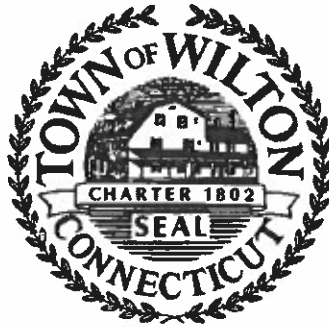


Office of Social Services
Telephone (203) 834-6238
Fax (203) 563-0172



TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2017 DEC 18 A 10:32
BY: LK

**Wilton Social Services Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Senior Center Lounge at Comstock Community Center**

Present: Genevieve Eason, Sarah Heath, Danielle Mancuso, Ann Mitrione, Paul Nisco, Michael O'Connell, Christine Tenore, Judy Zucker

Guests: Lauren Hughes, Wilton Social Services, and Anne Richards, Stay at Home Wilton

1. Welcome

Genevieve welcomed commissioners to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Guest Speaker: Lauren Hughes, LCSW, Coordinator of Senior Services and Family Programs

Lauren described the nature of her role at Wilton Social Services and elaborated on the services and programs that she leads for the department in three broad areas: Senior Services, the Wilton Food Pantry, and Wilton Family programs. Specific topics in her presentation included: assisting clients in accessing housing, medical insurance and care; helping seniors enroll in Medicare; stocking and administering the food pantry; and securing donations for and administering holiday meal and gift programs.

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on November 9, 2017

Having no additions or changes, the minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Director's Report

Sarah reviewed the report that was previously submitted to Commissioners and answered questions. She also reported that the department's proposed budget is due on January 5. They have been asked to limit any increase to 1.5%.

5. Calendar of meetings in 2018

Genevieve proposed the following calendar:

January 11
February 8
March 8
April 19
May 10
June 14
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

All meetings will be held at 6:00 pm in the Senior Center Lounge at Comstock Community Center. Meetings are generally held the 2nd Thursday of the month, except where indicated.

There were no objections to this proposal.

6. Report on meeting with Lynne Vanderslice and town leaders about fostering community relationships

Prior to the recent anti-Semitic incident at Middlebrook, Lynne Vanderslice asked town leaders, including representatives of different town departments and members of the clergy, to meet with her to discuss ways to foster positive community spirit. Neither Sarah Heath nor Colleen Fawcett were able to attend, so Lynne asked Genevieve and Vanessa Elias, president of Wilton Youth Council, to attend. Margaret Creeth also attended. The meeting was held on November 13. It was a productive discussion. Goals of encouraging tolerance and empathy were suggested. Several strategies for building positive relationships in the community and encouraging people to engage with their neighbors in-person were suggested.

7. Letter of support for Wilton Youth Council grant application

Wilton Youth Council has an opportunity to receive \$5,000 in grant funds to support substance abuse prevention efforts through the Connecticut State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Community Mini Grant Application Form. The grant requires Lynne Vanderslice's signature, which was approved last week. Five letters of support are also needed for this grant, and the Commission was asked to provide one of the letters.

Judy made a motion to send a letter of support for Wilton Youth Council's mini-grant application. Christine seconded. All were in favor.

7. Adjourn, 7:25 pm

Next meeting – January 11, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell
Secretary

Office of Social Services
Telephone (203) 834-6238
Fax (203) 563-0172



TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

December 15, 2017

Giovanna Pisani
Director, Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition
Human Services Council
1 Park Street
Norwalk, CT 06851

Dear Ms. Pisani,

I am writing on behalf of Wilton's Commission on Social Services to support Wilton's Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant application being submitted by Wilton Youth Council.

Wilton Youth Council (WYC) is Wilton's Local Prevention Council. WYC is well known and respected in our community for its valuable work on mental health promotion and substance use prevention. WYC has strong collaborative relationships with Wilton Youth Services and the Wilton Public Schools, in addition to other organizations such as the Wilton Library. As such, WYC is well equipped to address the targeted objectives that the State of Connecticut would like to achieve in our town.

Wilton Youth Council has a history of working to prevent substance abuse in general, and abuse of prescription opioid medications and heroin in particular. Recent programs have included a panel discussion and resource fair on opioid abuse and addiction, a panel discussion for parents on how to talk about substances at home, and Narcan training. The additional programs that will be delivered with the funding from this grant will fit seamlessly into WYC's current initiatives.

The Commission is grateful to Wilton Youth Council for its effective leadership in substance use prevention in our community.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Porter Eason
Chairman
Commission on Social Services