



Human Services Committee
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
June 14, 2022
5:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call: Administrator Cynthia Lovell took roll call: All members participating remotely due to the extension from the Governor's office protocol due to Covid restrictions.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/89663401629> Meeting ID: 896 6340 1629
One tap mobile 888 475 4499 US Toll-free 833 548 0276 US Toll-free Meeting ID: 896 6340 1629

Members present: Cheryl Powell, (Chair); Carlos Barbosa; Meaghan Mort; Liz Rabideau; Rep Steven Xiarhos; Scott Fitzgerald

Chair of the Committee asked for any Public Comment, seeing none on the Zoom screen, Chair of Committee mentioned the newest member interested in joining has an interview with the Appointments Committee in July at their next meeting, so that will bring the total of the Committee to 7 which is great news if the Appointments Committee decides to recommend her to the Full Council after her interview. Chair of Committee asked the Committee members where they would like to see this Committee focus on, this was a discussion of our last meeting.

Meaghan Mort mentioned works with mental health issues, and works in the pediatric field especially, would like to see a faster pace for these pediatric patients to receive the care they need more swiftly, often these pediatric patients stay for far too long in the Emergency Rooms for care.

Chair of the Committee asked Meaghan about the Pediatric beds that she had concerns about, she works for a health care center that takes calls from Hospitals regarding boarding, or pediatric patients staying in Emergency Rooms longer than 4 hours, and if there is anything that this Committee can do to speed up that process, or bring attention to the problem, she would be grateful, or look at the State to expand the pediatric bed situation, there are just not enough beds to accommodate the need. She would also like Representative Xiarhos to share his information regarding Veteran's and the services that are available to them, most do not know, so we need to get that out as well, the other issue is sex education in Barnstable. Is there a program, or do we offer anything to educate the students, we are in a changing world right now, and Massachusetts is a great place to be right now, but education is a key element.

Carlos agrees with everything Meagan asked for and mentioned, we need to form partnerships with some of the outside agencies to reinforce some of the programs. Perhaps we could invite leaders from other organizations to come and speak to us regarding what they are facing and possibly pool our resources to help those that need it. Carlos told a story about a student that would wait outside the dumpster at a school just to get food for his family to eat, luckily this student received the help that they desperately needed, but there are so many that are afraid to ask and afraid to participate in these programs, however if we could bring them to the individuals in an environment they feel safe in, such as their churches.

Liz Rabideau is a strong supporter of the mental health, and has worked with Meaghan on various issues, but women's health is the top priority in her Agenda, as she has worked in these areas and would like to see this also be a priority. Autism is another area of concern and getting those adults with Autism what they need and support them in their everyday life.

Representative Xiarhos mental health, as a police officer he saw it, and has dealt with it, addiction is another area that needs attention, not only alcohol, but opioids as well, overdose deaths, he knows a lot of parents that have lost their kids, Veteran's is another area of expertise and also the active duty individuals, we tend to forget about those still serving, and housing is another big issue, none of these are no surprises, he is still learning the government, and how it works. If this Committee can bring three topics to the forefront, and then to the State level for funding. We should be the leaders of the Cape.

Chair of the Committee thought the idea of having guest speakers would be beneficial to the Committee, that have knowledge of each one of these topics, so that we can include them all. Chair of Committee mentioned an email from some students that during the school year were doing a project on mental health in Youth, she may not be able to get those individuals now, but we will keep them in mind for September when school starts again. Chair of the Committee will reach out to the Youth Commission to secure that, but in the meantime Chair Powell will consult with others she is familiar with and ask if they would like to come to our next meeting.

Chair of the Committee introduced a form to the Committee for discussion and asked Administrator Lovell to circulate it to our Communications Director, and Legal to make sure the form complied with the Town, but the form is to be used to Organizations that may have links for individuals, or resources that need to be listed for our residents, and this form would stream line that process if allowed to be used. The Chair asked that at the next meeting this be discussed.

HUMAN SERVICES DATABASE – TOWN OF BARNSTABLE The Human Services Committee is formulating a new database of human services in the town. We would, of course, like to include your information. Could you please provide the following: NAME OF ORGANIZATION/SERVICE: _____

CONTACT
DETAILS: _____
Address: _____
_____ Contact phone
number/s: _____ Website
address: _____

We would be interested in appearing before the Human Services Committee to discuss the great services we offer: Yes _____ No _____ Services performed for the Town of Barnstable (please feel free to also provide a brochure): I grant permission for this information to be listed and provided for/to the community, and I confirm that I am authorized to do so. We will also endeavor to provide updates on contact and service information when changes arise, or at least on an annual basis.

Name: _____
Position: _____
Date: _____

Chair of Committee asked for the meeting minutes of May 10, 2022 to be accepted. Meaghan Mort made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 10, 2022, this was seconded by Liz Robideau, Administrator Lovell took a Roll Call Vote

Liz Rabideau	yes
Cheryl Powell	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	yes

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously, and will be posted on the website.

Chair of Committee asked for a motion to adjourn, Scott Fitzgerald made the motion to adjourn, Carlos Barbosa seconded the motion, Administrator Lovell took a Roll Call Vote:

Liz Rabideau	yes
Cheryl Powell	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Meaghan Mort	yes
Representative Stephen Xiarhos	yes

ADJOURN: 6:30pm

NEXT MEETING: TBD