

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
JUNE 4, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hillard Boskey, MD, Vice Chair  
Mary Craig, Clerk  
Evelyn P. Hayes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tanya Daigneault, Chair  
Charles Holway

OTHERS: Judy Galligan, Relay for Life  
Ellen Regan, Relay for Life  
Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Independence House  
Deputy Police Chief Steve Xiarhos, Independence House  
Sandy Cashen, Independence House  
Lauren Titus, Independence House  
Police Lt. Pat Carty, Neighborhood Watch  
Robert Abair, Neighborhood Watch  
Sherman Baker, Neighborhood Watch  
Ray Tomasi, Gosnold on Cape Cod  
Mary Cotia, Gosnold on Cape Cod  
Cynthia Stead, Sight Loss Services  
Sherry Bergeron, Audible Ledger  
Peggy Rose, Board Secretary

**I. American Cancer Society Annual Relay for Life**

Ellen Regan thanked the Board for the opportunity to publicize the event. She advised that the Relay for Life is held at the Dennis Yarmouth athletic field and is 24 hour event to celebrate the survivors of cancer and remember those who have died. The survivor walk is at 7:30 PM around the track which is lit by luminaries.

Judy Galligan advised that donations can be made on line. A dinner which is free for cancer survivors and hosted by various restaurants is held that night at the high school cafeteria. The organizers of the event are still in need of volunteers.

Ms. Hayes asked how long the event has been held in Yarmouth. Ms. Galligan believes that this is the 17<sup>th</sup> year.

## **II. Human Service Budget Proposals**

### **A. Independence House**

Executive Director Lysetta Hurge- Putnam stated that domestic violence is one of the most pervasive crimes.

Deputy Chief Steve Xiahros advised that the department had reached out to Independence House because about a year ago, the department was receiving reports of domestic violence at least once every day. Some of the victims had been beaten beyond recognition.

Yarmouth resident Sandy Cashen stated that she was a successful client of Independence House. Deputy Chief Xiahros said that by speaking out, it is one of the ways the victims of domestic violence can make a difference.

Ms. Hurge-Putnam advised that in FY11, 373 residents of the town used the services of Independence House. She expects the total for the current fiscal year to be around 400. The amount being requested from the town is \$12,000.

### **B. Independence House – New High School Program**

Lauren Titus, who is an outreach worker, heads up this program. The program attempts to raise awareness about verbal, emotional and sexual abuse and find ways to combat it at the high school level. Ms. Titus is the only staff member at Independence House for the program.

### **C. Neighborhood Crime Watch**

Lt. Pat Carty advised that he had been requested by Chief Frederickson to get the Neighborhood Watch program back on track. There are civilian area watch captains and each area has a police officer assigned to it. The department held 4 meetings about the program and there was a combined attendance of 1,400 residents. Fifty four watches were created and he hopes the number will be 100 by the end of the year.

Sherman Baker advised that the organization has no funding and no budget. The cost to print 5,000 brochures is \$900. There were some donations from local businesses that funded the first printing of the brochures. The brochures are essential to training watch volunteers. He also mentioned that as a crime prevention measure, residents can pay the cost of providing street lights on their street.

Dr Boskey asked when someone should call 911. Lt. Carty replied that in instances where it would save a life or if it is a safety issue, call 911. The nonemergency number can be called for other purposes. If a resident is in doubt at all as to which one to use, call 911.

Ms. Hayes asked if crime was down in the watch areas. Mr. Baker replied that from March, 2011 to March, 2012, it was down 44 percent.

Ms. Craig asked how a neighborhood would go about starting a watch.. Mr. Baker said to call Lt. Carty.

**D. Gosnold on Cape Cod**

Executive Director Ray Tomasi advised that the organization offers a range of inpatient and outpatient services for substance abuse and psychotic disorders associated with substance abuse.

Mr. Tomasi said that the services provided by Gosnold are directed to people who have no other means of treatment. Last year, services were provided to 360 Yarmouth residents which is 30 percent more in 2008. Young people are addicted to prescription drugs while the older population has an alcohol addiction. Twelve years ago, heroin was a major problem but now the problem is pain medications. Statewide, the percentage addicted to pain medication is 12 percent but on the Cape it is 29 percent. If the organization could intervene earlier in addiction cases, it would reduce the number of people going to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

Mr. Tomasi stated that the organization receives between 800 and 1,000 calls a week. He said that addiction is an illness and in many cases is not curable but it can be managed like a chronic illness.

**E. Sight Loss Services**

Director Cynthia Stead advised that there is a branch of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind in New Bedford but there is nothing locally. Sight Loss Services do not charge for their services. The organization provides monthly support groups, which help clients to remain independent and on their own. Information and referral to clients are free. Yarmouth is the third largest consumer of the services provided by Sight Loss Services.

**F. Audible Local Ledger (Visually Impaired)**

Sherry Bergeron, Director of Audible Local Ledger, advised that the service has been available since 1996. It is a statewide service where volunteer readers read various newspapers and periodicals to the blind and visually impaired. Recently, it has also become an important way to reach this population regarding emergency preparedness notifications. Ms. Bergeron said that the service works with Sight Loss Services. The grant requested will provide 25 of the specialized radios needed to receive the Audible Local Ledger.

**III. Approval of Minutes of Board of Health Meeting of May 21, 2012**

Under VI. Approval of Minutes of Board of Health Meeting of May 21, 2012, page 3, Vote to read, Vote: Unanimous with 2 abstentions.

**MOTION: (Ms. Craig)** To approve the minutes of May 2012 as corrected.

Seconded: Ms Hayes

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

**IV. Old Business**

Dr. Boskey advised that he is pursuing the issue of the Selectmen's committee appointment policy.

**V. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Craig, Clerk

Minutes Taken by Peggy Rose