



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Youth & Social Services Board

Meeting Minutes - Draft Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Mikayla Bozym

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

5:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85670609917?pwd=XpOrDed3sB7XJyT4izLZgurzufCzzs.1>

Meeting ID: 856 7060 9917 Passcode: 002354

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bozym called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building.

II. ROLL CALL

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Present | Community-at-Large Representative Maria Nott |
| | Community-at-Large Representative Charlene Rand |
| | Chairman Mikayla E. Bozym |
| | School System Representative Heather Shipley |
| Absent | Police Department Representative Dan Grimm |
| | Under Age 21 Representative Mackenzie Hope |

In addition, the following were present:

April Brunelle, Town Council Liason

Kristen Chapman, Social Services Coordinator

Karen Goetchuis, Administrator School Nurses, Youth Services, Municipal Agent

Noami Rodriguez - Chairman Town Council

III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

Councilor Brunelle thanked members for volunteering for the Board and offered a treat for members present at the meeting. Ms. Brunelle thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

V. MEMBER COMMENTS

None

VI. REPORTS**1. Social Services Report**

TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT
Report for Ledyard Social Services
January - March 2024

Food Pantry Statistics

January 2024

Total Client Visits - 93

Total # of Eligible Clients Served - 157

Unduplicated Households Served - 66

February 2024

Total Client Visits - 98

Total # of Eligible Clients Served - 155

Unduplicated Households Served - 65

March 2024

Total Client Visits - 109

Total # of Eligible Clients Served - 195

Unduplicated Households Served - 77

Total New Clients January - 1

Total New Clients February - 4

Total New Clients March - 4

Total New Clients 2024 YTD - 9

Referrals - January - March 2024

211 - 1

LICEAF - 5

Salvation Army - 2

State Department of Social Services - 3

TVCCA Other - 1

Social Services Account Balances

Linda C. Davis Food Pantry - \$86,066.56

Parks & Rec Camp Scholarships - \$5000.00

LYS Enrichment Grant - Parks & Recreation Scholarships ARPA - \$0.00

S.S. Miscellaneous Assistance - \$3481.30

Discussion

Ms. Chapman stated she is receiving more requests for LICEAF (Ledyard Inter Church Emergency Assistance Fund) grants. Housing continues to be an issue. Ms. Chapman shared that not all requests are forwarded to the LICEAF Board. There is a \$2000 limit for the grant

through LICEAF. Ms. Chapman noted that residents whom have already received a Notice to Quit are not candidates for LICEAF grants. LICEAF assists residents facing an emergency/cirists with one time monetary assistance. Clients should be able demonstrate an ability to maintain housing if the assistance is received.

Ms. Chapman shared that TVCCA (Thames Valley Council For Community Action) Energy Assistance applications are closed for the season. Ms. Chapman stated she was able to assist two residents that had exhausted the TVCCA funds with Salvation Army funding for energy.

Chairman Rodriguez asked for clarification regarding unduplicated households. Ms. Chapman stated that unduplicated is the total number of households served each month. In the month of March 77 unduplicated households received assistance. Of those households some visited the pantry twice for a total of 109 client visits. Ms. Chapman shared that all guests are welcome to place orders every two weeks.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. MOTION to approve the Youth & Social Services Board regular meeting minutes of December, 7, 2023.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Charlene Rand

SECONDER: Maria Nott

AYE 4 Nott Rand Bozym Shipley

ABSENT 2 Grimm Hope

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any Old Business proper to come before the Board

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation of Youth Services Supervisor April 2024

Karen Goetchius, Administrator School Nurses, Youth Services, Municipal Agent, shared an update on the vacancy of the Youth Services Coordinator. Ms. Goetchius stated that the Youth Services department has been one person with interns and shared details regarding the operation of the department. Ms. Goetchius stated that the Mayor asked her to come in last year to evaluate the department and Ms. Gotchius brought in a consultant to assist with the assessment. Ms. Goetchius added the department did not take Insurance. The determination was the department is not needed at this time.

Ms. Nott asked if we were going to continue to counsel kids.

Ms. Goetchius replied that the Mayor has chosen not to fund the Youth Services Department moving forward as to fund the department the way it should be funded would require an

administrator as well as the supervisor role. The cost to fund the department properly would be approximately \$250,000 with benefits. Ms. Goetchius shared there have been conversations with the Board of Education. Ms. Goetchius stated that Ms. Frost will continue to work under the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and works two days a week currently counseling 11/12 students. Ms. Frost is seeing students in the schools and the office at Town Hall will remain available for after hours and summer appointments. Ms. Goetchius stated that we would like the Board of Education to hire two more clinicians as the funding will go away if not used. Ms. Goethius shared that the Town would like move this role to the Board of Education as all of the students were part of the school system. Ms. Goetchius added that this will not be a duplication with the School Based Health Clinic as they are full in every school. Ms. Goetchius shared that many current students served by Youth Services have graduated successfully and others have been referred to the School Based Health Clinic or continue to be seen by Ms. Frost. Moving forward the calls will go to the Board of Education to handle and discussions are ongoing. Ms. Goetchius stated as for Youth Services on the Town side, the Youth Services Department will not be funded.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Nomination & Election of 2024 Board Officers

Ms. Chapman shared that this item was a carryover from the January Board meeting that was cancelled. At this time No Action will be taken. Ms. Chapman shared that once the fiscal year 2025 budget is approved and the Youth Services Department has been officially removed, she will work with Ms. Maher to revise the Ordinance overseeing the Board. The Board will be revised to be a Social Services Board. This will need to go through the Administration Committee and be approved by the Town Council. Once that process is completed, members willing to continue to serve will be appointed to the new Board under the new Ordinance. Ms. Chapman added that this Board has been particularly difficult to fill due to stipulations tied the Youth Services grant funding. Ms. Chapman stated that the new Board can have seven electors of the Town, and will not require roles such as Private Agency or Police representative. Ms. Chapman added it would still be wonderful to have those folks but will not be constrained by those roles. Ms. Chapman reiterated that No Action will be taken and when we do reconvene again a Special Organization Meeting will be held under the revised Ordinance.

RESULT: WITHDRAWN

3. 2024 School Supply Drive

Ms. Chapman shared that there were many more students last year. Ms. Chapman shared that many donations were received but she also had to utilize monetary donations to purchase supplies at Walmart. Ms. Chapman stated she would like to hold a supply drive at one of the Farmer's Market dates this summer. Ms. Chapman will still put out a wish list and people can donate at Town Hall. Ms. Chapman shared she is hoping to host the drive on August 7th and if we are able to host the drive at the Farmer's market she feels we will receive more than enough supplies.

Ms. Shipley asked if this was something that could be shared on the PTO pages? Ms. Chapman replied that once a date is confirmed we can share it on Social Media and she also hopes to place this in the summer edition of Events Magazine. Ms. Chapman stated that information about

Social Services can also be shared at this event. Ms. Shipley asked for what types of supplies are included. Ms. Chapman shared she works with the Board of Education to obtain a supply list for Elementary, Middle and High School to place in the backpacks. Ms. Shipley added that she often hears students state they are unable to complete a project at home as they don't have scissors or another item needed. Ms. Chapman stated that the Elementary supplies include scissors, glue sticks and other supplies to have at home.

Ms. Bozym inquired if we could include CFA (Child & Family Agency) now that they are in our schools with the School Base Health Centers. Ms. Chapman replied yes.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. 2024 Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Scholarships

Ms. Chapman shared the application for Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Scholarships. Ms. Chapman stated there were no changes from last year to the income guidelines. Ms. Chapman added funding for this program is difficult and the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding allocated is gone. Ms. Chapman stated there is \$5000 going into this year. Depending on income levels, 100% is not always funded and there is a \$1000 cap per household. Ms. Chapman stated that \$5000 will only go so far. Applications are time stamped and processed in the order received. Ms. Chapman added that some towns utilize tax payer funds for scholarships, but we do not, scholarships are donation based. Ms. Chapman shared that Scott Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director approached her and will be launching a process to collect donations through myrec.org. Similar to rounding up at the grocery store, when residents register for a program, they will be asked if they would like to donate to the scholarship fund. Mr. Johnson has talked with other towns and some are able to raise over \$10,000. Ms. Chapman is hoping if this goes well we may be able to fund more scholarships throughout the year. Ms. Chapman stated she will still apply for grants and request donations and is open for more ideas on how to fundraise for scholarships. Ms. Chapman added that the Ledyard Rotary Foundation hosted a trivia event benefiting the scholarship fund and she is expecting a check for \$1000 from the Rotary.

Ms. Bozym stated that the cost went up this year. Ms. Chapman replied that the fee is \$175 per week and \$140 for the week of 4th of July. Ms. Chapman stated other towns use tax payer funds to subsidize summer camp, in Ledyard the program is self funded. Ms. Chapman added that the \$175 will include the cost of field trips. Previously field trips were charged weekly and varied in cost.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Any New Business proper to come before the Board

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Shipley moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded Ms. Rand.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

VOTE: 4 - 0 Approved and so declared

Respectively Submitted,

Chairman Bozym
Youth & Social Services Board

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.