

Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:01. Present: Roberta Swafford, Leslie Ohta, Sherri Tanguay, Neil Griffin, Isabel Rolfe, Lori LaCapra and David O'Connor.

1. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2020. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Recruitment Report. Sherri presented an update on recruiting activity since the last Commission meeting on September 7. She presented a new report format which Commission members found helpful.
3. Youth and Family Services Report. Lori highlighted the following:
 - Our Fall performance of Tuck Everlasting was held this weekend in the new outdoor performance space.
 - A new social club was launched that attracted 10-15 students.
 - There continue to be numerous referrals. Two new clinicians were hired to assist with the demand. Telehealth is still available.
 - The Creative Experience program has been selected as the program of the year by the Connecticut Youth Services Association. The program focuses on creative ways of dealing with COVID and staying connected.
 - A new group called Navigating the Storm has been started to focus on substance abuse.
4. Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative Report. David noted that five Community Conversations have been planned for 2022. Four topics include juvenile justice, intellectual and developmental disabilities, critical race theory and the Epic Theater Ensemble that organizes student plays to raise the public's awareness of racial injustices in our society.
5. Housing Authority Report. Neil updated Commission members on the activities related to affordable housing, including:
 - Additional HUD HCV funding allowed GHA to issue 6 of its unfunded HCV vouchers for low income housing.
 - A new web page is being developed by the Housing Authority that is more current and user friendly.
6. 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. A template will be developed to facilitate future planning.
 - Commission members expressed a willingness to hold future meetings in person. Sherry will look for a venue that allows sufficient safe space.
7. The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM. The snow date is March 3.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23.

Respectfully submitted by David O'Connor