

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2014

Present: Virginia Smith, Christine Tenore, Peg Koellmer, Michael O'Connell, David Graybill, Judy Zucker, Cathy Pierce

Absent: Roseann DeSimone, Betty Jo Corridon

Guests: Michael Ferguson, Kids in Crisis – Director of Quality Assurance
Rachael Sandler, Kids in Crisis – TeenTalk Counselor
Colleen Fawcett, Wilton Social Services
Margaret Creeth, Wilton Youth Services Program Manager
Ashley Davidson, Wilton Social Services Intern

Co-chairman Christine Tenore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Virginia Smith, seconded by Christine Tenore, the minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Presentation by Kids in Crisis Program (www.kidsincrisis.org):

Colleen Fawcett introduced Michael Ferguson and Rachael Sandler, providing background statistics on national and local (Wilton) ratios between students and mental health/social work/guidance counselors, particularly as related to case-loads.

Michael provided an in-depth introduction to the Kids in Crisis program, its history, mission, and coverage area, along with a description of their TeenTalk counseling program. One of the key benefits of both programs, per Michael, is the independence of their counselors, specifically in relation to connection with existing school counseling professionals. He emphasized their program's twin goals of prevention and self-sustainability for the behavioral health of children from birth until age 18.

Lively exchange with members ensued, covering HIPAA liability, contracting processes, parental consent, outside / additional services, educational requirements for counselors, and the role of new Wilton High School Special Services Director, among other topics.

Directors Report:

Cathy Pierce briefly summarized the pending budget submission, focused on the need to increase support staff hours due to the increase in client need over the past several years. Preliminary budgets are to be presented to the Finance Department prior to Thanksgiving.

Liaison Reports:

No liaison reports were presented.

New business:

Christine Tenore thanked retiring member David Graybill for his years of service to the commission.

Christine requested support at the December 1, 2014 Board of Selectman meeting, where she is presenting the revised CSS charter.

The approval of Pam Kelley as a new commissioner is expected soon.

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Upon motion by Virginia Smith, seconded by Peg Koellmer, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary