

**Town of Barnstable
Human Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

Names in BOLD indicate action items.

Present:

Scott Fitzgerald (chair), Robin Gunderson, Heidi Nelson (recorder), and Steven Xiarhos

Absent:

Deb Krau, Meghan Mort, Stacie Peugh, Heather Stassel, and Jen Cullum, Town Council Liaison

Guests:

Christine Menard, Executive Director, Family Pantry of Cape Cod

Order:

The meeting came to order at 6:07 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved as written (Gunderson motion, Xiarhos second).

Public Comment

None.

Discussion

We welcomed Christine Menard of the Family Pantry of Cape Cod. Scott started by sharing his excitement for the committee as we evolve with new members and new energy. He explained to Christine that the Cape Cod Healthcare Community Health Needs Assessment highlighted food insecurity as a significant health problem in the service area. Our committee's goal is to identify gaps and make recommendations.

Christine explained that the mission of the Family Pantry is to serve all on Cape Cod, making it possible to live and support a family on the Cape. The Family Pantry hosts a significant warehouse. The Greater Boston Food Bank delivers to FP in Harwich, and the other pantries go to FP to pick up.

Transportation is their biggest challenge. 30% of pantry users are from the town of Barnstable. Last year FP served 9500 people, feeding 400 families per week. Families can come every other week. 30% of the food distributed is fresh. 30% of the students at Cape Cod Community College are food insecure, and FP operates a pantry there. Students can come weekly and take one bag of food. FP also operates a Mobile Pantry whereby seniors can go to their Councils on Aging and order food, and then pick it up the following month. Finally, there was a 22% increase in pantry users over the summer, and half the pantry users are limited English speaking.

Christine mentioned that a priority is to get the word out among Barnstable residents that FP is available to them. Her view is that there is no pantry in Barnstable because there is a perception that there are too many human service agencies in Barnstable, and there is access through other programs in other towns. Family Pantry is interested in helping the Human Services Committee to achieve its goals.

Next Steps

Our next two meetings will be on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. and January 9 at 5:00 p.m. **Heidi** will identify an organization to provide a presentation on mental health first aid training on the Cape, and someone from the PIER Recovery Center to talk about recovery programming on the Cape. We discussed our desire to have our Council liaison Jen Cullum attend a meeting to learn about what we are working on.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Nelson
Duffy Health Center and Secretary to Committee

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.