



SUSAN STACK  
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Human Services Commission

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

HOCINE BAOUCHE  
YALE CANTOR  
JESSICA FAY  
SUSAN HANNIGAN  
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK  
LENORA WILLIAMS

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, October 18, 2021

Ellington Senior Center

40 Maple Street

**6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Stack, Hocine Baouche, Lenora Williams

**MEMBERS PRESENT BY ZOOM:** Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joy Hollister, Director of Human Services

**1. Call to Order:** Susan Stack, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:11PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes: May 10, 2021**

MOVED (BAOUCHE) SECONDED (WILLIAMS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2021 MEETING as revised to reflect Lenora Williams attended the meeting via Zoom before coming to the Senior Center.

**3. Citizens' Forum:** None

**4. Director's Report:**

Joy Hollister reported that in Human Services Stephanie Mather has resigned as Administrative Secretary. The posting for this position will be going out in the near future. The Department is busy with getting Holiday programs up and running, energy assistance, crumbling foundations applications, Medicare open enrollment, etc. Additionally, the department successfully distributed farmers market coupons, processed renters rebate applications, and gave out supplies and gift cards for back to school needs. Rebecca Stack will be doing office hours at the Library on the third Wednesday of the month, the Boy Scouts will be delivering food from their food drive in November, taxes will be done again this year, and the Department continues to have monthly food drives (requested items change monthly) in collaboration with the Library. Joy has reached out to other Towns to see how their food banks function and will review the information received and make changes, if warranted.

For Youth Services, Joy reported that Diane Lasher-Penti is being celebrated for her 20 years of service to the Town of Ellington. Youth Services has renamed Rise Above to EYS Alliance.

There is the core group and then four subgroups. The hope is that instead of the core group doing all the work that the subgroups will participate in supporting the efforts. The Department is planning their winter programs. Additionally, they are doing suicide prevention in the high school, have a SMART recovery group for teens facing addiction, opioid programming, speech development programming, QPR training, crafty classes, playgroups, etc. Additionally, counseling services have been very busy. Diane will be doing a presentation on anxiety on November 8th for parents. The Department is looking for youth or adults who can teach a class or series. Please reach out to Diane if you have anyone who would be interested.

Joy reported that the Senior Center's kitchen is up and running three days a week. New programs include a men's fitness class, tai chi, haircuts, crafts with Kelly, and technology help. Also, trips have been very successful and they are full. In the near future there will be presentations from an ex-president's butler and one on bobcats, as well as, Rebecca will be doing a Medicare presentation. Transportation services are up and running and are getting busier. Joy shared that the Department combined the funding for the Transportation Secretary and Bookkeeper positions (which are not being filled) and used them to hire a part-time Program Assistant. Kelly Hearn has been hired in this position. Joy also detailed that there will be a drug take back on October 23rd from 10-2pm at the police station. Additionally, Youth Services and Senior Center staff have put up scarecrows for the Town wide contest.

## **5. Unfinished Business:**

### **a. Review of Community Survey questions (tabled)**

Discussion was held regarding the purpose of this agenda item for newer members. Joy detailed that Human Services Department staff started the process of developing a five year plan. Questions were formulated and were going to be put forward to the Commission for their review. Unfortunately, due to COVID and other circumstances the review was tabled. Joy reported that in the New Year she hopes to have staff reconvene and access the changes over the last two years and make any needed changes to the questions, etc. A suggestion from Lenora Williams to have the survey placed in the Town Report during election time might produce more responses. Joy will look into this when the survey questions are completed.

## **6. New Business:**

### **a. Approve meeting dates for 2022**

Joy Hollister sent out the meeting dates and also provided copies to Commission members. Joy asked the Committee to review the dates and whether there were any changes needed. Joy also mentioned that usually the July and August meetings are cancelled. Discussion ensued.

MOVED (WILLIAMS) SECONDED (BAOUCHE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED MINUS THE JULY AND AUGUST MEETING DATES.

### **b. Budget discussions**

Joy Hollister reported that her budget proposal for 22/23 will mostly stay the same although she is considering adding a counselor position as the need for mental health services for adults and families is increasing. Diane Lasher-Penti does counseling for youth. Perhaps this person could do counseling for all ages. Joy passed around a news article that Vernon is hiring a counselor using APRA funds.

Joy went into detail about what her Departments' have suggested for use of the APRA funds. Commission Members were supportive of the ideas that were submitted. Joy asked that they provide any other recommendations to her as soon as possible.

**7. Adjournment:**

MOTION (WILLIAMS) SECONDED (STACK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 7:10 PM.

Submitted By:

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Joy Hollister, Director of Human Services