

**Commission on Social Services
Minutes – October 8, 2009**

Attending: Susan Chalons-Browne, Cathy Pierce, Peg Koellmer, Judy Zucker, Steve Lanza, Beth Mason, Phil Richards, Anne Richards

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

The September 17, 2009 minutes were approved with one abstention.

Program: Stay at Home in Wilton

Phil and Anne Richards, who, along with Ken Dartley, are the organizers for “Stay at Home in Wilton,” described their program and what they are doing to get it established. Its purpose is to provide seniors with supportive services to help them remain in their homes, offering an alternative to moving to an assisted living facility. Services, such as transportation, home repairs, medical support, social events, etc., will be administered by a paid coordinator and supplied with assistance by volunteers. An annual membership fee will be charged. The organizers are in the process of applying to the State for incorporation and 501 (c) (3) status, with legal services provided by Pro Bono Partnership. An informative exchange of questions, answers, and discussion followed the presentation.

Director’s Report

Cathy reviewed the department’s September activities, and announced a new initiative (Homelessness Prevention and Relocation Program), federally funded and administered by NEON, to provide help for people, unemployed or otherwise in transition, with moving expenses, security deposits, and other assistance in getting resettled. She reported that the October 7th program at the Clune Center featuring “No Kidding, Me Too!” (Joe Pantoliano’s documentary on de-stigmatizing mental illness) was very well received, although with lower than hoped-for attendance by young people.

Old Business

Commission liaison assignments will be completed in November.

New Business

Sue Chalons-Browne reported that a new and free mammogram program is now available to qualified applicants through the Smilow Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital.

Peg Koellmer reported that as of October 1st, 59 homes in Wilton are slated for foreclosure.

A holiday craft show to benefit Social Services is planned for early December. Peg is the organizer and she will report further in November.

Beth Mason invited Commission members to attend a fundraiser sponsored by Wilton's Domestic Violence Task Force at the Open House gift shop in Wilton on October 29 from 6-8 pm. Refreshments will be served, and 10% of all items purchased will be donated to the Domestic Violence Crisis Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason
Co-Secretary