**Human Services Funding Committee**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**August 18, 2021 3:30 pm**

**Wheelwright Room**

Attendees: Christine Soutter, Sherri Nixon, Kirsten Arends, Russell Dean (Town Manager),

Pam McElroy (Welfare Administrator)

Absent: Cameron (Cammie) Switzer

Russ thanked everyone for the work they do. This group is well respected and appreciated.

Christine said that she represents the group at the Budget Recommendations Committee, as she is a BRC member.

Although Cammie was absent, she emailed her notes and recommendations to Pam to share with the Committee.

Review of agency application requests were summarized and reviewed for recommended FY22 funding. Votes were only counted for non-staff members of the Committee.

**Annie’s Angels:** Sherri reviewed. Numbers are similar to last year. Pam said they are always available to assist Welfare when asked for different types of needs. **Recommended level funding at $4,500. Approved 3-0.**

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters:** Sherri reviewed. Good impact even through Covid. Aided children. Looking to expand services. **Recommended level funding at $7,200. Approved 3-0.**

**CASA:** Sherri reviewed. Important work. **Recommended level funding. $1,500. Approved 3-0.**

**Cross Roads Shelter:** Sherri reviewed. Provided 1,200 bed nights for Exeter based people**. Recommended level funding. $3,500 Approved 3-0.**

**Exeter Area Charitable Foundation:** Sherri reviewed. Christine abstained from discussion & vote as she volunteers. Their application has come a long way. After discussion, **recommended raising funding to $3,000 for FY22 from $2,400 in FY21. Approved 2-0.**

**Friends Program:** Kirsten reviewed. 4% are Exeter residents. Program trains volunteers. **Recommended level funding. $2,000 Approved 3-0.**

**Great Bay Kids Company:** Kirsten reviewed. Asked why request is so high. Discussion regarding CARES Act Funding, school fundraising, school is tax exempt, question of how many scholarships are provided to Exeter residents, justification for extra funds refers to outdoor playground and general expenses. **Recommended level funding. $2,495. Approved 3-0.**

**Greater Seacoast Community Health:** Kirsten reviewed. 207 Exeter residents served. ~$24/Exeter resident (from Exeter funding). **Recommended level funding. $5,000. Approved 3-0.**

**HAVEN:** Kirsten reviewed. 2.8% Exeter residents (87 residents). **Recommended level funding. $7,500. Approved 3-0.**

**The Key Collective:** Requested to be put on hold for FY22 funding. Committee respects and appreciates the request and will look forward to an application for FY23. Note: Any agency requesting funding may apply.

**New Generation:** Kirsten reviewed: 10% Exeter residents (6 residents). **Recommend level funding. $2,000.**

**Approved 3-0.**

**One Sky Services:** Cammie reviewed. 78 Exeter residents served. Discussion of high request – reasons not clearly justified. **Recommended level funding. $1,625. Approved 3-0.**

**Richie McFarland Children’s Center:** Cammie reviewed. 6% Exeter residents (15 individuals). Specialized services. **Recommended level funding. $10,000. Approved 3-0.**

**Rockingham Community Action/SNHS:** Cammie reviewed. 9.2% of services provided to Exeter residents (1,121 households – up 139 from last year). Pam said Welfare depends highly on assistance and referrals to Rockingham CAP/SNHS**. Recommended level funding. $10,000. Approved 3-0.**

**Rockingham Nutrition/Meals on Wheels:** Cammie reviewed. 193 Exeter residents. Increase in meals served. Exeter Senior Center not available due to Covid – meal delivery from RNMOW. **Recommended raising funding for FY22 to $9,785 from $9,500 in FY21. Approved 3-0.**

**Seacoast Eat Local:** Cammie reviewed. Exeter residents served up to 66 in FY21 from 36 in FY20 (26%). Match SNAP benefits. SAMM van donated food to St. V de P food pantry (Exeter based). Recommended raising funding to $2,000 for FY22 from $1,000 in FY21. **Decision to raise funding to $1,500 for FY22. Approved 3-0.**

**Seacoast Family Promise:** Christine reviewed. 25% Exeter residents (22 people). **Recommended level funding. $1,500. Approved 3-0.**

**Seacoast Mental Health:** Christine reviewed. 747 Exeter residents serviced. 11,655 hours of service to Exeter residents. 12% of services go to Exeter residents. Provided training to Exeter PD. Expanding Exeter building. **Recommended level funding. $9,000. Approved 3-0.**

**Seacoast Visiting Nurse Association:** Christine reviewed. Served 1 person (25 visits) from Exeter in FY21. (33 residents served in FY20.) Pam said she needs to follow-up with them often for invoices and the annual application. **Recommended decrease in funding from $3,000 in FY21 to $2,000 in FY22. Approved 3-0.**

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Christine reviewed. 93% serviced by food pantry are Exeter residents (529 households, 1,200 residents). Pam said relationship with Welfare is excellent – work together for many clients**. Recommended level funding. $8,000. Approved 3-0.**

**Waypoint:** Christine reviewed. 43 residents serviced (2% of their total). Exeter is highest funding town, but low service. Question re: justification for funds requested. **Recommended decrease in funding of $10,000 in FY21 to $9,000 for FY22. Approved 3-0.**

**Womenade:** Christine reviewed. 54% or 52 Exeter residents served. 100% of donations are given back to those in need**. Recommended level funding. $4,000 Approved 3-0.**

Discussion regarding review of application and cover letter for FY23. Looking for clarification/justification for need. Delete request for annual report. Request statement of how funds were utilized specifically for Exeter residents.

Russ said the Committee is welcome to meet with agencies directly for updates and/or tour their facilities.

Adjourn: 5:40 pm