

Town of Greenwich
Board of Social Services Regular Meeting
February 17, 2009- Hayton Room - Town Hall - 6:45pm

MINUTES

Present: Kimberly Terrenoire, *Chair*; Steve Maxwell, *Vice-Chair*; Victoria deBary, *Secretary*; Diane Fox, Stephen Francis, Mary Huyck, Elizabeth Menten; *Also Present:* Victoria Anyikwa, Commissioner; Rick Weiner, Monica Bruning, Nestor Nana, DSS; Maryann Ramos, Rebecca Wayland; Gerry Isaacson, RTM Health and Human Service Committee; Lori Jackson, Commission on Ageing; Coline Jenkins, John Harkins, RTM; Sara Poirier, Greenwich Post

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

The minutes of the January 27, 2009 meeting were approved by unanimous vote with a spelling correction.

Board Business: The Chair asked for volunteers to form the Nominating Committee. Ms Fox and Mr. Maxwell volunteered and were appointed unanimously. External Entities: Disbursement of funds to the EE's on a quarterly schedule, and contingent on submission of the Quarterly Report Form was discussed.

The EE Committee will explore this question.

Commissioner's Reports: Budget update: Dr. Anyikwa reported on her BET presentation last Thursday.

Two full time positions (one administrative assistant and one social worker position) and three part-time positions (two homemakers and one accounts clerk) were eliminated. Mr. Maxwell asked about the probable effects on clients. Dr. Anyikwa said that the lost social worker position had been filled by someone on administrative leave. Therefore her social workers already have higher caseloads. The lost Administrative Assistant position will be covered by sharing of workload. Mr. Weiner reported that the cuts in homemaking staff result in 50 fewer hours per week of service to clients. He and the caseworkers for the homemaking clients have identified 22 clients, of the 119 clients currently served, who could get by with less service. There are five clients not currently receiving service and four on a waitlist. Board members asked the Commissioner what options she had if the situation were to worsen. She replied that the Department does have some funds to hire temporary aides but for the most part, she and Mr. Weiner would have to "keep juggling". The caseworkers, with some assistance from the Greenwich Housing Authority building managers, will keep tabs on the homemaking clients who now have longer periods between appointments. **Data Discussion:** Mr. Nana's figures show that client numbers are 35% higher than last January. If this rate of increase continues, the department will be forced to have clients wait longer to be seen and to delay implementing services. The Chair asked Dr. Anyikwa to discuss with Mr. Nana a way to capture the client wait times.

Action Item 1: The External Entities Committee, with the Commissioner, will look into changing the disbursement procedure for funds to the External Entities.

Action Item 2: The Commissioner, with Mr. Nana, will work on a system for tracking wait times for clients to receive services.

There was a unanimous motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:45pm
There was a unanimous motion to move out of Executive Session at 8:00pm
The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Victoria deBary