



Human Services Committee
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
December 10, 2024
5:30pm

Meeting Minutes

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call: Chair Cheryl Powell took roll call: The Governor's office protocol for remote participation due to Covid restrictions is no longer in effect therefore this meeting was held in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: Cheryl Powell (Chair); Suzanne Welch, Wendy Crocker, Sheree Kay (Missi), Kimberly Crocker-Crowther and Kevin Matthews

Members absent: Rep. Steven Xiarhos

I. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Roll Call
- Discuss report to be given to Town Council
- Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Hybrid Meeting Schedule
- Information gathering and cataloging.
- Roles and reports
- Guest speaker (s) and planning
- Public Comment
- Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair
- Adjourn

Chair of Committee Cheryl Powell opened the meeting at 5:37pm and did a Roll Call of members present. (See above) The meeting began with a confirmation of quorum and instructions for participation. She also thanked Town Council member Bette Ludke and Patrick Downey (Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod) for their attendance at this meeting.

Chair of Committee started the meeting by announcing "In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws informed that the meeting would be replayed on Xfinity Channel 8 and HD Channel 107". It was also mentioned that the meeting would be accessible on the government access channel and video on demand archives on the Town of Barnstable website.

Chair of Committee moved forward with addressing the agenda items; the November meeting minutes were approved as submitted with Committee member Welsch making the motion which was seconded by Committee member Mathews. The Hybrid Meeting item still needs to be discussed. The primary issue is that a Town IT staff member needs to do the Zoom setup, and no one is currently available to perform that task. However, Cheryl will continue to try to push that along. Next, Cheryl gave an update

re: the Human Services Database form. She has forwarded a copy to Gosnald as well as some other agencies. Committee member Crocker discussed the need to keep the form to one page and wanted to have “please suggest any other organizations that you feel may be helpful” included within the forms content. The need to update the Database form is imperative as the first database was created by the Coalition in 2015. Patrick Downey provided an informational update on the homeless population. Also, a new company has been started which provides transportation but, unfortunately, they are overwhelmed.

Chair of Committee then began a discussion on how best to be efficient and productive in updating the current database. We must focus on putting together the basic framework which identifies all available resources (coalitions.) The Town of Falmouth has a very successful resource program and Committee member Crocker asked if the Committee thought it would be worthwhile to do a field trip to see how they put their program together. Chair of Committee Powell stated that she had visited the CEMS Program located in Plymouth which showed a 42% decrease in opioid episodes within a year of its implementation. Cheryl has invited Victoria Butler, CEMS Coordinator, to do a presentation for us. She has accepted the invitation, but no date has been set. Town Council person Ludke asked “who is building the database and who will you be sending the form to?” Committee member Crocker stated that there are some programs currently available that can be used for a comparative analysis which can be a real time saver. Committee member Mathews stated that the Town of Bourne has a Human Resources Guide, and it is excellent. More importantly, Kevin volunteered to meet with the Town of Bourne and discuss the possibility of piggy backing off of their guide. A suggestion was made to consider utilizing interns to help research etc. Committee member Crocker believes that there is grant funding available to help with putting a Guide together. Cheryl asked Missi if she would look into possible grant funding resources. All Committee members are in agreement that it is time to get going—shoot for a draft proposal to be completed in February with a finalized document in April/May.

Committee member Welsh apologized for forgetting to bring cheesecake to the meeting.

As there was no public comment a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM was made by Suzanne Welsh and seconded by Kevin Matthews.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2025.

