

# *Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes*

*TUESDAY, May 10, 2016*

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners:** Bob Galan, Ed Horne, Yvonne Senturia, Dick Sallick, and Laura Fishman

**Staff:** Barbara Butler, Sarah Heath, Sue Pfister, Ed Milton, and Kevin Godburn

**Guests:** Jeff Wieser

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of April 12, 2016 were approved.

**New Business:**

Jim Marpe announced that Barbara will be retiring on June 30 of this year. He noted that she defined the role of the Department in her twenty-seven years as the Director. Also, that she has mentored a skilled staff. That Sarah Heath will succeed to her position and Elaine Daignault will become Assistant Director. Barbara spoke of their readiness to assume leadership and the assuredness of continuity and quality. Ed spoke of how greatly Barbara will be missed and pledged our support to the new leadership.

**Youth Services Update:**

Barbara introduced **Ed Milton** who is the new student outreach worker. He worked at Kids in Crisis for many years and for the past ten years in New Canaan providing outreach to youth in schools. A former resident, he knows Westport well. He has been working with Elaine to assure a seamless transition through the end of the school year. He will be more integrated into the department office and staff here will continue more involvement with the schools.

**Kevin Godburn, Youth Services Program Director** then gave a comprehensive update on Youth Services including:

Toquet Hall structural changes, an expanded snack bar, new signage, and provision for storage. The fundraising has nearly reached their \$3,000 goal. Programs (fashion show, gaming nights, concerts, a college panel among others) are active and attracting large audiences. A student discount program has been achieved through cooperation with downtown merchants.

**Neighborhood Assistance Act of 2016:**

Applications from the Learning Community Day School and Earth Place will be reviewed by the RTM to enable access to state tax credits for businesses that make donations.

**WCSA Enhancement:**

Sue announced that RFP's have been sent out. The Committee will review them and continues to promote the plan in the community to maintain support

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Sallick