

**Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10. Present: Roberta Swafford, Leslie Ohta, Sherri Tanguay, Lori LaCapra, Isabel Rolfe, Kevin Kuzia, Neil Griffin and David O'Connor. Jay Tulin attended as a visitor.

1. Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2020. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Jay Tulin, chair of the Farmington Human Rights Commission, presented a plan for sharing information among human rights commissions around the state. Eleven towns have so far committed to participating in the forum which should start in June.
3. Recruitment Report. Sherri presented an update on recruiting activity for the first quarter of the current fiscal year which started in July. She also noted that her department is seeking a consultant to work on the affirmative action plan. There are currently three firms that are providing quotes for the project.
4. Youth and Family Services Report. Lori reported on her current activities which include:
 - A telehealth platform for most health work. Her agency has seen a large increase in the number of cases from all schools, reflecting an uptick in mental health issues due to COVID.
 - The launching of a parent/guardian support group for COVID fatigue.
 - Virtual social skills groups that foster healthy friendships and healthy competition.
 - Partnership with senior services for training on healthy relationships and substance abuse. Other wellness groups are being formed.
 - The recruitment of a new outreach social worker at GHS.
 - Launching a COVID support group for students.
 - Uptick in truancy referrals which have increased due to lack of engagement in elearning.
 - The launching of a GHS school teacher support group facilitated by Director of YFS and Director of school counseling.
 - A COVID support group for town employees, called the Cup of Comfort.
 - A virtual music appreciation, games, and Zumba group through creative experiences.
 - Collaboration ordination between the substance abuse prevention, clinical , and the town police department on diversion referrals.

Lori's agency seeks to reach out to all members of the Glastonbury community due to the significant impact COVID has had on residents.

5. Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative Report. Leslie highlighted a series of community conversations that have been held since November, including sessions on Our Forgotten History; Immigration Myths, Laws, Policies and Reforms; and, Slavery & Abolition in Glastonbury. Future sessions include Discrimination: Rights and Remedies which will be held on March 22 and Affordable Housing: Increasing Opportunities in Glastonbury which will be held on May 10.
6. Chairperson's Report. Roberta highlighted Jay Tulin's report.
7. Housing Authority Report. Neil Griffin, Executive Director of the Glastonbury Housing Authority, provided a summary of the Authority's work at town-owned and managed properties.

8. **New Business.** Sherri noted that ethics training needs to be completed by all Commission members every two years. She will send a link to the training program on the town website.
9. The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2021.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57.

Respectfully submitted by David O'Connor