

**Commission on Social Services
Minutes April 2, 2009**

Attending: Leslie Rogers, Cathy Pierce, Peg Koellmer, Judy Zucker, Betty Jo Corridon, Ed Raposa, Lauren Hughes, Judy Mabley, Susan Chalons-Browne, Steve Lanza, Beth Mason

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

The March 12 minutes were approved.

Director's Report – Cathy Pierce

The increase in clients seeking assistance in January and February slowed somewhat in March, but Cathy thinks it's too soon to know how meaningful this may be. Meanwhile, an unprecedented \$15,000 was dispensed in January-February for fuel and housing assistance. Cathy reminded members that the Department can apply as needed, on a monthly basis, for additional funding from the United Way's Neighbor 2 Neighbor program.

The proposed economic educational forum, originally planned as a regional conference to be held in April at Norwalk Community College, has been reinvented and rescheduled. It will now be a locally-focused program, co-sponsored by Wilton Social Services and the Wilton Library, to be held at the Library on May 18th at 7 pm. Emphasis will be on the economy's impact on mortgages and housing. Commission member Peg Koellmer and Wilton Bank president Nicki Brown will be presenters. A follow-up program on health benefits and insurance, also at the Library, is scheduled for June 1st. Cathy was congratulated by one and all for an excellent job in putting the new plan together.

Sue Chalons-Browne and Peg Koellmer spent April 1 in Bridgeport being trained as volunteers for CHOICES, the insurance counseling program run by the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging.

The April 23rd Kiwanis annual roast beef dinner will benefit the Interfaith Fund for fuel assistance. The recent gift from Our Lady of Fatima will be used to replenish the depleted Food Pantry. Three more food drives are coming up in the next two months.

Leslie Rogers will represent the Social Services Department at a Mission Day event to be held at the Wilton Baptist Church on May 17.

Nominating Committee

Judy Zucker, Ed Raposa and Sue Chalons-Browne will report at the May meeting on nominations for Commission officers to be elected in June.

Program – David Kennedy, President and CEO of United Way of Norwalk-Wilton

David Kennedy presented the 49-year history of the organization and described what the UW actually does. He also detailed the process by which the decision was made to join the new United Way of Coastal Fairfield County by the close of the 2008-09 fiscal year, making it an 11-community organization which can cooperatively address the regional issues that affect all communities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason,
Co-Secretary