

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR HUMAN SERVICES (CHS)

MINUTES – January 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm

Present were Council members: Claudia Valle, Brooke Mohr, Sindy Rivera, Vanessa Rendeiro, Joseline Ramirez, Athalyn Sweeney, Daryl Westbrook

Staff Present: Rachel Day, Jerico, Ann Medina

Member of Public: Kelly Steffen

This meeting is being held remotely via ZOOM because of COVID-19 and the suspension of all public gatherings. All members of the public are encouraged to watch the video conference.

Brooke confirmed that all were present and that they could hear her. Each vote will be done by a roll call. If any members of the public are present who would like to participate please state name.

Motion to approve agenda: Daryl, Athalyn, Brooke, Joselin, Vanessa, Sindy
Claudia: yes

Motion to approve minutes of December 7, 2020: Daryl, Brooke, Athalyn, Sindy, Claudia, Vanessa, Joselin: yes

Item 5 on the agenda Summary based on recommendation to form a task force, the Healthy Community Collaborative meeting last Thursday took up reins in the last ten days with assistance from the Town. Flyer distributed to community, Family Resource Center (FRC), and people seeking help do in-take at FRC and they are sent to the agency that provides the services they are seeking. FRC has been providing these services and they are ready to expand. Flyers will be distributed at FRC in a week or so to do assessment, be prepared for more emails and calls.

Phase 2: Schools, markets, churches, businesses through the Chamber of Commerce. There is help folks can ask for in the community, hopefully this will serve as a model during and after COVID. What we are going to do immediately is ask the Immigration Resource Center and request to Community Foundation for Nantucket (CFAN) to finance a Linguistica Account to be shared by all Human Services agencies. Brooke: hope this will prove the need for interpretation services. Will the town pay for this service? Sindy: FRC do they plan on putting information on their web-site? Brooke will make sure they update their site, multi-lingual capacity on their voicemail, response time is 48 hours. Athalyn clarified that some agencies have multilingual staff, the Interfaith Council have interpreters, but they are overwhelmed already. The long-term goal is to have locals do this work and be compensated. Vanessa: When is the FRC going to start? They are already doing it, cards will be printed this week, it would be great if they get Facebook updated too. We want to get people access to services, but we don't want FRC to get overwhelmed. Athalyn: would add one thing, get Linguistica put on FCR website how it works and that someone will be calling them back, big on letting people know what to expect.

The January 25th community forum panel: who is going to participate? First: translation and interpreter services, can we use on Zoom live plug-in? Debate merits of using local folks to translate or try a more 'techie' solution. Vanessa: Share experiences in November in an event there were more than 200 in Zoom meeting, organizer provided interpreters, there is a function in Zoom, panelists were talking, they were there live, and they were interpreting for panelists. It is a webinar, if you have individuals willing to do it, close captioning simultaneous then live translator services where folks are waiting. What do you think about alternatives? Close captioning will not allow to ask questions. Is there any potential funding? Rachel: not sure, find out the cost beforehand, there may be funds. Sindy: Can we reach out to Community School, they have contacts in Boston, interpreters who do it for a living, she could reach out to them. Brooke: get this nailed down in the next week or so.

Athalyn: is it important to talk about what language it would be important to have? Spanish and Portuguese seems to be the most need for. There is Bulgarian and other Eastern European languages too. Panelists questions: Athalyn worked up a short list of question, a quick introduction, then a brief description of what the agency provides to the community, give us insight into what they provide a family during COVID, what we should consider as a council. Daryl: in the interest of time all introductions should be brief. Athalyn: in regard to keeping description of agency brief, a lot of people will know the panelists and understand who is talking and what they offer.

Third section: Community outreach and publicity, post on Town's Facebook page, the schools, Human Services agencies, invite people you know. We will be setting up a webinar, user specific, attendees only by voice there will not be a video link, hopefully people will join us. The topic will be on "Parenting Through COVID". Brooke has a whole list to send this out to.

Athalyn: areas we may be missing, how are we going to use this information. Brooke: we can have that as an agenda item. Athalyn: panel discussion, we will take information and talk about it in future meetings. Did we decide if CHS is going to be a panelist? Weigh positive and negative of having CHS panelist, so that people will know wo you are. Couldn't the names be listed and just a voice introduction. There is a feature that if you want you could be on screen and then when someone's camera goes off, they just go off. Does anyone want to be MC? Vanessa thinks Brooke should host, introduce herself to the immigrant community, Sindy do you want to co-host? Sindy said yes, being from different backgrounds makes people more comfortable. Brooke will do an introduction and Sindy will do it in Spanish and Vanessa will do it in Portuguese, it will feel welcoming, lets plan a meeting to get our ducks in a row. If this is a webinar will town people be there or just CHS members? What if there is technical difficulty? Someone from the town will have to be available to make sure we have technical support. Does the public have to register for webinar? Yes. Rachel explained the CHS committee make-up, this committee was inactive, a Needs Assessment survey was done by CHS, a lot of the time

there wasn't a lot of focus to get the group going. CHS had to be a nine-member board, this was passed at town meeting, it is a seven member board right now, to change to a seven member board it would have to go to town meeting, hopefully after the next town meeting, June 5, 2021, CHS can be a nine member board again, make sure the warrant has it as a nine member boards, Erika Mooney does the advertising for committees.

Kelly Steffen is here because Brooke had connected with him to see if he would be interested in joining CHS and there is another man who is interested in joining. Kelly met Claudia when she volunteered at the Food Pantry, he would like to be a part of CHS, Nantucket is an incredible diverse place. Anything else? Sindy: When should we expect the link to share with people? Brooke will work with staff, information available at end of week. Claudia: the COVID vaccine, have to have something to describe it to people, they have a lot of questions and they are not sure about it. Jerico: the vaccine, as far as outreach goes, there are ten articles going through Florencia that cover a lot of topics, what it is, how it's different, and where the clinics will be; this information will be on Social Media, Facebook, who are going to be signed up for vaccine this week and next week, there is not a concrete timetable yet for vaccines. Any concerns or issues about this contact Jerico, this is one thing this council can help him with. Send him anything you think he needs to know about. Athalyn asked Jerico if Nantucket is following Governor Baker's roll-out, he said yes, we are following state guidelines. February roll out for phase two for over 65. Daryl made a motion to adjourn, Athalyn seconded, all present yes.

The next meeting is Monday February 1st

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann Medina