: Chairman Beaudoin stated that the Commission will no longer have ZOOM meetings unless there is another epidemic.

12. Council Liaison's Comments: None

13. Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Human Services Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Mark Malley, seconded by Commissioner Larry Chiucarello to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Schnaars
Recording Secretary



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

July 2023

Submitted by: Meg McCreedy, Helen Supsinskas and Juan Berrios

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

Services	Total Count
Phone Calls	223
Walk-ins	87
Appointments	58
Energy Assistance/CTWater/Sewer Program	25
Housing Inquiries	36
Medicare/Medicaid/Husky/Access Health	11
SNAP Applications/Renewals/Food Bank Referrals	19
Private/Rotary Fuel Bank	5
Senior Services - Home Care, Renters Rebate, Elder/Disabled Tax Reduction, EPS, CHORE Services, Mobility	72
Information Services – Legal, Mental Health Counseling, Homelessness, Financial Services, Employment/Training, Veterans Services, Volunteering, Transportation	83

Donations Shared With Community:

8 toiletry bags were given out this month. The toiletry bags consist of personal care products. Plymouth Food Pantry has taken referrals and referred new clients to the Human Services Office for other assistance. 5 gift cards were given out to clients in need.

Private Funds

2 requests for funds were received from Main Street Foundation. Grant was submitted to Thomaston Savings Bank (TSB) for Private Funds based the needs seen in this office. This grant is in the process of being reviewed by TSB,

Rotary Fuel Bank:

Human Services was advised by Gretchen DeCegno, Terryville Library Director and Secretary of Rotary Club with application for a Rotary District Grant that the grant was approved and they will be doing fund raisers to increase the amount received by this office.

Renters Rebate:

There have been 12 applications submitted electronically this month through the OPM Portal for processing.

Salvation Army:

“Back to School” shoe gift cards for Walmart were tracked and distributed to The “Small Wonders Back to School Program” for inclusion in distribution. This office will be providing the documentation requested by the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provided funds and the delivery of a new refrigerator plus removal of the old refrigerator to a Terryville Senior Citizen.



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Energy Assistance:

There have been 25 inquiries this month, regarding the Energy Assistance Program. Applicants may begin to submit documents for next Energy Season starting September 1st, 2023.

Veterans Services:

There were 4 referrals to Veterans Strong Community Center in Bristol for veterans that required physical health and wellness services, transportation and mental health needs. Each of these clients received gift cards. One Veteran – currently homeless was assisted with section 8 housing application.

Community Outreach/Education Services:

Some members of the Opioid Outreach and Education Team attended a "Leave Behind Kit" packaging session held at the PVCA Building. Plymouth Mayor Joe Kilduff, Courtney Pollock – Training Captain, Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps Members, Toni Sterling-Community Outreach and Recovery Navigator Greenwoods Counseling, James Dubowsky-Chief Ambulance Services, Four Representatives from the Plymouth PD, Susan Graham-Crisis Team Presenter and Meg McCreedy CSC put together 100 "Leave Behind Kits" for distribution to individuals or a family member when PVCA attends a call regarding an Overdose in the community.

Farmers Market Cards:

Instead of checks, 50 participants will now be using an app for a card with \$24 for seniors and disabled participants to purchase eligible products from farmers. Farmers will be conducting sales via the SOLI app that processes payments. Connecticut has nearly 100 farmers' markets and can be found in virtually any town, seven days a week. The popularity of the markets mirrors the benefits of fresh, local products, friendly farmers that are the face behind the food you're buying, and a community gathering place for everyone to enjoy. Eligible participants are seniors over the age of 60 and disabled individuals that meet income and housing guidelines. Each season participants are issued benefits from senior distribution sites to redeem at authorized Connecticut-grown farmers markets across the state to purchase fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables, eggs, and honey. The program runs from July 1 to November 30 annually.

Small Wonders Program:

This program received 33 family applications/69 children, for Back to School Assistance. Plymouth Police Department will be doing an in-person drive at the Southington Target on August 12th. A Wish List posting is on their Facebook page so that persons wanting to donate are a click away from doing so. Distribution to recipients is planned for August 18.