

**Human Services Advisory Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting**

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris (Advisory Board, Chair)
Victoria Nimirowski via Zoom
Shamim Patwa (Mansfield Advocates for Children Rep.)
Julia DeLapp (Member at Large) via Zoom

Staff:

Jessica St. Louis (Director of Human Services)
Catherine Pomerleau (Administrative Services Specialist)
Jessica Tracy (Senior Center Supervisor)

Absent:

Will Bigl (Commission on Aging)
Sophia Obertello (Mansfield Housing Authority)

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Ethel Mantzaris.
- II. Shamim Patwa motioned to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2025 meeting. Julia DeLapp seconded the motion and it was approved by all members present.
- III. Old Business
 - a. All Agency Grants approved for FY26 have been paid. Once the town budget has been approved, Jessica St. Louis will inform the committee the amount that has been approved for Agency Grant Funding.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Jessica St. Louis reported to the committee there is settlement funding allocated to the Town to address the Opioid epidemic. Currently Human Services and Eastern Highlands Health District are looking to partner in using a small portion of the funds for direct outreach to those in the community. There was a request to get these funds to the individuals and families that are directly impacted, and should be supported through these settlement funds, with the goal of focusing on Treatment. Discussed the request, the approved uses of the funds, and will explore the possibility of a similar grant process to area treatment providers. This will continue to be discussed in follow up meetings.

- b. The committee discussed the RFP priorities for the Agency Grant Funding FY27. Preference will be given to those listed at #1 and #2.
 - 1. Food Security
 - 2. Financial/Housing Security
 - 3. Mental Health Access
- c. Anticipate that applications for Agency grants will go out in June and will be due at the end of July. To include language in the application that states, “Any application not turned in by the due date or incomplete may not be reviewed” or something similar. At the meeting on April 29, 2026, the committee will finalize the grant application. By the May 27, 2026 meeting, the budget should be set and then a list of organizations can be created for sending the applications to. At the August 26, 2026 meeting, the committee will review the applications received.

V. There was no public comment.

Victoria Nimirowski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 p.m. Shamim Patwa seconded the motion and it was approved by all members present.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026.