

**Town of Barnstable  
Human Services Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2014**

**Names in BOLD indicate action items.**

**Present:**

Charles Hetzel, Heidi Nelson, Roy Richardson, Paul Thompson, (members), and Jen Cullum, Town Council Liaison to the committee

**Absent:**

Bill Doherty, Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Thomas

**Guests:**

**Order**

The meeting came to order at 4:15 p.m. We did not have a chair for the meeting today.

**Approve Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2014**

The minutes of the April 8, 2014 were approved as written (Hetzel motion, Richardson second).

**Review and Determination of Next Steps for HSC**

The group discussed and tentatively prioritized action items for presentation to the Town Council.

***Support the development and implementation of the YMCA Achievers Program at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center***

Jen has been working with Stacey and Stephen from the YMCA to implement this nationally recognized best practice program in Barnstable. The Achievers program identifies kids in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are faltering and need support to succeed through high school. National outcome data demonstrate positive results. She anticipates that the first cohort of students will be 20 in number. Tom Lynch has agreed to provide the needed space at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center (HYCC). Jen is seeking seed funds to start the program from Town restricted funds. She has also approached the Superintendent and the grant writers for the school district. The anticipated budget of \$100,000 for the first year will include funds for a full time director, accommodating 20 to 60 students. She plans to approach banks and businesses for support, and to create a local board. She has been working with Bridgewater State, which is creating a new campus on the Cape, to provide a four-year, free ride to students who complete the program. Roy suggested that Cynthia Brown from the Salvation Army be included in the planning. Stacey has experience implementing the program.

***Help parents and the community understand and navigate the substance abuse and mental health services systems.***

This recommendation is based on input from parents on the committee and guests who have presented their programs and made recommendations to the committee. More discussion needs to take place to define what the format would be for this kind of assistance.

***Promote community conversation on youth drug abuse prevention.***

This recommendation is to ask the Town Council to sponsor a community forum, similar to efforts in other towns on the Cape including Falmouth, Sandwich and Yarmouth.

***Support the Youth Commission***

The committee recommends: quality adult supervision and support; expanded diversity of youth participating in the council; and expansion to include additional schools, first in Barnstable and then other schools across the Cape.

***An issue that needs further development and discussion: Access to substance abuse treatment programs for Cape Cod teens and parents.***

We heard in presentations that parents have challenges finding appropriate services (outpatient, residential, alternative schools) on the Cape, and need to send their kids off Cape for treatment. What are the services available, how do Cape Cod youth and parents access those services, and how do we advocate for new services to be located on the Cape?

**Committee Business**

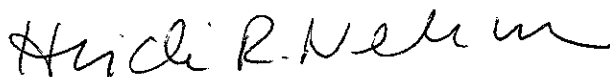
Scott will be returning to the committee as chair at the next meeting. Jen reported that he has an important site visit today at his program and therefore was unable to attend today.

At our next meeting, June 10, we will review the recommendations, endorse the recommendations, plan a meeting with Brian Mannal to review the recommendations with him, and establish a target date to meet with the Town Council.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Nelson  
Secretary and CEO, Duffy Health Center