



**Council for Human Services
Meeting**

Town of Nantucket
131 Pleasant Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554
www.nantucket-ma.gov

Council for Human Services Members: Athalyn Sweeney (Chair), Sue Doucet Mynittinen, Veronica Bolcik, Suzanne Keating, Amanda Wright, Tara Restieri, Sarah Wright, Claudia Valle, Kelly Steffen

Staff: Jerico Mele, Heather Nardone, Tomeka Gary

~~MINUTES~~

Thursday, September 14, 2023

131 Pleasant St, Trailer

This meeting was held via remote participation using ZOOM and YouTube.

Staff in Remote: Jerico Mele, Human Services Director; Tomeka Gary, Office Manager

Remote Members: Athalyn Sweeney, Veronica Bolcik, Tara Restieri, Sue Mynittinen, Amanda Wright, Kelly Steffen

Remote Guest Speakers: Samantha Aguire (Nantucket Athenaeum), Julia Kehoe (Health Imperatives on)

I. ESTABLISH QUORUM: Quorum established at 4:04 pm

II. COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Sue Doucet Mynittinen made motion to approve agenda. Veronica Bolcik seconded the motion.

III. INTRODUCTION NEW MEMBERS

Missing Sara Wright but she is the director of social worker at the Nantucket Cottage Hospital. Kelly Steffen works with Process First. Claudia Valle was a member before and now returning after a gap. Tomeka Gary office manager for the Health and Human Services department.

IV. SPEAKER FROM HEALTH IMPERITIVES ON WIC PROGRAM FEDERAL GRANT

Julia Kehoe: working with the CHS has allowed them to hire more on island staff, increase the number of people served, collaborating day-to-day operation with other providers. A lot of work goes into meeting the needs of the growing population largely for people who English is their second language., half-60% families use the service for sexual reproduction Health Clinic. WIC program provides healthy food, education for pregnant women/children up to 5. The program here has allowed us to augment the staffing of a government program and the model here on Nantucket has led to additional government funds in other areas. They have applied for a program that took the best of Nantucket and Cape models that formed a new one and was able to partner with local organizations which allow us to reach populations that they would not have.

V. SPEAKER FROM ATHENAEUM

Samantha Aguire- the Athenaeum have programs that are free and accessible to the community rather that is to help those with technology, concerts, lectures, open mic nights, gam nights, knitters' group, a teen program, children program. If you want to learn another language or programs all this can be done. **4:33 pm** Athalyn Sweeney left the meeting. New programs they have are Tarot reading, astrology, and the language cafe. They have been trying to do more hybrid events because of parking and mobility issues.

VI. REPORT FROM HUMAN SERVICE DIRECTOR

Jerico- We have 3 COVID clinic dates planed in September, October, November which are booked and will be adding as we see fit and sign up is done on the town website and Color. The town's response to a recent Behavioral Health crisis is going to be rearing its head where in partnership with Amanda actually getting some QPR (Questions, Persuade, and Refer) classes. Amanda- it is training to train someone in the warning signs around someone who is suicidal, what questions needed to be asked and how to get help. September is suicidal awareness month. Jerico-Training date are in September, the 1st one at Our House and the 2nd on the 27th in house. We have the Youth behavior Health

Grant and the Contract Review Committee. YBHG is out in the public and is due the 20th and hoping late October to be getting out the Contract Review Committee.

VII. REVIEW AND DISCUSS OF SCOPE AND MISSION STATEMENT OF CHS PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING ON ESTABLISHING GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR CHS FOR THE YEAR TO COME

The next month's meeting will lead by this.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Veronica-with having new members we would like to have as much participation as possible and wanted to know if the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm would work for everyone. She finds that consistency is what is most important. Everyone who was left at the meeting agreed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Tara motioned to adjourned at 5pm Amanda seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm