

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, October 2, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian (arrived 6:32), Shawn Havens, Effie Kokkinos, Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye (arrived 7:00), Nadeem Mirza, Edward Morgan, Sandra Sheppard, Amanda Woodin, and Sharat Kamath (Youth Advisory representative), and two guests.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Morgan moved and Kokkinos supported approval of the September 4, 2014 minutes as submitted. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Enhancement of Human Services Information & Referral Update:** The Board received a memo updating them with staff activities, promotion, and training regarding the Human Services Information & Referral Resources and the Quick Reference Help Guide. The Board asked if the information guides were proving useful. Money indicated that she had already handed out the Quick Reference Guide and that it had also been provided to additional city staff for use. After Board review of the information, Sheppard agreed to present an update at the October 21st City Council meeting.
2. **Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2014) activities:** LaPoint indicated he had contacted all the local elementary schools and requested that the teachers in charge of student council respond back to him by October 8th if they would like to participate in the City Council Red Ribbon Week event. He would update the Board and staff once he had heard back from the schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region Presentation of the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Report – Peggy Gagen:** Peggy Gagen presented the Board +with an overview of ALICE including the history of the project, the intent, and what future steps are anticipated to come from the report. Gagen stressed that ALICE is not a report on poverty but focuses on those individuals and families (including senior citizens) that are working but not earning enough to make ends meet. Of the population ALICE focuses on, child care costs is a significant burden to working families and often represents their single largest financial obligation. Others items included in the report are that 77% of the ALICE population in Michigan is white and between 45 and 65 years of age. Sheppard pointed out that many area agencies are already stretched thin, assisting yet another group was going to prove challenging, especially given that new jobs in Michigan are not high paying and may not even be full time. Morgan asked how people become aware of ALICE. Gagen indicated publicity was already being done, United Ways across Michigan were presenting the report to various groups and agencies, and press releases have been coordinated. Gagen indicated that the next step was for various agencies to take the information gathered and provided in ALICE and work to assist the groups identified with improving their quality of life.

2. Election of Officers: Current chair positions are as follows – Sheppard Chair, Durian Vice-chair, Maye Secretary. Morgan made a motion to retain the current officers in their elected positions, Woodin supported. Motion passed 9-0.
3. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update – Maye: Maye did not attend the last meeting and had no updates to provide.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, Durian moved and Maye supported adjournment. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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