

Princeton Human Services Commission Minutes
Monthly Meeting
April 15, 2015
Monument Hall – East Meeting Room
One Monument Drive, Princeton, NJ 08542

Present:

Board Members:

Elizabeth Bidwell Bates
Laura Encinas
Leticia Fraga
John Heilner
Stacey Mann
Thomas Parker
Larry Spruill
Ross Wishnick, Chairman

Staff:

Elisa Neira, MSW
V Bea Snowdon, MS

Liaison & Guests

Pam Hirsch

Absent:

Robert Hackett

I. Open Public Meeting Statement and Call To Order

At 7:02 PM, Chairman Ross Wishnick called the meeting of the Princeton Human Services Commission (HSC) to order by reading: “ This is to affirm that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Princeton Human Services Commission has been duly notified and is being conducted in compliance with all provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act”. Chairman Wishnick. There was no response to his request for public comment.

II. Approval of March 16, 2015 minutes

Mr. Parker’s motion, to accept the minutes with corrections, was seconded by Ms. Bidwell Bates. All eligible members voted in favor of this action.

III. Welcoming America

Heather Howard called in to report that Council has been briefed on *Welcoming America*. The Mayor will request a vote for Princeton’s membership on the April 27th Council agenda. If approved by Council, the news will be released in a Mayor’s Proclamation.

IV. Director’s Report

Labor Assistance Board Meeting Summary

Princeton has 33 active cases. This number includes two cases that have been reopened. Changes in legislation regarding Medicaid eligibility have influenced the number of people now receiving general assistance.

Community Based Learning Initiatives (CBLI) students are preparing the report of their research. They are also planning a trip to the *One Stop Learning Center*.

Community Needs Assessment

The *Community Needs Assessment* is now being formatted, for presentation to Council and release to the public. Mr. Hackett and Ms. Forero have been instrumental in the edition process.

The final report will include: a section identifying Human Services and its mission, the need for this assessment, the methodology, the population surveyed, all findings, geographic information, education levels of those surveyed, and data on employment, income, household size, assistance received, health insurance, housing and other lifestyle factors. The experience of those surveyed is reported as well, as number of answers by category to certain questions, and in brief summaries of anecdotal information.

No assumptions or conclusions will be reported. The presentation of this information to Council will be in the form of an Executive Summary.

Recommendations from members of the Commission are sought and welcomed now, to ensure a successful presentation to Council in May.

Summer Youth Employment Program SYEP

The SYEP Application deadline is May 15th. Employers applying for the program include the *Princeton Public Library* and others. The minimum wage that will be paid is now \$8.38. The program attracts a diverse group of students and employers. Help is needed to promote this program, because the children need jobs.

IV. Guest Presentation on Bus Service – Pam Hirsch

The agenda turned to Pam Hirsch, a visiting consultant. Ms. Hirsch reported concerns in the community about the cancellation of the 6:55 bus and access to the clinic with the Health Bus. NJ transit is now 80 million dollars in debt and reducing service.

A mandated public hearing period will allow Princeton time to act and get a transportation plan in place. Ms. Hirsch believes we may have until the end of the summer to comment, before this service stops.

150 to 200 people a year go to the hospital on the bus line, which is subsidized for \$65,000 a year. Area transportation options were reviewed. Commission members expressed interest, in developing viable alternatives for transport.

V. Human Services Committee Reports

Civil Rights Presentation

Options for reinvigorating civil rights activities in Princeton were distributed in a new format. Civil Rights Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chairman Leticia Fraga noted that the content of the documents have already been shared with Commission members. Significant research and data analysis has now been completed. It is all contained in the reformatted comprehensive survey.

Input from Commission members is sought, prior to the presentation of this data to Council. Ms. Fraga requested all comments by May.

Wheels Rodeo

The Wheels Rodeo will be held on May 16th. The rain date is May 17th. Elizabeth Bidwell Bates requests volunteers for the event.

VI. News and Upcoming Events

The *TASK* dinner will be held at the First Baptist Church on May 5th. It will be a Cinco De Mayo celebration from 5pm to 7pm.

The Church also has a take-out supper program. Complete meals are offered.

Stand Against Racism will be promoting their mission soon in an ad campaign.

VII. Closed Session

The group went into closed session.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33PM.

Respectfully submitted, V Bea Snowdon