

25 MAR 11 2:01PM  
J. Kelly  
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

APPROVED March 6, 2024

Minutes 2/27/25

Human Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Present: Suzanne Moore, Barb Hartford, Susan Chandler, Fran Kelly, Fran Mustaro  
Andrea Shaw Reed, (arrived at 11:30)

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 10:15.

Old Business: Due to the impending budget deadline, HSAC focused on completing the remaining committee agency reviews.

**Sight Loss Services.** “Founded in 1981 in a Cape Cod kitchen and shortly after incorporated as a 501(c)(3), Sight Loss Services is a non-profit, human service organization offering programs in 8 main areas: Adaptive Aids, In Depth Office Consults, Home Visits and Assessments, Education and Awareness, Information and Referral, Outreach, Group Activities and Support Groups.”

The Committee agrees that sight loss is a growing problem in our communities often related with the ageing process. Most of Sight Loss Services’ clients are over 60 years old. They represent the gap between those newly diagnosed with a sight loss problem and those with more advanced visual problems. This is primarily a volunteer organization that advocates on behalf of people are losing or have lost their sight. They have increased their request from \$1600 to \$2,000 this year.

**Alzheimer’s’ Family Services.** There is committee agreement that AFS provides valuable community services but that their application must be completed before they can be funded. They are asking for \$12k

**Mass Appeal.** Their main effort is to distribute used clothing. They have a very small, volunteer staff. We believe this is a needed service in our community. They are asking for \$1,400. Suzanne worked hard to get this application in shape.

**South Coast Legal Services.** This group provides legal services primarily in the areas of housing and health related issues. They are anticipating an increase in demand this year from 50 to 100 cases but didn’t detail the reasons. They are asking for \$3,100 up from \$3,000.

**Duffy Health Center.** The mission of Duffy Health Center is to provide equitable, integrated primary health care and support services to persons who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. The focus of their

request was on *In from the Streets*. This program provides short-term emergency shelter. They have case managers who coordinate the emergency shelter placements and navigate clients' needs with other social services agencies. They are asking for \$2k

**Housing Assistance Corporation.** "Housing Assistance Corporation's mission is to deliver housing services that meet the needs of our local community and limit our impact on natural resources; and to engage in responsible economic development that generates jobs, stabilizes housing, and strengthens the community. Housing Assistance's vision is a community in which everyone is stably housed so that they can live the life they want to live and contribute to a thriving year-round community."

As advocates for affordable housing, they locate short-term rental options and provide rental assistance. Suzanne asked how HAC coordinates its work with other housing advocacy groups in Orleans and on the Cape, particularly with the Orleans Affordable Housing Trust that administers the new rent subsidy program. Last year this group requested \$10.k but HSAC could only approve \$3k. This year HAC again requested \$10k

**Sustainable Cape.** Sustainable CAPE requested \$7.5k. This grant will help fund our Farmers' Market Coalition and Farm to School work in Orleans. This submission request will speak to the needs of services to children and elders, as well as address hunger in the Orleans community. Their specific objectives for FY2026 are to increase access to local food for Orleans residents, specifically low-income populations; Improve food security & nutrition through increased consumption of healthy, local produce, contributing to improved dietary habits and increased food security; Provide economic benefits for all within the local food economy through decreased food costs, increased cash flow for farmers, and increased funds recirculating within the Cape's economy. They distribute tokens to people shopping at the Farmers' Market to buy health fruits and vegetables. It was noted that the committee was unable to contact anyone at this organization. We left messages on the website and no one returned our calls.

**MOTION.** Susan moved and Barb seconded a motion to approve the 18 agency funding requests submitted for FY2026 as a single grant bloc totaling \$171.6k. The motion passed unanimously. Suzanne will forward these recommendations to Alex at the Dept of Health and Human Services. (See attachment for approved list of agencies) There was discussion about earmarking HSAC's remaining unobligated FY2026 balance of \$28.4k for a specific project like Outer Cape

Health's Navigator program, but the topic was deferred until we had more and better information.

**Approval of the Minutes.** Fran M. moved and Fran K seconded the motion to approve the minutes. They were unanimously approved.

**Future Meetings:** Suzanne will decide if there is a need for a meeting next week. There will be a meeting April 3 to discuss HSAC's future plans and meeting calendar for the rest of the year.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Fran M moved and Fran K seconded the motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Chandler, Committee Clerk*

Town of Orleans  
 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget  
 Human and Community Service Contracts-590

FY26 Budget	\$
FY26 Personnel Expense	\$
FY26 Operating Expense	\$

**FY26 Contracts**

Aids Support Group of Cape Cod	\$	6,000
Alzheimer's Family Support	\$	12,000
Cape Abilities	\$	6,000
Cape Cod Children's Place	\$	5,000
Duffy Health Center	\$	2,000
Elder Services	\$	5,000
Family Food Pantry	\$	10,000
Food For Kids	\$	4,000
Homeless Prevention Council	\$	25,000
Housing Assistance Corporation	\$	10,000
Independence House	\$	10,600
Lower Cape Outreach Council	\$	12,000
Mass Appeal	\$	1,400
Orleans After School Program	\$	30,000
Outer Cape Health	\$	20,000
Sight Loss Services	\$	2,000
South Coast Counties Legal Svcs	\$	3,100
Sustainable Cape	\$	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>171,600</b>