

BRANFORD HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

May 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:09am.

Present: Peter Cimino, Sarah Lockery, Bill Keane, Mary Grande, Elizabeth Sattelberger, Lexi Klarman, Maria Storm, Betty Haas, Jane Novick

Excused: John Mooney

- I. **Minutes:** Minutes from March 10, 2020 meeting were read and approved.
- II. **Communications:** On April 17, the Town received a payment of \$52,801.83 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services through the stimulus CARES Act. This was a combined payment from Medicare for both BCCS and the Branford Fire Department, as it was paid under the Town's Tax ID, which both departments bill Medicare under. It was estimated that BCCS' portion of the payment was approximately \$6,000 and the remainder belonged to the Fire Department, based on reimbursements received from Medicare in 2018; however, because the payment was made to the Town, the Town will ultimately have to make the decision to choose whether or not they would sign the attestation, accept or refuse the funds, agree to terms and conditions, submit revenue information, and request reimbursement.
- III. **Income (donations, fees, etc.):** Income amounts to date for this fiscal year were reported.
- IV. **Statistics:** Monthly statistics were presented to the Board.
- V. **Social Services/Basic Needs Account:** The number of utilities paid, income/donation amounts, and number of rents paid were presented to the Board.
- VI. **Public Relations/Fundraising:**
 - *Program Publicity* – Multiple social service programs have been started in response to COVID-19.
 - Help Out – Take Out: A joint effort of BCCS and Branford Rotary Club. Purchases gift cards from local restaurants and distributes them to Branford residents who have lost jobs, cannot work, or have had their hours reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Branford Home Delivery Service: The Town of Branford, realizing the importance of keeping our residents safe during this COVID-19 pandemic, has initiated a program designed to help senior citizens and/or immunosuppressed individuals with their shopping needs. In cooperation with local vendors Caron's Corner and Big Y, the Town has developed a food delivery program to help those residents who are considered high risk is contacting this virus. These include senior citizens and immunosuppressed individuals. This program is free to qualifying Branford residents. This is a joint program between BCCS and the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter.
 - Food Gift Cards: Food gift cards for Branford residents who have lost jobs, cannot work, or have had their hours reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Sylvia.

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VII. Director's Report:

- *COVID-19* – A number of changes have taken place in the past two months due to COVID-19. Most staff are working remotely and appointments are being held either telehealth (as of 03/31) or audio-only (as of 03/18).
- *Budget* – The budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 is going through the approval process.

VIII. Old Business: No old business was presented.

IX. New Business: No new business was presented.

X. Any other business that may properly come before the Board: No other business was presented.

The next meeting of the Branford Human Services Board will take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 8:00am at Branford Counseling & Community Services, 342 Harbor Street, Branford, CT 06405.