



## **Town of Willington, Department of Human Services**

Willington Senior Center, 20 Senior Way, Willington, Connecticut 06279  
(860)429-8321\* humanservices@willingtonct.org

### **Youth Services Advisory Board**

#### **Minutes**

Attendance- in person- Jennie Arpin, Nancy King

Virtually- Ginger Halle, Caitlin Halle, Kate Blackburn, Sarah Reis

Absent- Michelle Cunningham, Sydney Collins

Meeting was called to order at 6:10pm. There were no minutes to approve.

Jennie Arpin read the directors report, attached to these minutes.

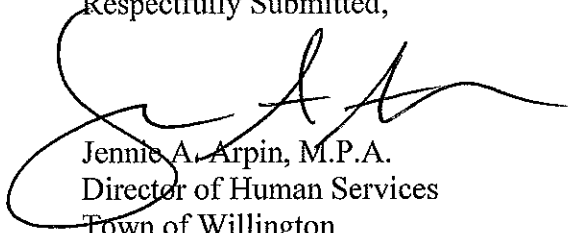
There was no old business.

New Business- Ginger Halle mentioned some of the positive parenting materials and programming done by Tolland Youth Services and indicated that would be a great offering in Willington. Ms. Halle also mentioned a list of preschool resources would be a great thing to compile for families in town.

A discussion ensued about the "Clever Whatever" series of programs which the department has run since March, and how no one had seen them advertised on Facebook. The board then discussed sharing the posts and other ways of improving algorithms so the public will be better aware of the programs we are running.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24pm. Next meeting will be Monday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jennie A. Arpin, M.P.A.  
Director of Human Services  
Town of Willington

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It's been awhile since we met, but I wanted to give you a run down of what has been going on in the department from a youth services perspective.

Due to the pandemic, I made the decision to not do summer camp. I think that was a good decision based on not just the financial aspect of it, but also the manpower and safety aspects. I have been flat out since COVID and I could not guarantee that my time could support me being at camp, or my budget can support any financial losses. Additionally, my constituents tend to be elderly, immunocompromised, or lacking access to adequate healthcare and I believe that it would have been endangering to them as well.

We have been running all year a program called "Clever Whatever", which has sadly not been shared on social media as much as we would have hoped. This program is designed to provide our residents with new skills, hobbies, and learn activities that will empower them, save money, improve their lives, and provide a safe and healthy outlet to use as a coping skill. We intend on continuing the program in the coming year, and I ask that if possible, please share it on social media.

Back to school this year was great! We were given Wal-Mart gift cards from our friends at the Salvation Army, and I was able to assist over 20 families with backpacks, school supplies, and more! Some of these families have 4-5 children, so it was an excellent turnout.

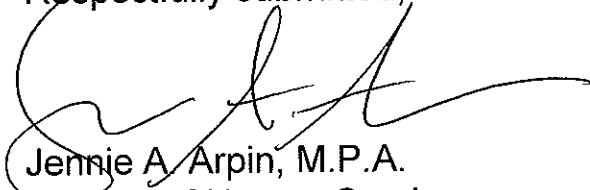
Our newest initiative is our job board, which we are posting jobs in Willington and that benefit our residents. I have three jobs posted so far, and I plan on maintaining this in the future.

Holiday programs are coming up- in this order-  
Turkey Drive in November  
Thanksgiving baskets and then our Holiday program in December.

In other news, the department has moved to the Senior Center and it is by far a great opportunity for us under the umbrellas of "social services" and "senior Services" as well as it adds additional room to both this department and at the Town Offices.

Last is the Juvenile Review Board, which we are in talks with Mansfield and Ashford about forming. As you may know, a Juvenile Review board is for criminal justice involved youth, as well as truancy and other service needs, and it is designed to assist without the involvement of the courts or DCF. We do not yet know what the board make up will be, or if it will look different depending on what town is being served. I will be meeting with them tomorrow and so I will have more information in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



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