



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, April 24th, 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.

II. Acceptance of Agenda

Sue Motioned to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Amanda and accepted by all members in attendance.

III. Approval of Minutes from 3/27/2025

Suzanne motioned to approve the minutes it was seconded by Sarah and accepted by all members in attendance.

IV. Public Comment

No comment.

V. Wrap up of FY 26 Human Services and Substance Misuse Grant Cycle

Veronica discussed the next steps for Human Service and Substance Misuse. The committee's report was accepted by FINCOM and there will be a warrant article with

recommendations for Human Service and Substance Misuse Grants submitted pending selectboard approval. The money will be available July 1st, 2025.

Veronica discussed new additions to the contracts, wording that states that the Town's tax dollars are supporting local non-profits. There will be a requirement that the Town's logo be put on literature to show that taxpayers' dollars are being allocated.

There will also be a reception to invite recipients to be congratulated for the work they are doing and upcoming work to improve public relations.

Jerico discussed that in the contracts it will be a requirement to use the Network of Cares calendar for public events and regularly scheduled events.

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

Veronica and Jerico discussed past funding for the Human Services and Substance Misuse Grants.

The town has allocated \$650,000 for human services grants for the last five years, with the last adjustments made in 2018/2019.

A separate funding stream for substance misuse services, originally tied to cannabis sales, has ended. However, the town has promised continued funding, but not through the original cannabis tax.

The goal is to request funding for both substance misuse services and human services, maintaining current levels and in the upcoming year adjusting for inflation.

Committee members discussed what impacts they have been seeing in the community regarding loss of federal funding and loss of other anticipated grants.

VII. New Opiate Grant Application and process

Jerico demonstrated how to find the Grant application on the Town's website. Applications are due by May 21, 2025 & the funds are available for use beginning July 1, 2025, and must be used by June 30, 2026. Organizations may apply for one or both grants. emphasis is on opioid-specific services, though programs addressing broader substance misuse with clear linkage to opioids will be considered.

Notifications have been sent to previous grant applicants and public notices have been published for three consecutive weeks in the Inquirer and Mirror.

VIII. Preparation for CHS, CRC review of potential structure change

A meeting to explore structural change will be scheduled soon with Friday mornings as the preferred time slot based on current availability. Input from all members will be sought and the goal is to include as many voices as possible.

IX. Human Services Director Report

10 applications received for bids, with Suzanne, Tara, and Lexi assisting in the evaluations committee.

The initial evaluation round is expected to be completed by May 7th. Following evaluation, the contract writing process with the selected agency will begin around one week after the evaluation phase.

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

Sarah gave updates on the Transportation Task Force Meeting and upcoming goals.

XI. New business

Veronica mentioned that there are 3 seats that are up for renewal this year and they should have been notified by the Town for renewal.

There is also a separate open seat, and people are encouraged to apply for that.

XII. Next meeting Thursday, May 22 at 4:00 pm

The meeting will be adjourned at the next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting will be adjourned at the next meeting as quorum was lost at 5:11 pm.