

Approved Minutes

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 02, 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 11:03 am.

Old Business:

The minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting of the committee were approved with amendments completed.

Mary added corrected budget figures for the Mass Appeals agency to the Committee's summary spreadsheet.

Mary called the director of an applicant agency to discuss their eligibility for funding under the Orleans Human Services town grant program. She reported the content of that conversation to the committee. The committee agreed that the application was not eligible for funding under the guidelines of the committee's charge. The committee subsequently voted to not consider the application. Mary will call to inform them of the committee's decision.

New Business:

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

The Cape Cod Children's Place is requesting an increase in grant funding over the amount awarded to them last year. The organization is the only family resource center serving Orleans. In addition to the tuition based early education and childcare program located in Eastham, they provide free programs, services and supports to families with young children on the lower and outer Cape. They served 75 Orleans clients in the last fiscal year and are projecting an increase to 250 clients in the next fiscal year. The increase in numbers is largely due to the initiation of four new free home visiting services. These programs include the MA Dept of Health 'First Steps Together' program supporting families impacted by substance use; the MA Early Education and Care 'Parent Child + for early literacy'; the 'Support from the Start' program to support new parents with a doula; and the 'Resilient Families Thriving' home visiting program that provides consultation with a family support specialist.

The Homeless Prevention Council program has applied for grant funding in the same amount as the last fiscal year. The Council provides personalized case management services to promote housing stability for residents of the lower and outer Cape. Their goal is to focus on prevention efforts to help people stay in their existing housing. The demand for their services has increased 67% over the last three years. Orleans demand has increased 29% during this same period. In the last fiscal year, HPC served 192 Orleans residents and projects 185 Orleans clients in the next fiscal year. The HPC case management for residents at risk of homelessness includes access to housing programs and funding, financial resources, budgeting, connection to community resources and special HPC programs. They engage in many outreach programs to identify community members in need. Client recruitment is primarily done through collaboration with 27 other

Cape based private human service agencies and organizations. During the current year they have hired three new staff members to respond to the growing need for housing assistance; purchased a new facility in Orleans to accommodate staff, program and client growth and increase accessibility; and expanded community outreach activities to new locations and homebound individuals.

The Independence House has requested funding at the same level as last year. The center provides a range of services to adults, children, and teens that are survivors of or affected by domestic and sexual violence. They serve all of the towns on the Cape by creating opportunities to find safety and become empowered through crisis intervention, legal advocacy, individual and group counseling, referral, outreach, prevention, and education programs. They operate a shelter for victims and a 24-hour hotline. Independence House serves as the rape crisis center on Cape Cod. They served 60 Orleans clients in the last fiscal year and are projecting an increase to 70 in the next fiscal year.

The Nauset Together We Can program is requesting the same amount of funding in the next fiscal year as they received from Orleans in the last year. They provide a safe place offering a lightly structured after school recreational program for middle school age children. The program was closed due to the pandemic but they reopened in the fall of 2022. They are located at the old Orleans firehouse and have hired two CORI checked staff members. The program is open every full school day. In addition to Orleans funding, they receive funds from Eastham and Brewster and two local churches. More information is needed from the program related to the number of children served. Mary will call the Board Director, Kyle Wibby, and/or stop by the program to obtain the needed information.

The Orleans After School Program has requested funding at the same level as last year. They currently have 70 Orleans children in the program and are projecting 100 in the next fiscal year. The program offers working parents quality after school and summer care for children aged 5 to 14. They are planning to extend child care coverage for early dismissal school days but have been hampered in doing so due to difficulty in finding staff. They are actively recruiting for 2-3 positions. There is a high need for affordable after school care and the program provides up to \$5,000 in scholarship to families. They try to assist all families in need of financial assistance. The children participate in a variety of supervised arts & crafts and educational activities, outdoor play, and enrichment and field trip programs.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:40 pm.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 9, 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