

Commission on Social Services
Minutes May 14, 2009

Attending: Judy Zucker, Peg Koellmer, Sue Chalons-Browne, Betty Jo Corridon, Ed Raposa, Judy Mabley, Steve Lanza, Cathy Pierce, Leslie Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

The April 2nd minutes were approved.

Director's Report – Cathy Pierce

Cathy reported that this month she received 13 new referrals and has seen a continued increase in the use of the Wilton Food Pantry. A refrigerator has been donated and plans are underway to purchase a freezer for the Pantry. A service to deliver fresh foods and supplies is also being investigated. There is a direct link to Corridors on the Town of Wilton Website.

A senior Community Day is being planned for September. The United Way has been reorganized and is now an 11- town organization.

Nominating Committee- Judy Zucker

The Committee presented the following names for 2009-2010: Sue Chalons-Browne – Chairperson, Peg Koellmer -Vice-Chairperson, Beth Mason and Judy Mabley – Co-Secretaries. The slate will be voted upon at the June commission meeting.

Liaison Updates

Domestic Violence

An excellent presentation was held at the Wilton Library describing domestic violence and its implications, specifically, teen violence in Wilton. Our two teen volunteers have played key roles in the education of our school population. They are graduating this spring, leaving a critical gap to be filled. A meeting for interested/concerned citizens will be held at the library on June 3 at 7 pm.

Interfaith Housing - Betty Jo Corridon

Interfaith Housing/Homes With Hope is again presenting Castles in the Sand at Compo Beach on May 16. Pete Powell, president of IH, will be retiring in 2010.

Choices Program

Kudos from the Commission to Sue Chalons-Browne and Peg Koellmer for successfully completing the intensive training session for the Choices program, (Connecticut's program on Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral Counseling and Eligibility Screening.) The training prepares volunteers and staff to serve as counselors in the community.

June Dinner

The year-end Thank You Dinner, to be held at our next meeting, was discussed. The dinner will be potluck and provided by our members. We plan to invite Susan Bruschi, Joe Dolan and Bill Brennan to join us.

Program – Positive Directions – Pam Kelley

Pam discussed the program to reduce underage drinking and the Task Force. She summarized the results of the 2007 survey which examined perception, attitudes and behavior related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs within the community. 321 parents responded to this study. The hard data was and will be helpful for development and is to be refined as well to seek federal funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting: 5:00 pm Thursday, June 11, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley
Co-Secretary