

Falmouth Human Services Committee

Remote Meeting Notes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Call to Order at 4:30pm; Confirming Member Access; Introduction to Remote Meeting; Meeting Ground Rules

- **Members Present:** Kerin Delaney (Co-Chair), Larry Langer (Co-Chair), Deb Berglin, Sharon Sodekson, Barbara Sullivan, Suzie Hauptmann (Director), Susan Clondas (Admin)

Approved March Minutes: Barbara Sullivan made a motion to approve minutes for posting; Sharon Sodekson seconded and the Committee was all in favor

Department Updates – First and Second Quarter Reports for 2020 were distributed for Committee member review prior to meeting. No questions on reports.

Director's Report – Suzie Hauptmann gave an update on the COVID-19 response of the department.

- The building remains closed to the public since mid March but have been fully operational by doing staggered remote working. Always had a staff member in the office and answering phones and as time went on adjusted staff as needed for outreach, grocery deliveries or for social workers to do Telehealth.
- The social workers completed a Telehealth Mental Health training with the National Association of Social Workers and all department consent forms were updated with Telehealth services language.
- Sue Clondas created a daily resource guide that was shared with the newspaper and shared with community partners and agencies. The guide was updated and posted weekly.
- Calls to the Department focused around unemployment, housing and food. We did not have an increase in request for mental health counseling but did have an increase in on the spot consultations.
- We are evaluating how to shift some of our programing ideas to do them remotely (i.e. Teen Girls DBT Group; Men's Senior Mental Health Support Group.
- Suzie Hauptmann and Mark Abbott have continued meeting with the Essential Services Network via Zoom; Diane Delauter has continued her Senior Center Women's Group via Zoom; Mark Abbott has continued to do outreach with the Police and the Chief is interested in discussing how to make it a more robust program.
- We are envision when the town buildings open we will still remain closed and will have a "knock for service" due to the size of the office and inability to appropriately social distance.

Mark's Building:

- Plan to move the Department to the Mark's Building faced a few setbacks – Planning Department is down a staff person and the Mark's Building Subcommittee didn't get state preservation grant funding but it's still the plan to move the Human Services Department to that building.

Old Business:

RFI Status Update-

- Other Support Services \$9,500 grant was awarded to Alzheimer Family Support Center who showed successful results from last year's grant. The non-profit is still in the startup phase and most of their funding comes from local fundraising events that were cancelled due to COVID-19 so given the number of Falmouth residents served the Committee was in support of advising awarding AFSC.
- Review of the Independence House RFI, the Committee found the application to lack focus and the agency has the ability to not just fundraise but secure state funds.

RFP Status Updates-

- Homeless Prevention \$20,000 – Housing Assistance Corp. was awarded the grant to continue the much-needed housing stabilization services
- Outmigration \$20,000 – Was reposted and RFP's were received by Cape Cod Young Professionals, YMCA and Falmouth Housing Trust. Copies of the proposals and evaluation forms will be sent to Committee members for review and a special Zoom meeting will be scheduled for Committee members to advise on agency to award

Member Resignation – Received notice that Sunny Davidson did not reup for another term. Suzie will send a card to thank her for her many years of volunteerism and support of the Department.

Committee Recruitment and Outreach – 4 members are needed. Recruitment letter and flyer will be emailed to Committee members to start distributing. Discussed distribution channels and contacts. Discussed application process and Suzie Hauptmann will follow up with the BOS office to find out procedure if more than 4 applications are received.

Committee member updates and reports:

- Kerin Delaney – Falmouth Service Center has been collaborating weekly with the Human Services Department, Falmouth Public Schools and Nel Fields/Faith Based on the food response and access to food in the community. Monthly calendar was distributed. Access increased in a few instances from New Bedford/Fall River down to Yarmouth and accounted to 1,200 households (400 new); 80 elderly household (decreased). Public schools continued to distribute breakfast and lunch and Nel Fields coordinated Friday night dinners from Buffalo Jump to nominated families.
- Deb Berglin – Announced the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum is holding a workshop on people of color experiencing mental health. Human Services Department is sponsoring some of the cost. The flyer will be finalized and distributed tomorrow. Deb is looking for clinicians of color to put together a resource list.
- Barbara Sullivan – Reported the St. Vincent help line was very slow but anticipates there will probably be an uptick since the extra \$600 in pandemic benefit expired at the end of July.

New Business – Special Zoom meeting will be scheduled for August 18th to discuss Committee members evaluation forms on the three proposals for funding for advisement to the Human Services Department.

Items for future agenda – Strategic review process categories assessment

Adjourn: Larry Langer made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 pm; Barbara Sullivan seconded; Committee members were all in favor

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 4:30-6:00

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Clondas