

**Town of Barnstable
Human Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 13, 2017**

Names in BOLD indicate action items.

Present:

Scott Fitzgerald (chair), Robin Gunderson, Heidi Nelson (recorder), Stacie Peugh, and Heather Strassel

Absent:

Christopher McMillan, Meaghan Mort, and Jen Cullum, Town Council Liaison

Guests:

Order:

The meeting came to order at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting were approved as written (Peugh motion, Strassel second).

Public Comment

None.

Discussion

Scot led us in a review of the items suggested by Lisa Guyon for future committee focus (found on the third page of the April 4, 2017 meeting minutes, and copied here):

- Insurance coverage especially for low-income and non-English-speaking residents
- Learning about the services offered by the two health centers located in Barnstable
- Physical activity and healthy food
- Mental Health First Aid Training to first responders
- Emphasis on supporting caregivers
- Cancer prevention, education and screening
- HPV prevention through vaccination
- Recovery support for addiction
- Detection and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Chlamydia is on the rise)
- Hepatitis C
- Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses
- Promotion of community-based services for behavioral health

Heather commented that Lyme is a serious issue that needs more attention; she has a friend who is affected.

Robin offered that promoting mental health first aid for first responders in Barnstable provides a focus with a direct link to the town.

Stacie questioned and we had a discussion about how we select the issue of focus. Heidi and Scot responded that our practice in the past has been to identify issues and research them; find out what's going on and identify gaps. In past years we have focused on homelessness and youth and substance use disorders. We talked about our function, which is to advise town council, and that sometimes issues have traction, and sometimes they don't.

Heidi suggested that a good place to start is Lisa's suggested list of issues. **Heidi offered to invite Beth Albert**, Director of Human Services for Barnstable County, to come and talk with us about what is already happening in these areas, and help us to identify speakers who can come and educate us about the various issues on the list. Heidi suggested that issues for focus can be prioritized by the seriousness of the issue, the lack of resources or attention provided to the issue, or the issue that may have the simplest solution.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Nelson
Duffy Health Center and Secretary to Committee

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.