

Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting February 18, 2010

Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Colin Haney, Wendy Haney, Elaine Biggieri, Lloyd Gibbs, Ann Alibrandi, Nancy Sullivan and Jerry Norwood

Absent/Excused: Ed O'Leary

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

Minutes of January 21, 2010 accepted as amended

Budget:

No change. No unexpected expenses. We have received final word that the Formula Grant funding will not be cut to last year's level. Vicki had feared that we'd lose \$1307.00 if this happened, which would impact the Outreach Worker's hours. Thankfully we remain fully funded.

Joanne had brought to Vicki's attention that municipal departments cannot pay a non-profit like St. Vincent de Paul. Vicki discussed this with Randy who said this is correct. He suggested that Vicki ask the Friends if they could fund this program. Vicki has spoken to Dick Thompson who will discuss it at the Friends meeting.

Director's Report:

A Community Resources meeting was held with the school department. Principals, Guidance, Social Worker, Asst. Supt. and Supt. Dr. Martes were present. They all seemed attentive and asked a lot of good questions. All of them are reporting seeing more and more families in need. There are also a couple of HS students who are homeless. They are appreciative of having the communication about what's available.

Vicki stated that there was a Foxboro Community Services Providers meeting on 2/10/10. It was an interdepartmental meeting as well as the community resources groups who attend the school meetings. We had a speaker, Peter Curran from Norwood Police Department who explained how this increased communication has enhanced what he has been able to do. Chief Hatfield was there representing Foxboro Fire Department. He is enthusiastic about the group and may plan a spin off group with Board of Health, Animal control and his department.

Noreen and Vicki met with the School Social Worker, Kim McDowell and Director of SPED, Arlene Grubert. We have decided that as part of Noreen's routine when doing an assessment, she will offer the school guidance directory for families. Often the focus is on resolving the issue at hand without a discussion about how the school staff may be able to support the student during the family crisis. They asked us to bring counseling services resources that we use to the school meeting to share with all of the staff. Arlene gave us a handout with a directory for guidance dept. staff for families. The meeting didn't produce a 'sharing' of a worker, but it did open a dialogue that we can refer back and forth with a better understanding of roles and limitations.

We had around 25 attendees at the computer class offered by Eric Anderson. This is the highest turnout we've had for computer courses. Unfortunately he had to cancel today's class which will extend his program by an additional week to make up for it.

The Valentine's Tea was a great success today thanks to Joanne and crew.

Upcoming Programs:

We have 167 people signed up and paid for the Jack Frost Social. We are looking to schedule another social sometime in May.

We have another Wii tournament with Mansfield COA on 2-26.
Grief support group will start in March.

Old Business:

Joanne read a letter of resignation from Nancy Sullivan. Nancy stated in the letter that she felt she had too many things to deal with at this time. All wished her well and congratulated her for her fine work and service to the COA. Nancy said she had always enjoyed her time on the Board and she would certainly still be coming to the center.

A senior had an injury this past week which required medical attention. Vicki has submitted an incident report to Andy Gala.

New Business:

Carla Carey has approached Vicki to see if she can use our parking lot to host a "Suds for seniors" car wash. The proceeds would go to the Senior Scholarship fund which helps seniors pay for classes. Do we want to allow her to do this here? After discussion the Board suggested that Vicki speak with Carla and maybe think about using town hall parking lot. Vicki will get back to the Board after speaking with Carla.

Joanne spoke of the Foxtrotter's program and the need to discontinue as it was no longer affordable. Jerry made a motion to discontinue the program and Lloyd seconded. All agreed.

Adjourned at 6:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi