



Council For Human Services Meeting

Town of Nantucket

131 Pleasant Street

Nantucket, MA, 02554

www.nantucket-ma.gov

Council for Human Services Members: Veronica Bolcik (Chair), Sue Mynttinen (Vice-Chair) Suzanne Keating, Tara Restieri, Kelly Steffen, Claudia Valle, Amanda Wright, Sarah Wright

Health and Human Services Staff: Jerico Mele (Human Services Director), Alexandria Richards (Office Manager)

~MINUTES~

Thursday, May 22nd, 2025

131 Pleasant St, Trailer

This meeting was held with remote participation using ZOOM

Attendance: Veronica Bolcik, Sue Mynttinen, Amanda Wright, Tara Restieri, Kelly Steffen, Sarah Wright, Suzanne Keating

Staff: Jerico Mele, Alexandria Richards

I. Establish Quorum

Quorum was established at 4:03 pm.

Sue made a motion to close the meeting from 4/24/2025 it was seconded by sue and accepted by all members in attendance.

II. Acceptance of Agenda

Sara made a motion to approve the agenda that was seconded by Sue and accepted by all members in attendance.

III. Approval of Minutes from 4/24/2025

Tara motioned to approve the minutes from 4/24/2025 it was seconded by Sue and accepted by all members in attendance.

IV. Public Comment

No comments.

- V. Announcement of FY 26 Human Services and Substance Misuse Grants
Veronica gave updates from annual town meeting she confirmed that all grants under the warrant article were approved and contracts for awarded programs are being prepared and will be in place by July 1.

Veronica mentioned a question that was raised at Town Meeting regarding the inclusion of Martha's Vineyard Community Services. Clarification was provided that, despite the name, the organization delivers specialized services (e.g., supplemental special education and therapy) that benefit local residents. Another inquiry was made about the organization "Sharing Kindness," which required a brief explanation during the meeting. Despite these questions, no opposition persisted after clarifications, and the article passed.

- VI. Discussion on formal funding request for FY 27 for Town of Nantucket Human Service Grants

A formal funding request letter is being drafted, in collaboration with Jericho, to submit to Town Administration, including Libby Gibson, and ultimately to the Select Board.

The request will propose level funding with additional consideration for cost-of-living or inflation adjustments to better reflect current economic conditions. The draft letter will be presented to the Contract Review Committee at their upcoming meeting for review and possible modification before submission. Early communication with Libby Gibson has been positive, with her expressing support for the approach.

- VII. New Opiate Grant Application and process

The opiate grant solicitation was open for one month, closing on May 21st. Five complete applications were received: two focused on treatment and three on prevention.

This funding stems from settlement money, meaning it is not pre-allocated and can be disbursed immediately upon completion of the review process.

The committee expressed optimism about a swift and effective review process and hopes to secure additional funding transfers to expand programming in the future.

- VIII. Discussion of CHS, CRC review of process and structure

Veronica mentioned that an open seat on CHS has received one applicant, as confirmed during a recent town meeting review and the new member will be appointed and seated by July 1, bringing the CHS committee to its capacity at nine members.

An at-large CRC position remains open. While two individuals expressed interest, they were not listed on the latest town agenda possibly due to a missed application deadline.

After July 1, unfilled positions will be reopened for applicants.

IX. Status of Needs Assessment

A total of 10 proposals were received, with the top four invited to present based on initial evaluations and scoring.

Presentations will occur on June 3rd, each vendor allotted 20 minutes, followed by Q&A, focused on follow-up questions developed by the committee. A final selection is expected shortly after the June 3rd presentations.

X. Human Services Director Report

Jerico gave brief updates on Expansion of tik borne illness initiatives, vaccination plans for the fall and research for additional grant opportunities.

XI. Community Human Services related items submitted by CHS members for update and discussion.

Sarah gave brief updates on the Transportation work group.

Committee discussed state and federal developments that are impacting the undocumented population.

XII. New business*

Veronica requested the phone numbers for ease of contact with members.

Alexandria will move forward reaching out to organize the contact information.

XIII. Next meeting Thursday, June 26th at 4:00pm

Veronica confirmed the next meeting date and time.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:01 pm. Quorum was lost and the meeting will need to be closed at the next meeting in June.