



SUSAN STACK
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Human Services Commission

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HOCINE BAUCHE
YALE CANTOR
TERESA CAVANAGH
JAIME FOSTER
SARAH GAER
SUSANNE HANNIGAN
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Recreation/Human Services Complex

Conference Room – 31 Arbor Way

6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Stack, Yale Cantor, Jaime Foster, Sarah Gaer, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

OTHERS PRESENT: Joy Hollister, Director of Human Services; Stephanie Mather, Recording Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** Susan Stack, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2019**

MOVED (CANTOR) SECONDED (WAMBOLT-GULICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING.

3. **Citizens' Forum:** None

4. **Director's Report:** Joy Hollister discussed that the Memory Café will hold its first meeting on January 29, 2020 at Ellington Human Services. It is a monthly meeting for individuals with early to moderate memory impairment, their caregivers, and loved ones. It is a place to provide information and help individuals navigate through the process. Rebecca Stack will facilitate the meeting. It was advertised on Facebook and in newsletters. Joy and Rebecca are meeting with the Alzheimer's Association this week to gain knowledge of other programs. Caring for Aging Parents will be held on January 27th at the Senior Center. It will provide resources for caregivers. Joy reported that the Holiday Program went really well this year. There were seventy Thanksgiving baskets given out, seventy-six children were adopted, about forty seniors/disabled individuals were adopted, and eighty grocery gift cards were given out. One of the donors for the Holiday Program also gave a \$5,000.00 donation towards our Back to School Program to help with clothing. The little pantry outside is popular and is being used regularly. Public Works is looking into getting more lighting outside. Next week, Joy and a volunteer who helps with taxes, will be taking their test to get certified for tax season so they can assist clients. Joy is working on the survey and will have it next month. Joy did not receive the budget information yet. There was a discussion about updating the job description for Deb's old position as prevention coordinator. It would include an increase in hours. Sue at the Senior Center is retiring so there is a part time bookkeeping position available. The Senior Center hired a new kitchen manager and the kitchen will be open February 4, 2020. Jane Roets assists with parent advocacy. Kristen did her first Safe Sitter Babysitting Course at the end of

December. A QPR training will take place on January 15, 2020 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Spirit Kindness Club is where school-age children can interact with one another and do different activities. There are a lot of good programs offered. Jaime and Deanna mentioned that offering Saturday morning programs for children or evening hours for some programs for small children would be nice for parents that work during the week. There is going to be a men's fitness group at the Senior Center. The trainer who is going to do the group is certified and is trained in aging. AARP taxes are starting at the Senior Center. The Senior Center is going to be painted, which will help brighten it up. Ellington will be getting a new Senior Center bus. They are working with DOT on the agreement.

5. Unfinished Business: None

6. New Business: Sarah Gaer published two books that will be coming out soon. One is "Good Night Grace" and it is based on a child in Ellington that lost a parent to addiction. She got consent to publish the book from the family and it helps children deal with the loss of a parent from addiction at a young age. The other book is "Grace's Antsy Pants" and it is a trauma sensitive book. Sarah also mentioned her collaboration with a four part series known as the "Men's Mental Mechanics Manual." It has over fifty authors from around the world. The manual has stories written by men about men's mental health. Jaime Foster, Sue Stack, and Deanna Wambolt-Gulick received an email from Julia Connor in the First Selectman's office regarding a notice of expired term. They are all renewing their term and staying on the Human Services Commission.

7. Adjournment:

MOTION (FOSTER) SECONDED (GAER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 6:57 PM.

Submitted By:

X 
Stephanie Mather, Recording Secretary