

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 29, 2026
Skaket Room, Orleans Town Hall

Present: Susan Chandler, Frank Kelly, Richard White, Fran Mustaro (arrived 11:10 a.m.),
Barb Hartford (remote), Alex Fitch (ex officio, remote)

Absent: Meff Runyon (Select Board Liaison)

Guests: Jennifer Ferron and Irene, Outer Cape Health Services, Inc.

Agenda Items

- **Call to Order**

Susan called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

- **Public Speak**

None

- **Approve Minutes**

VOTE: Fran K motioned and Richard seconded approval of the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Roll call vote - approval was unanimous.

Old Business

- **Update on the Navigator Program**

Fran K. gave a brief history of his involvement with the **Navigator Program** and the committee's reinstatement of funding for the program in Orleans. Jennifer, Program Manager of Community Resource Navigators, explained that people with substance abuse issues are referred to the Recovery Coach while people with behavioral and general health issues are referred to the Navigator Program. She distributed a handout to the committee that is specific to their services in Orleans. The report highlighted their focus – Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN). Most referrals do not occur while at the police station. Service addresses the immediate crisis, followed by stabilization which is a patient centered, goal oriented, multi-step process over time. From 7/1-today, in Orleans, 40 referrals have been received; 455 since the program's inception. Client-specific vignettes are described.

Fran M. commented on the interface of so many of HSAC's applicants in relation to the holistic needs of individuals in the community. He mentioned the Select Board's recent approval of a childcare funding for Orleans families which would impact many facets of residents' lives. Alex noted that the recently funded Early Childhood Education and Care program is a grant, not a stipend.

- **HSAC Application Issues (follow up from last meeting)**

Susan noted that the narrative boxes on the current application are not expandable. She suggested that the first page begin with form-fillable contact information, funding request, number of people served and current budget. Following that information would be a list of narrative questions with instructions for the applicant to attach a word document with their responses.

- **Finish Committee Review of Applications**

Richard presented the application from **Cape Cod Toy Library, Inc.** The organization is a new applicant, requesting \$5000. It is located in West Barnstable, easily accessible from the highway, close to CCCC. Richard gave a brief history since its inception in 2017. They have a collection of 2000 toys and a large, open space for children to play. The founder has a background in early childhood education. Their mission is foster healthy child development and learning through play. Most of their revenue has come from grants but now they are changing to a subscription model where families are charged \$12 per visit or \$600 per year(negotiable). They are currently open 12 hours a week.

Discussion ensued regarding the distance from Orleans and the few Orleans residents served. Collaboration with the Orleans After School program and possible pop-ups might be options for funding. Barb suggested that we invite them to attend one of our meetings as we have done with other new organizations. Susan felt that we should ask them to come with a revised application with more of a focus on Orleans. Richard will follow up with an invitation.

New Business

- **Begin draft of Committee's funding recommendations**

- Barb will provide the members with a compilation from previous minutes of our review of each organization and the amount requested.
- Expect the meetings on February 12th and February 26th to last the scheduled two hours.
- Alex has put the same amount of this year's budget (\$200,000) into the HSAC budget for next year. She does not need a specific lists and recommended grant amounts for the warrant. If an application comes in after the list is submitted to Alex, we can recommend funding as long as we remain at or under the \$200,000.

Adjournment

VOTE: Fran M. motioned and Fran K. seconded adjournment of the meeting.

Roll call vote - approval was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 12th at 11:00 a.m. in the Skaket Room. Richard will let us know if a representative from the Toy Library can attend.

Submitted for approval by Barbara Hartford, Clerk 2/1/2026