

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday December 16, 2021 - 9:00am**  
**ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Chairman - Jim Ross, Stacie Curran, Tom Holleman, Doug Rivkin. Absent: Marina Derman, Diane Johnson, Joe Anastasi

**From Human Services:** Elaine Daignault, Director; Sue Pfister - Wspt. Senior Center

**Guests:**, Sal Liccione, Gary Myerson, Doris-Commission on Senior Services, Jacquie Marumot.

9:05 - Call to Order – Reminder to members that attendance is essential If you are unable to attend, please inform DHS so we can determine whether we have a quorum to hold a meeting. Monthly CPD meetings are held on 3rd Thursday each month at 9am. Elaine will add a calendar reminder for future meetings.

Sue P., - Senior services update: uptick in use, many support services offered, dealing with isolation issues.

- **Hello Neighbor program** - phone calls, check-ins, some evolved more/grocery shopping.
- Connect people at home, provide good, nutritious meals.
- **Holiday** –
- WCSA delivered meals to homebound/Home Delivered Meal recipients on Christmas eve, partially supported by the Westport Women’s Club

Elaine D., - Woman’s Club also worked with DHS to offer individuals and families in need by offering grocery Gift Cards to DHS clients with financial hardships.

- **Westport Warm-up Fund** - helps with home heating needs for residents who qualify under the state/federal/local income criteria.
- Please refer residents to Human Services (DHS) if they require resources or assistance.

Transportation: Continues to be a priority topic for CPD

Elaine explained that certain programs like Door to Door will continue to be offered; the Commuter Shuttle provides an important services. COVID has negatively affected ridership. There may be new options available in the future including a pilot program called Riders Choice currently testing in Norwalk Transit - Peter Gold is the Westport Transit Director.

Door-to-Door – requires pre-registration before utilizing the services, requiring 24 hour notice for rides.

Let’s Add TRANSPORTATION to agenda for January -

Employment is for Everyone:

Dec 21st 12:30pm, Presentation will be to the The Rotary, Christ & Holy Trinity, Ron Hemkoff, Presentation will be Jim & Stacie & Elaine, can stay on from 12-12:30.

Vote on Minutes - (from Affordable housing meeting) Motion/Jim, Tom-1st, Doug-2nd - all in favor

Jim/Joe/Elaine - E4E - presentations have been going well: Sunrise Rotary, Downtown Merchants, Rotary coming up

**Draft of One Page Presentation-Elaine will send around & will post to our website when finalized.**

- Jim - from meeting couple weeks ago, David Waldman indicated he would help tap some business relation to assist in moving the project forward;
- Next - We need these potential Champions of E4E, some already doing it, to create round-table, advisory panel, sharing experiences, how they have met challenges.
- Jim going to F/U with David W., following next weeks presentation o Rotary.
- Some are looking for next-steps:
- When one expresses interest we need a committee member to be paired, help them with next step, hire, create a team, coordinate them with the Job Bank

Job Bank - will be posted through Human Services

- employer explains needs - match is searched,
- Kate Bansoff - STAR, helped with how the Job Bank would work
- Stacie - suggests let's meet with Town Departments too regarding hiring: Town Hall, Police, Fire, Building dept, - Jim will put on list to get presentations to them
- We want more options for Employers, let businesses see the options, not just agencies, like STAR, Abilis, Ability Beyond, Kennedy Center - Private too.

Discussion:

Students can get exposure through Transition programs, and volunteerism, but we want to create opportunity for competitive wage earners.

Need a Follow-up Matrix of sort.

Maybe we could post something to "Indeed" - sequester a piece just for Westport.

Jim R - side note AIRA (for visually impaired), added 18 month program, dial-in service to aid those in need, with camera, etc., - Web site added here.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:10am