



**Human Services Committee**  
**367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**5:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. BUSINESS**

**A. Roll Call:** Chair Cheryl Powell took roll call: The Governor's office protocol for remote participation due to Covid restrictions is no longer in effect therefore this meeting was held in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

**Members present:** Cheryl Powell (Chair); Suzanne Welch, Wendy Crocker (5:40 PM), Sheree Kay (Missi), Kimberly Crocker-Crowther and Kevin Matthews (6:00 PM)

**Members absent:** Rep. Steven Xiarhos

**I. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Roll Call
- Discuss report to be given to Town Council
- Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Hybrid Meeting Schedule
- Information gathering and cataloging.
- Roles and reports
- Guest speaker (s) and planning
- Public Comment
- Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
- Adjourn

Chair of Committee Cheryl Powell opened the meeting at 5:34pm and did a Roll Call of members present. (See above) The meeting began with a confirmation of quorum and instructions for participation. She also thanked Patrick Downey (Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod) for his attendance at this meeting.

Chair of Committee started the meeting by announcing "In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws informed that the meeting would be replayed on Xfinity Channel 8 and HD Channel 107". It was also mentioned that the meeting would be accessible on the government access channel and video on demand archives on the Town of Barnstable website.

Chair of Committee moved forward with addressing the agenda items; the December meeting minutes were approved as submitted with Chair of Committee member Powell making the motion which was seconded by Committee member Crocker-Crowther. The Hybrid Meeting item still needs to be discussed. Next, Cheryl reported that there is no update to the Information gathering and cataloging item at this time. Committee member Welsh is continuing to pursue potential speakers to attend our

meetings. It was mentioned that Gosnald did do a presentation last year. Committee Chair Powell will invite Baycore, Barnstable Police and Fire Departments to our next meeting to discuss coordination of resources. Two future meetings should be scheduled with the first being conducted in a Focus Group setting with specific questions being addressed. The second meeting can then be used to review and discuss the information gleaned from Meeting #1. Both meetings need to be posted as an “Invitation to Attend” to the general public on the Town Website and bulletin board. The following two general information update items were presented 1) Duffy has new things in place and 2) the Council of Churches now has a food pantry. Patrick Downey (Guest) stated that there are now Recovery Coaches on site, but no follow up plan has been established.

Committee member Matthews stated that he had reached out to the Town of Bourne Human Services Chair re: their Resource Guide and complemented her on its success. He did inquire as to the possibility of using their template for our Guide and was told that there was no problem in doing so. Also, he was told that the development of the Bourne guide was done with grant funding. There was a discussion as to the format of our Guide and the general consensus is to list both Barnstable services (first) and remaining Cape resources (second.)

Chair of Committee Powell then gave an update from Town Council Member Lutke re: Community Housing Partners HACK (Housing Assistance Corporation) program which is a voucher program similar to Section 8. Recently, they quietly opened a new homeless shelter at 460 West Main replacing the Winter Street facility operated by St. Joseph’s. There is significant concern that this new location is not suitable for a shelter facility and, more importantly, why was this relocation not actively discussed at Town meetings. Committee member Crocker-Crowther inquired as to “who manages the facility?”

Committee member Welsh gave an update on the ongoing gun shooting activity at Shallow Pond. She called the Barnstable Police Department and the Environmental Police to report that guns were being fired from the island while kids were ice skating and men ice fishing. It was mentioned that there is a free resource service called “Lawyer of the Day” with the Barnstable Court and that they may be helpful in providing legal guidance in this area.

As there was no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM was made by Kimberly Crocker-Crowther and seconded by Kevin Matthews.

**Next Meeting: February 11, 2025.**

