

January 21, 2021

To: John Elsesser, Town Manager

RE: Merger of Youth Services Advisory Committee and Human Services Advisory Committee

This memo serves as a follow up to discussion in the Town Council meeting 1/4/2021. The question arose regarding the Human Services Advisory committee's role in supporting the Human Rights Commission.

Background: The previous grant funding for Youth Services was through the State Department of Education, who mandated the Youth Services Advisory Committee. The current Youth Services grant funding is through CT Department of Children & Families (DCF). It is not required by DCF to have an Advisory Committee. The Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) was previously comprised of eight individuals including Coventry Board of Education representatives, Social Workers, youth, and Human Services staff.

The charge for the YSAC was to support the Youth Services department in decisions regarding the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) referrals and prevention strategies and education. The group met once a month.

The Human Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) has been in place to perform similar oversight and support to the Human Services department. The charge of the HSAC is to foster a community of health and well-being for residents of Coventry. HSAC assists in coordinating social services, resources, activities and education in support of a higher quality of life. The charge would remain the same for youth matters. As the Youth Services department is under the Human Services umbrella, the merger of the two committees is prudent.

In regards to the Human Rights Commission, the HSAC would be available to provide information, education, and guidance to support their mission and goals.

"The Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people. Encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental or intellectual or learning disability including but not limited to blindness."

Respectfully submitted: Annemarie Sundgren, Human Services Administrator / Human Rights Officer

Attachments:

Coventry Youth Services Advisory Committee (CYSAC )

Coventry Human Services Advisory Committee (CHSAC)