

Office of Social Services
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**Wilton Social Services Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Senior Center Lounge at Comstock Community Center**

Present: Michael O'Connell, Sarah Heath, Genevieve Eason, Pam Kelley, Danielle Mancuso

Joining by telephone: Paul Nisco

Guest: Lauren Hughes, LCSW

1. Welcome

Mike welcomed everyone.

2. Acceptance of the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes

The minutes were accepted as distributed.

3. Special Guest – Lauren Hughes, Senior Services Coordinator, Wilton Social Services

a. Lauren shared an overview of her work with the commissioners. The department has been reaching out effectively to clients in the community, and residents are becoming more informed about the services available and reach back with generous support.

b. In the area of senior services, the department helps increasing numbers of residents with Medicare enrollment and accessing Social Security benefits. Anyone in town can ask for help. Everyone should come in yearly to review their Medicare prescription plans, as these change frequently.

c. Family programs are thriving. The department can help clients access summer camp for their children. Last year they accessed 56 weeks of camp for 18 children from 10 families. Groups like J-Moms, local faith communities, Salvation Army and Ambler Farm provide support for holidays and back-to-school, including meals, food baskets, school supplies, Christmas trees, coats, gift certificates and home repairs.

d. The Food Pantry serves over 100 households per month. Around 175 households are approved to use it. Wilton Rocks for Food provides generous funding which allows Lauren to shop PeaPod to fill the pantry. The Kiwanis Club runs four weekend-long food drives, collecting about \$8,000 in donated food and \$1,500-\$2,000 in gift cards. Cider Mill, Boy and Girl Scouts, the Wilton Woman's Club, Panera Bread, local children and other volunteers

provide support through activities such as food drives, fundraisers, food rescue, and shopping the regional food pantry.

4. Director's report

Sarah reviewed the January 2020 report that was previously submitted to Commissioners.

5. Budget Planning Re-Cap

The budget that Sarah proposed to the Board of Selectmen is available online. Included in the report is a request for a few additional hours for the part time Youth Services counselor, in response to the increased demand for clinical services.

Adjourn, 7:05 PM

Next meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Eason
Secretary