

CITY OF WEST HAVEN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 1, 2022, 6:00 p.m. City Hall 3rd floor Conference Room

The Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mark Bisaccia

Present: Members Carol Eagles, Colleen O'Connor, Victor Boras, Roberta Garlock, Michele Miller

Staff: Rosa Richardson, Mark Bisaccia Absent: Member Jeffrey Moreno

WH Child Development Center- Health Collaborative- Mark thanked Patrice Farquharson for being here this evening and everyone introduced themselves. Once introductions were complete, Mr. Bisaccia asked Patrice to provide an overview of the Child Development Center to the Committee.

She explained that the Center has been in existence for 44 years, 43 of which she has been with them. She explained the program and how it has grown over these years from 2 classrooms to 4 classrooms and now has the only Early Head Start Program for birth through age 3 in the State that works on a sliding scale, based on income. She works collaboratively with many agencies including the United Way and the Diaper Bank just to name a couple.

She stated that the program was shut down from March – June, 2020 and has remained open, other than individual classrooms being quarantined, since they have returned. She emphasized that without the Health Collaborative position, remaining open would have been a real challenge. These funds help to support the salary of a Fulltime pediatric nurse who is onsite. Over the past 3-4 weeks, there have been several COVID cases which have consumed a great amount of time.

Member O'Connor asked if this program still accepts Care 4 Kids? Yes, they do. Patrice went on to explain that beginning in September, the State began a sliding scale for this program. Member Miller

asked if this program uses NIAC. Yes, they do and Patrice is proud to say that the children in the program have scored very high.

Member Borrás thanked Patrice for providing this quality program to our families.

Mr. Bisaccia asked if she could estimate on the amount of time that the nurse and staff spend on COVID related work. Patrice estimated that approximately 75% of the Health Collaborative Nurse's time is spend on COVID related issues.

Ward Heittmann House Museum-/Roof Repair- Patrice explained that the Ward Heittmann House is the oldest in the city. CDA Assisted with the foundation repair- the entire house was lifted to do the work and unfortunately, the contractor did not complete the project to the engineering standards.

There is still much to be done, roof, siding, etc. Because of the regulations for historical home repairs, the cost is very high. For example, the roofing has to be wood, cedar shingles. State Rep. Dorinda Borer was able to secure some funding for the roof project but still more is needed.

Member O'Connor asked if they were able to purchase the house adjacent that they discussed last year. The Museum Committee has purchased the home outright.

Patrice thanked the Committee for their time. She left at 6:45 p.m.

Bridges/ Elderly Case Management- Dawn Silver and Marcy Hotchkiss introduced themselves and then the Committee members did the same. Dawn Silver gave an overview of the program they provide to our Seniors. There has been an increase in anxiety, depression, and substance abuse since the pandemic hit. Bridges has a mobile crisis team has responded to many calls from WH Housing Authority, Doctors, families and even CDA. These calls are for welfare checks, and intervention. The Crisis team will assess situations and decide if the individual needs to go to the hospital. Bridges provides appropriate support once the individual is discharged.

Bridges has opened a satellite clinic at 98 Elm Street. They provide outpatient treatment and support to children, adults and the elderly. They provide outpatient programs 3 hours per day, 3 days per week. There is a daytime and an evening program. Bridges hopes to provide this program at the Elm Street location in the near future.

Dawn and Marcy thanked the CDA and Committee for their continued support. They left at 7:10 p.m.

Rape Crisis of Milford/ Victim Services- After formal introductions, Mr. Vitti that the Committee for their continued support. They gave an overview of the services they provide to victims. Ms. Pisano explained that the funds provided by West Haven CDBG are used toward victim services for children under the age of 18. During the previous Program year, there were 53 victims who received these services. Ms. Richardson said that each time she receives quarterly reports, she gets very upset.

Rape Crisis Center has a wonderful relationship with the West Haven Police Dept. As well as the Board of Education and UNH. They are very thankful for the collaboration and support they receive from these organizations. They cannot thank the Committee enough for their continued support.

Mr. Vitti and Ms. Pisano left at 7:25 p.m.

Columbus House/ Supportive Housing- Ms. Carolyn Perez, Director of Housing Services, introduced herself and apologized for coming on the wrong day. After formal interviews, she gave the Committee and overview of the program and how it works.

Currently, there are 23 in the supportive housing program. These clients have Case Managers and receive all the necessary assistance needed in order to be successful. If they are employable, they receive training to assist them in getting employment. They receive addictive and mental health

services as needed, and they receive assistance in the application process for SSI and other services when required/ needed. Connect them with a primary care doctor or assist in getting the clients vaccinated.

Ms. Richardson asked how one would go about referring someone to Columbus House who is homeless. She said that they must go through 211 and choose option 3 or option 1. There are occasions where someone will walk into City Hall seeking guidance and we would want to point them in the right direction.

The Committee members thanked her for the services they provide. Ms. Perez left at 7:45 p.m.

REALTY, INC. / Summer Basketball Clinic – After formal Introductions and an apology for not attending last week, Mr. Tyrese Sullivan stated that he is currently the Supervisor of Outreach Program where they go out on the streets, knock on doors and visit homes of those students who are not attending school. When they are not knocking on doors, he is in the high School supervising In School Suspension (ISS). He is also the WHHS Boys Basketball Coach.

He then proceeded to give an overview for the Day Camp Program. It is a 4 week pilot program where the participants are engaged in activities to enhance their academic knowledge while utilizing and increasing their skills in basketball. Counselors work with the children on Reading and writing enticing them with the understanding that they will learn and/or refine skills in the sport of basketball. All children receive breakfast, lunch and snacks. Winkle bus provided much needed transportation in the neediest areas of the city as well.

Last year, there were 25 High School aged students who were hired to assist in this program where 250 children were enrolled as well as 3 Adult Supervisors. The goal for this year is an 8 week program with a maximum enrollment of 250.

Mr. Bisaccia asked Mr. Sullivan about the DUNS number received for this organization and explained that it under another organization. Mr. Sullivan explained that he gave him an incorrect number but he does have a Duns # for the current organization and is registered with the State. Mr. Sullivan also stated that the State certification for Realty, Inc. is incorrect and he is, in fact, the President of this organization. Mr. Bisaccia asked Mr. Sullivan to just forward, to him, the minutes of the meeting where he was voted President. He also explained that there was an issue with a previous Non-profit because he neglected to complete all appropriate documents. Mr. Sullivan stated he is working with the state to try to move this current organization to a non-profit status.

Mr. Bisaccia explained that the BOE had provided the venue along with supplies and basketballs yet Mr. Sullivan stated on the application that there was no other source collaborating with his organization. Mr. Sullivan apologized and stated that he was unclear on this question and answered incorrectly.

Mr. Bisaccia explained that by using CDBG funds, an organization is responsible for submitting quarterly reports with all appropriate documentation as back-up before funds are dispersed. He asked Mr. Sullivan to forward the enrollment application to CDA and emphasized that the application has to include demographic information such as income level, race, whether or not they are Latino or Hispanic. Ms. Richardson will forward a Quarterly Report form to Mr. Sullivan to review. Mr. Sullivan believes that 75% of the participants were low/mod last year.

Mr. Bisaccia stated that the budget supplied to the committee was substantially incomplete and that Mr. Sullivan would need to submit a complete budget to the committee ASAP, along with multiple other items.

The Committee was in agreement that this is a great program. CDA would like to reach out to the Recreation Dept. and the BOE as well as Summer Youth Employment to see if we can collaborate to keep this program a success and provide necessary administrative support.

Mr. Bisaccia informed Mr. Sullivan that he will put together a checklist of the necessary required documents, many of which he had provided this evening, as well as offering any further assistance from the CDA Staff.

Mr. Sullivan thanked the Committee and CDA. He left at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rosa Richardson

*please note: these minutes are subject to approval.

