

**Town of Barnstable
Human Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2014**

Names in BOLD indicate action items.

Present:

Scott Fitzgerald (chair), Charles Hetzel, Heidi Nelson, Roy Richardson, Mark Thomas, (members).

Absent:

Bill Doherty, Paul Thompson, Jen Cullum

Guests:

Order

The meeting came to order at 4:15 p.m.

Approve Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2014

The minutes of the May 13, 2014 were approved as written (Hetzel motion, Thomas second).

Review and Determination of Next Steps for HSC

The purpose of today's meeting is to review and endorse the recommendations of the committee that were developed on May 13.

Mark asked if the Y program will make a difference in reducing teen substance use. Scott said he saw a huge transformation in Springfield when the Achievers program was implemented there- it re-vitalized a variety of community centers.

Heidi reported that Barnstable County is working on a behavioral health navigation website, the purpose of which is to provide information to the community about services available and directs consumers, friends and family on how to access those services. Heidi suggested that we can invite Beth Albert, County Director of Health and Human Services, to present her department's work at a future meeting.

For the Prevention Forum recommendation, we decided that next steps will involve contacting Gosnold and identifying key leaders in the community to plan the forum.

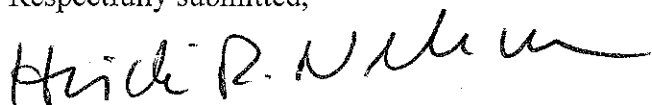
Members questioned who sponsors the Youth Commission. We also discussed how the group can reach beyond the schools to identify other youth who might benefit from leadership development.

For the 'to be developed' idea- identifying gaps in services for youth on the Cape- we concluded the next step would be to inventory services available and identify gaps.

We projected that our presentation to the Town Council will be in October, and we can work on our presentation between now and then. [at a later date, we learned that our presentation is scheduled for July.]

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi R. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Heidi Nelson
Secretary and CEO, Duffy Health Center

Revised recommendations:

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

Jen Cullum, Barnstable Town Council and Stacey Peugh from the YMCA are working together to implement this nationally recognized best practice program in Barnstable. The Achievers program identifies students in 8th grade who are faltering and need support to succeed through high school. National outcome data demonstrate positive results. The first cohort of students will be 20 in number. The Town Manager has tentatively agreed to provide the needed space at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center (HYCC). Planners will be seeking seed funds to start the program, from Town restricted funds, the schools, and local banks and businesses. The anticipated budget of \$100,000 for the first year will include funds for a full time director, accommodating 20 to 60 students. A local advisory board will be developed. Bridgewater State, which is creating a new campus on the Cape, will be approached to provide a four-year, free ride to students who complete 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 including Learn to Cope who have presented their programs and made recommendations to the committee. Barnstable County Health and Human Services Department has developed a website to meet this need: a resource for individuals, families and agencies concerned with behavioral health. The website provides information about behavioral health services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other features. The Network of Care helps information seekers find what they need, through a 'no wrong door' approach.

Promote community conversation on youth drug abuse prevention.

The Committee recommends that Town Council sponsor a community forum, similar to efforts in other towns on the Cape including Falmouth, Sandwich and Yarmouth. The first step will be to form a planning committee including Gosnold and the school district.

Support the Youth Commission

The committee recommends enhancements to the Youth Commission: 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.

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? The first step would be to inventory the services available for youth and identify gaps.