



Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015

Present: Roseann DeSimone, Christine Tenore, Michael O'Connell, Cathy Pierce, Phil Lauria, Deborah Low, Virginia Smith, Judy Zucker

Also Present: Sarah Muccio

Absent: Betty-Jo Corridon, Pam Kelley

Chairman Judy Zucker called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The previously circulated minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting, requiring no corrections, were unanimously approved.

Judy Zucker officially welcome Deborah Low to the Commission, following her approval by the Board of Selectman.

Cathy Pierce introduced Sarah Muccio, LCSW to the Commissioners. Sarah was hired by the Social Services department in September as a part-time social worker.

In lieu of an extensive Directors Report, Cathy asked Sarah to provide the Commissioners with an in-depth discussion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE).

CHCPE Discussion:

Sarah began the discussion by providing a distinction between SWCAA, the Southwest Connecticut Agency on Aging (www.swcaa.org), and CHCPE, the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (www.ct.gov/dss/chcpe). SWCAA serves elderly residents in the fourteen town region of southwestern Connecticut, supporting services in nutrition, in-home care, legal, health, adult day care/respite, transportation, senior centers, and outreach/social support as one of 5 regional Agencies on Aging in CT (www.aoa.gov/AOA_programs/OAA). CHCPE is a Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) program, which supports the needs of elderly CT residents to continue living in their home in lieu of entering a full-time nursing facility.

The Commissioners and Sarah proceeded to a lengthy exchange regarding the cost of the services provided by CHCPE, borne by residents and municipalities, combined with a review of the criteria used to determine financial eligibility for the program's services. The spectrum of needs is described in-depth and assessed on a case-by-case basis. Case managers at SWCAA conduct initial assessments of potential clients and DSS determines the final eligibility. The Home Care Program for Elders is funded with State and Federal monies. Participation in the program is voluntary and assessments are free of charge to CT residents. Sarah outlined the general services CHCPE offers, which are budgeted on a case-by-case basis and managed at the discretion of a dedicated case manager, including: PCA – personal care services, which provide unscheduled intermittent hands-on care; and, Contracted Providers, who provide more structured services on a regular, consistent basis.

Sarah estimated approximately 2,400 residents of Fairfield County are currently provided with CHCPE services, with Wilton having 10-15 clients.

Directors Report



Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2015

Cathy briefly outlined the interview process for the replacement administrative assistant position, with 50 applications received, 5 of which she is actively interviewing. No internal Wilton candidates applied for the role.

Cathy also thanked the Commissioners and residents of Wilton for funding the part-time social worker position. In a relatively short period of time, Cathy has been able to focus more broadly on the social service needs of the community by off-loading some of her direct client work.

Liaison Reports:

- Mental Health Needs Assessment Committee

Pam and Deborah, co-chairs, provided a brief update on the committee's activities during the month, including: circulating the previously completed study report; reviewing the findings; exchanging anecdotal ideas about mental health issues; developing an action plan to gather data; and defining roles for different organizations in the community and the types of services provided and required.

- Wilton Commons

Phil outlined the recent reorganization of the property's definition within the State of CT requirements as a condominium complex which should allow for ground breaking to begin before January 1. Phil also mentioned Mutual Housing hired a new housing director for Wilton Commons.

New business:

Roseann DeSimone informed the Commissioners she is officially stepping down from the Commission effective December 1, 2015. Phil Lauria asked if Roseann would be willing to serve in an advisory, non-voting capacity in the future.

Judy Zucker informed the Commissioners that preliminary budget figures will be available for review and discussion at the November 2015 meeting.

Upon motion to adjourn made by Christine Tenore, seconded by Phil Lauria, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary