



ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

Approved Minutes

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Present: Committee members; Mary Lyttle, Ellen Faherty, Tessa Cochran English, and Mihaela Miteva, Licensing and Procurement Agent, Town of Orleans. Michael Herman, Select board liaison.

Mary Lyttle called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Old Business:

The minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting of the committee were approved with amendments completed.

There was further discussion of an applicant agency's eligibility for funding under the Orleans Human Services town grant program. Mary will call the agency and report back next week.

New Business:

The committee conducted an in depth review of several of the grant applicant's funding requests.

The Alzheimer's Family Support Center has applied for an increase in grant funding from last year's request. The agency provides free personalized services to families, individuals and caregivers currently living with Alzheimer's and other dementia related diseases. They are currently serving 126 Orleans clients and are projecting an increase to 130 in the next fiscal year. They have added new programs in the past year including additional educational programs, short-term engagement programs at a new location, and have opened a new family center at the Cape Cod Mall.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Cape Cod program has requested funding at the same level as last year. They currently have two clients in Orleans and are projecting seven in the upcoming year. They were particularly hard hit by the Covid pandemic and were unable to have in-person mentoring activities. There are currently three children from Orleans on the waiting list for mentors.

The Cape Abilities program has applied for grant funding in the same amount as last year. The funding requested from Orleans will support services for people with disabilities. They provide a continuum of day services, employment services, and residential and support services. The agency supports a five-person residence on Main Street in Orleans. Detailed budget information was provided in their application.

The Consumer Assistance Council is requesting a small increase in grant funding over the amount awarded to them last year. They provide consumer advocacy and initial legal services in response to consumer complaints. Volunteers who are mostly retired professionals provide all services. They provided services to 266 Orleans residents in the last fiscal year and are projecting an increase in service in the next fiscal year.

The Duffy Health Center is requesting the same amount of funding in the next fiscal year as they received from Orleans in the last year. They provide a range of services related to physical and mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness. Funding received from Orleans will be used for their "In From the Streets" program that supports the basic need of safe, emergency housing through short-term motel shelter for

persons experiencing homelessness. They did not have any Orleans residents as clients in the last fiscal year but project that they will serve one or two in the next fiscal year.

The Food for Kids program is requesting the same amount of funding in the next fiscal year as they received from Orleans in the last year. The program works to alleviate childhood hunger on the lower and outer Cape by providing free meals to children and teens in the summer. They have partnered with the Orleans Summer Recreation Programs and other programs to provide free meals at the program sites. They provided 8,928 meals to 198 Orleans residents in the last fiscal year. They are projecting that 150 Orleans children and teens will receive free meals in the next fiscal year. They will be introducing new food items and extending their program hours from one half to a full day.

The Lower Cape Outreach program is requesting the same amount of funding as in the last fiscal year. They are projecting the same number of Orleans clients served in the next fiscal year as well. The new director of Lower Cape Outreach, Katie Wibby, made a presentation to the committee. She presented information on the agency's three main programs and their seasonal programs. The agency has increased its staff to include a manager of client services.

The South Coastal Counties Legal Services agency has requested a small increase in funding from Orleans over the amount awarded last year. They provide free legal advice and services to income eligible clients across many Cape towns. There are no financial eligibility requirements for older individuals (60+) seeking help for certain legal issues and for victims of crime. In cooperation with the Orleans Council on Aging, the legal services agency has regular meetings with Orleans clients at the COA. They served 15 Orleans residents in the last fiscal year and project an increase in the next.

The Sustainable Cape agency has applied for grant funding in the same amount as last year. The funding will be used to support local farmer's markets, the Children's Garden program, their healthy initiative program, a newly expanded Prescribed Food program, and to provide support for farmers in the area.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 2, 2023. The zoom connection is as follows: Link to join Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86495452095>
By Phone: (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 864 9545 2095

Respectfully Submitted
Ellen Faherty
Secretary, Orleans Human Services Advisory Committee