

Social Services Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

9/3/2024



Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board was called to order at approximately 4:05pm on 9/3/2024 at the Sunrise Senior Center.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Sharon Baron- Present
Abdul Basit- Present
Olivia Coleman- Present
Patricia Louis-Mills- Absent

Harvey Soufrine- Present
Gisel Suarez- Present
Amanda Walch – Absent Excused

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from meeting were approved.

Open Discussion

No open discussion.

Presentation by: Special Guest - City of Sunrise Mayor - Michael J. Ryan spoke today at our meeting to talk about important economic issues going on within our community. From rising insurance premiums, maintenance costs, structural reserves, and day to day bills he foresees a catastrophe ahead of us. People who never thought that they would be going through financial hardships are now starting to become worried about not being able to pay their bills. He wanted to let us know that it is important now more than ever to come together as a community and as a family to help each other with as much support and guidance as we can. He stated that most people don't want a hand out and that often times it is hard for people to reach out for help. He stressed that this is a time where the community needs compassion and understanding for our residents in need. To go the extra mile even if somebody just needs to talk or vent to feel better. We have the Compassion Call Center readily available to take any calls and to try our absolute best to get the answers and make life just a little easier for our patrons who already feel defeated.

Presentation by: Anitreia Macon - Director at the Gary Wendt Teen Center with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County. Anitreia gave of us an over view of our brand new Boys and Girls Center located right here in Sunrise, FL. It has always been a dream for the City of Sunrise to open a Boys and Girls Club. Heres a little back story behind the history of how the organization came about and why. In 1965, a committee of five community members came together to found the Boys Club of Broward to serve boys in undeserved communities in the Ft. Lauderdale area. During the first two years, utilizing abandoned Church locations, the doors were opened at two Clubs, which are now known as the Lester H. White and Nan Knox Units. Having a significant impact on decreasing vandalism claims and juvenile arrest rates in the communities where they were located, the demand for Clubs grew over the next 20 years and 7 more Clubs were opened in neighborhoods across Broward County. In 1990, when it became evident that girls were just as in need as boys of a safe, nurturing, out-of-school time facility, the Board agreed to modify existing Clubs, hire additional staff, and expand programming to become the all-embracing Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County (BGCBC) that exists today. With the addition of 2 new Clubs in the late 1990's and the chartering of a Club solely for teens members, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is now made up of 14 chartered Clubs with a membership of over 10,000 youth. Supported by many of the most prominent members of our community, BGCBC is proud to be the 5th largest Club in the nation. The clubs are a safe space for kids to enjoy after school programs and resources they may not have access to at home. Anitreia went over the many different amazing amenities that the clubs offer. From food, transportation, positive social interaction, to using electronics for homework all at a low cost of \$15 per year.

New Business

Kathy Osborn reported Social Services numbers for the month of **August:**

Fee waivers: 10 approved
Medical Transportation: 5
Food Pantry: 8 Families
Total Contacts: 63
EAF: 0

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:12pm. Next meeting will take place on October 1, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Minutes prepared by: Christy Martino