

Town of Barnstable  
Human Services Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday October 11, 2016

**Present:** Scott Fitzgerald (Chair), Charlie Hetzel, Stacie Peugh, Meaghan Mort

**Absent:**

**Guests:**

None

**Order:**

The meeting came to order at 5:04 p.m.

**Minutes**

The reading of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting. `

**New Member/Member Introductions and overviews provided by current members of the last few years work**

New Member Meaghan Mort shared with us some of her experiences as a citizen and as a recipient of services in her younger years. She shared a letter dealing with concerns about implementation of “No Wrong Door Polices” which appear to have left many substance abuse clients stranded. The issue appears to surround some agencies misinforming possible clients that they must be “users” before they can receive services.

For orientation and review each of the committee members provided Meaghan with our perspectives on the work of the last few years beginning with the issues surrounding drug and alcohol abuse, prevention programs, workshops, work with the youth and the Barnstable Youth Commission, Public Information Programs and the advent of new programs for local teens now fostered by the YMCA and Hyannis Youth and Recreation Center among others, and our efforts to examine related mental health and housing issues that have been emerging over the last few months including the travel to Portland, Maine by various members of the committee and other agencies to examine ways of dealing with homelessness.

Meghan shared a number of her ideas and concerns regarding housing, sexual and reproductive health services and the existence of a model Martha's Vineyard transportation program.

**Lt. Governor’s Meeting regarding Housing Problems and Possible Study Opportunity:**

Stacie Peugh provided us with a brief summary of a meeting conducted by the Lt. Governor with a number of local agencies and political figures as well as a follow up meeting. The Lt. Governor held the follow up meeting with the cape delegation and town officials to determine further needs and how a research project assigned to Rose Evans, Ma. Deputy Undersecretary might be helpful. Out of that

meeting, Ms. Evans sought input from the Town on how they could best support the Town's efforts. Mark Ells reported that more beds are needed immediately and the State could help with that. Better leadership for the NOAH Shelter was reported as needed and the recent announcement about Catholic Services taking over the shelter operations was communicated as a step in the right direction. The business community requested an assessment of the quality of social services surrounding Main Street Hyannis. Ms. Evans stated they will be working to help with the feasibility study for a permanent supportive housing model.

Stacie Peugh requested that the Barnstable Human Services Committee see if we could access the town funds that were set aside earlier this spring to conduct a professional review and ranking of the quality of the local social service agencies around Main Street Hyannis (list provided by Chief MacDonald). She suggested that our committee could assist the business district and greater community by providing answers around effective social services to support homeless clients and how they rank.

**Related issues and future plans:**

The committee decided to invite Scott Fitzmaurice to our next meeting to discuss the connections between jobs, transportation and housing.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for further review and corrections by,

  
Charlie Hetzel  
(Acting as temporary Secretary for Heidi Nelson)

p.s. Many thanks to Stacie Peugh for assistance in recalling facts surrounding the Lt. Gov. and related meetings.  
p.p.s. this nov 8 draft includes two corrections from Heidi Nelson. Thanks again. CWH