

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, September 10, 2013 at 8:30 AM

Attendance:

Commissioners: Lynn Goldberg, Bob Fatherley, Laura Fishman, Ed Horne, & Dick Sallick

Staff: Barbara Butler, Sarah Heath

Guests: Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District Director & Jim Marpe, Republican Candidate for First Selectman

Minutes:

The minutes of June 11, 2013 were approved.

Old Business:

The revised proposal for the Baron's South Senior living proposal has been positively received by the Board of Finance and further meetings will be held to provide input and discussion. Tomorrow the RTM will host a meeting at Town Hall at 6:30PM where Jonathan Rose and David Freshwater will be present.

Sarah and Barbara provided an update on and information about how the Westport Early Childhood Collaborative will function, the services that will be provided and the role of DHS in its operation. They noted that five families have been engaged. So the program is filled and there is a waiting list.

Department Report:

Work is progressing in implementation of the Department's new software database which will go live in the next few months and is being received with enthusiasm from the staff.

Health Exchanges open October 1st and staff will help in assisting applicants to navigate the complexities of the ACA.

Barbara reported positively on DHS staff changes including noting that Sarah Heath has become Assistant Director, that Kevin's position has been upgraded and will have additional staff through three grant-funded programs.

Guest Presentation:

Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District Director, reported on the bus study. She noted the three major services provided for seniors and disabled, the commuter shuttle, and the after-school program provide about seventy thousand rides yearly. Two grants for studies will address how to move people better and include railroad parking as well as bus service. Led by SWRPA for our eight town area, there is recognition of the need for consolidation of authority around transportation and coordination with planning at the state level. Marketing must be a key element.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Sallick