

APPROVED

Human Services Advisory Committee Minutes of December 19, 2012 Meeting

Present: Ethel Mantzaris (YSB), chair; Sara Anderson (Advocates for Children); Ron Baker (Member At Large); Dexter Eddy (Housing Authority); Fred Goetz (Advisory Comm. on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities); Lorraine Kenowski (Member At Large); Bev Korba (Senior Center); Victoria Nimirowski (WAIM); Joan Terry (Comm. on Aging); Kevin Grunwald (Staff)

The minutes of the November 28, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.

Highlights – Kevin reported the following activity for the department.

- The department acts as the intermediary at holiday time connecting families in need to those willing to help. Over 70 families are on the Christmas list, more than last year. Kathy Ann has been very busy sorting the gifts to be distributed.
- The Holiday Fund, in its 43rd year, collected over \$11,000, enabling the department to send checks to 54 families. The Liberty Bank was very helpful in this project.
- Kevin is beginning work on next year's department budget with the understanding that funds will be scarce.
- Youth Services staff helped out at our schools following the crisis in Newtown. They are compiling information on how to talk to children regarding tragedies. The YSB sponsors a group for those who experience losses in their lives. Twenty-one people attended a recent meeting.

- The Senior Center is sponsoring a number of special programs during the holidays including special events on Christmas and New Year's Eves.
- The playground is pleased to know that UConn is willing to make land available for the project. They are currently concentrating on raising the \$300,000 needed to proceed with construction.
- A temporary senior services worker, Beth Hudson Hankins, has been hired. She is an LSW and has experience working with seniors.

Recommendations Regarding This Committee – When this Committee was formed almost two years ago, we were asked to review its effectiveness after meeting for two years. The Roles and Responsibilities outlined for this Committee were reviewed. Members expressed their feelings about how the Committee has functioned and whether we understand our mission. The consensus was that we should all give this matter further consideration and we will continue the discussion at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry

Next Meeting
January 16, 2013