

MAYOR
CAROLINE SIMMONS



Social Services Commission
Caroline Temlock Teichman, Chair
Kathleen Lombardo
Juan Ospina
Ellen Petersen
Renai Strother

Stamford Social Services Commission Meeting
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT. 06901

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 5:00 P.M. Via Zoom
Draft Minutes

Attendees

Commissioners:
Caroline Temlock Teichman, Chair
Kate Lombardo
Ellen Petersen

City of Stamford:
Sharona Cowan, Social Services Director

Members of the Public:
None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Caroline Temlock Teichman at 5:12 P.M.

Per FOI requirements, no substantive votes will be taken at this meeting since the agenda was not posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes for the January 17th meeting were presented and will be voted on during the next scheduled Commission meeting in May. The minutes for the February 8th meeting will be revised per discussion and voted on during the next scheduled Commission meeting in May.

Report from the Social Services Director

The Social Services Director met with Pastora Oviedo to discuss her program. Pastora Oviedo works with individuals with substance abuse problems to provide a safe place

where people can come, rest, and get pastoral counseling. She is looking for a place to expand her program. The Director told her that Liberation programs and the Stamford Police Department are working on developing an alcohol rehabilitation program that would be accessible to more people. Private programs can be expensive. The Director also put Pastora Oviedo in touch with other clergy with similar interests.

There are currently 6 Fair Rent Complaints that may need hearings. The next hearing will be held on May 10, 2023. The Commission will consider adding some additional dates to currently scheduled meetings in order to hear the complaints more expeditiously.

The Renter's Rebate program is underway. When the Social Services Department sent out reminders to people who participated in the program last year, they included a survey from the Mayor's Council on Older Adults to help assess the needs of older residents.

The Social Services Department has a grant to support senior transport. They are looking to expand current programs to groups not currently being served. They are also trying to identify individuals who are paying for transportation out of pocket, for instance, someone paying for health care transport that insurance doesn't cover.

The Social Services Director is currently holding in-service training for various organizations to talk about housing issues. Other department members may do the same regarding other issues such as health insurance.

Approximately 150 new children have been enrolled in Husky since February.

The Health and Human Services Department is working on a strategic plan.

All Commissioners should soon have a City of Stamford email address.

Pandemic protocols have been rolled back. There have been 75 evictions since January. In addition, buses are now charging, additional food stamps stopped, and health insurance protections are expiring.

Old Business

The Legal Department finished reviewing the proposed By-Laws. A quorum of 3 members for hearings was approved. They cleaned up and tightened some language and corrected a typographical error. The revised proposed By-Laws will be sent to the Commissioners to be voted on during the next scheduled Commission meeting in May. The Commission may want to become more familiar with State agencies such as the Connecticut Human Rights Commission and EEOC, to learn more about our Human Rights responsibilities.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lombardo and seconded by Commissioner Petersen. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 P.M.