

BRANFORD HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

July 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am.

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

Excused: John Mooney, Elizabeth Sattelberger, Bill Keane

Guest: Carolyn Sires (RTM)

- I. **Minutes:** Minutes from May 12, 2020 meeting were read and approved.
- II. **Communications:** No communications of significance were received.
- III. **Income (donations, fees, etc.):** was also reported that the revenue goal was exceeded for the previous fiscal year, 2019-2020.
- IV. **Statistics:** Not reported.
- V. **Social Services/Basic Needs Account:** It was reported that rental assistance requests are increasing and are expected to continue to increase as a result of the pandemic.
- VI. **Public Relations/Fundraising:**
  - *Program Publicity* – The multiple social service programs that were run in response to COVID-19 were hugely successful and received a lot of positive publicity.
    - 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: This program was sunset on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - 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.
- VII. **Director's Report:**
  - *Health Initiative* – Peter will be working on a joint public health initiative in conjunction with Branford Community Foundation, Yale, and others on flu shot clinics for the fall. More details to follow.
  - *New Hire* – A new, full-time clinician is scheduled to begin on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - *Telehealth Extension* – It is expected that insurance companies will continue to reimburse for telehealth until at least September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - *FEMA Reimbursements* – Peter is working with the Town on tracking and requesting reimbursements from FEMA for purchases made related to COVID-19.
- VIII. **Old Business:** No old business was presented.
- IX. **New Business:** Maria Storm, long-time Board member and previous Chair, announced that she will be resigning from the Board, as she will be moving out of town.

*Minutes submitted by Jennifer Sylvia.*

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- 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, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8:00am at Branford Counseling & Community Services, 342 Harbor Street, Branford, CT 06405.