

Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014

Present: Virginia Smith, Christine Tenore, Peg Koellmer, Michael O'Connell, Judy Zucker, Betty Jo Corridon, Pam Kelley, Cathy Pierce

Absent: Roseann DeSimone

Co-chairman Christine Tenore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting were not available for approval – they will be reviewed and approved at the January 2015 meeting.

Christine Tenore introduced Pam Kelley and welcomed her to the Commission. She requested all Commission members notify her in advance if they are unable to attend a meeting and strive to attend all meetings.

Directors Report:

Cathy Pierce discussed her 2015-2016 budget request. She highlighted her request to add a part-time social worker (3 days per week, 16 hours). This request will allow for a more realistic social worker/client ratio and better fulfillment of management responsibilities, which are often difficult to prioritize properly due to client demands. A lengthy, wide-ranging discussion with Commission members ensued, with particular emphasis on budget changes in Dues & Memberships, Transportation and increased staffing requests, including 3 more hours a week for Lauren Hughes, MSW. Cathy asked Commission Members to support her when she presents the budget to the Board of Selectman, January 15, 2015 @ 7:30pm.

Cathy outlined the Holiday Gift program for 2014, with 98 children receiving holiday gifts.

The Kids in Crisis and Teen Talk program presented in November was discussed. It was decided by School staff and this department to postpone any request for additional mental health staff for the high school until next year, allowing everyone the opportunity to gather more information about the variety of options possible to address the need.

Liaison Reports:

Virginia Smith discussed the positive feedback from the Youth Council regarding the Chris Herron presentation. Discussions are under way to explore bringing him back in 2017. She also mentioned the Project Purple group initiated at Wilton High School as a direct outgrowth of his presentation.

New business:

The Commission Charter update presentation to the Board of Selectman was postponed until January 20, 2015.

Betty Jo Corridon agreed to serve as the Commission Liaison to Stay at Home Wilton. The appointment of a Liaison to Wilton Commons remains on-hold.

Upon motion by Virginia Smith, seconded by Peg Koellmer, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was unanimously approved.

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Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary