

**Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**September 7, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06. Present: Roberta Swafford, Leslie Ohta, Sherri Tanguay, Kevin Kuzia, Neil Griffin, Lori LaCapra and David O'Connor.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 1, 2020, with one change. The date for the next meeting was changed from June 1 to September 7, 2021. The minutes were unanimously approved following this one amendment.
2. Recruitment Report. Sherri presented an update on recruiting activity since the last Commission meeting on June 1, including progress on applications by ethnicity and gender and a list of thirteen newly hired individuals.
3. Youth and Family Services Report. Lori highlighted the following:
  - The agency has been seeing people in person since the summer, although individuals still have the option of telehealth.
  - There has been an increase in the number of referrals over the summer contrary to norm which usually sees a drop off. There has also been an uptick in truancy referrals.
  - There has been some turnover in staff.
  - The Creative Experience program has been selected as the program of the year by the Connecticut Youth Services Association
4. Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative Report. David noted that the organization has completed a strategic planning process with a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. So far this year, four Community Conversations have been held via Zoom; a fifth may be held in the fall.
5. Housing Authority Report. Neil updated Commission members on the activities related to affordable housing, including:
  - Participation in an affordable housing plan for the town. A survey has been released for town residents to complete.
  - Consolidation of applications for all town housing locations into a single application that is for all properties.
  - Availability of new Section 8 funding.
  - Evaluating transition for Welles Village from public housing platform using RAD/Section 18 PHA blend.
6. Housing Authority Report. Neil updated Commission members on the activities related to affordable housing, including:
  - Participation in an affordable housing plan for the town. A survey has been released for town residents to complete.
  - Consolidation of applications for all town housing locations.
  - Availability of new Section 8 funding.
  - Transition for Welles Village from public housing status to RAD Section 18 pha blend.
7. Old business. First Advantage Consulting Firm has been engaged to establish an Affirmative Action Plan for the town. The consultant is currently collecting all existing employee data before helping to build the structure for the Plan.
8. Meetings for 2022 were approved as follows:

March 1, 2022 with March 3 as a snow date  
June 7, 2022  
Sept. 6, 2022  
Nov. 15, 2022

9. The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM
10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43.

Respectfully submitted by David O'Connor