

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019

2:15 – 4:15 pm

Weston Town Hall – Lower Conference Room

Present: Laura Azzam, Chair
Dr. David Kominz, Member
Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro, Member
Wendy Diotalevi, R.S., Public Health Director
Sharon Bonica, Office Manager
Leon Gaumond, Town Manager
Mark Kline, Psy.D. , Psychologist; Executive Director, Human Relations Services
Lindsay Steinsieck, Psy.D. , Psychologist; Associate Director, Human Relations Services

- 1. Minutes for September 24, 2019 - Tabled**
- 2. Mark Kline, Psy.D. , Psychologist; Executive Director, Human Relations Services – \$25,000.00 funded by Weston taken away in July 2019.**

Mark Kline spoke on behalf of HRS to get back the funding from Weston for their residents. HRS is a private, nonprofit mental health agency that services families and children in Weston, Wayland and Wellesley. They do outreach services, intakes, referrals and triage patients and give referrals within 24 hours and call back to set up meetings with them. They then do an assessment on the patient and set them up with clinicians within or outside of HRS. Over the years the needs of the patients and families have skyrocketed. They are providing residents' access with quality care. They have a list of clinicians from Insurance and specialty services; they match them up with other companies that are skilled and helpful to the residents in need.

Funds are used for providing access to reduced fees, and funding for programs that they provide to the residents. Private Insurance coverage is only 60%. The more money they receive the more they lose. Fundraising is done at HRS to bridge the gap of funds not received.

Only Weston, Wayland and Wellesley have access to HRS. They are meeting with each of these Boards of Health to ask for the support and money to help them out. The money that is given by these three communities doesn't cover the services that they are providing.

Laura Azzam asked Mark Kline how many clinicians and staffers that HRS has. Mark responded that they have 25 part time staffers, 30 total Social Workers and Psychologists. The intake is done and then a few days to a week they set them up for appointments and then decide what the patient would need for services.

Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro had questions on the intakes and appointments. What did they use the \$25,000 for? HRS Has contracts with Insurance companies and HRS would have to use the money given by Weston for Clinical Staffing and appointments. Elisabeth mentioned that HRS cannot use the money given by Weston to supplement the Insurance payments.

Mark Kline said the funding from the Town of Weston covers the gap of the costs for residents' access of no insurance for reduced fees. Extra cost cannot come from the patients.

Wendy Diotalevi spoke about a mental health program that Weston BOH has with the Police Dept. and has hired a part time LICSW / consultant to help out with mental health services; they are partnered with Riverside and Newton Wellesley Hospital. The clinician is available 20 hours a week to be able to evaluate the cases when they arise and to do an evaluation in the early stages before they get into crisis. If there is an ongoing event with the same patient, the clinician would be available to help the family out.

The number of people getting help have serious issues, depressions, difficulties dealing with life. There are some that may need to be treated over a larger period of time.

Wendy Diotalevi mentioned that with this mental health program with the Weston Police about HRS could be a backup. HRS has a separate contract with the Weston School Dept. The school department calls HRS to evaluate some of the students. The students may need out placement from the schools. HRS has a close relationship with the school staff.

Dr. David Kominz asked about the funding from the schools for 70% of the 50 students seen last year by HRS if the money went to HRS. The school dept. contracts with HRS only when the school dept. cannot deal with the student.

Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro had questions about the relationship with the school department. Does the \$25,000.00 given by the BOH help out the students at the schools? Do they do emergency evaluations if needed? Mark Kline spoke about evaluations that may be needed on patients; he said some of the residents are being referred by the local pediatrician's offices.

Mark Kline said that the clinicians do go to the schools to get information about the need of the students and to support them if needed. HRS may need to have a psychiatrist go and do an evaluation to see if the student or family needs help. Mark Kline said that 40% of the patients are from Weston pediatric referrals, 30% from the schools, and 30% are self-referrals. The counseling at the school level may not be adequate.

Leon Gaumond, Town Manager spoke about putting a special warrant article on the December 3rd Town Meeting. He will ask for \$40,000.00 to help fund the program with the Police Dept. part time position. If this article is accepted and approved at the Dec. 3rd meeting the \$25,000.00 will then be signed off and re-allocated to HRS for services in Weston. Once this is approved HRS is to send a contract to Leon Gaumond, Town Manager for approval and signature. Wendy Diotalevi will send a letter to Leon Gaumond and the Finance Committee for the support of the \$25,000.00 to HRS.

Wendy Diotalevi and Leon Gaumond proposed to Mark Kline on behalf of HRS that he be invited to a BOH meeting in October or November each year to vote on a new contract with HRS and for HRS to provide information from the previous year to get approval and give them the 25,000.00 that is part of the BOH budget.

Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro moved to vote \$25,000.00 be appropriated to HRS when approved, Dr. David Kominz second the motion, Laura Azzam vote passes.

Dr. DiPietro asked Mark Kline to state in the contract that the money is for staff support.

3. Director Review

- MVP Program – Wendy Diotalevi is a part of a study with other Town Staff that is working on a vulnerability assessment of the Weston Community.
 - Storm water Infrastructure
 - Global warming
 - School Infrastructure for disasters. Pre-planning and solutions
 - Education programs
 - Other vulnerabilities

- Oct. 22nd, 2019 – BOH is doing a presentation of the feasibility study done for the treatment plant project
 - Wendy Diotalevi spoke about Michael Harrity wanting to sell the 3 houses at the Case Estate property
 - COA needs more space due to constraints in the Community Center
 - Recreation Dept. is talking about putting up a field house. Looking at the land at Ash St. and Wellesley St. for this building. The fields they have will need to be upgraded.
 - The Library wants to move forward with their expansion project
 - Land Sake to expand with a kitchen building and Learning Center
 - Brook School Apartments to be added to. They can only have 8 more beds and are maxed out for their septic system. They have over a 10 year waiting list

- **Flu Clinic – October 24th, 2019**
- **November 2, 2019 – Program at Regis College**
- **Wendy Diotalevi would like to look into licensing landscapers**
 - **There have been a number of issues with landscapers ripping up septic systems and planting in the septic systems.**
 - **Would like to license annually. Need to discuss what it would entail**

- **Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro asked that the BOH vote in November to ban all flavored nicotine products and to be posted in the local paper.**
- **Wendy Diotalevi asked Dr. Elisabeth DiPietro if she has heard anything from CDC on Vaping**
- **Laura Azzam brought up the pay as you throw program**
 - **Wendy to check with Leon Gaumond about the program**
 - **Should there be a BOH person on the committee**

4. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday November 19, 2019

5. Adjourned: 4:15pm