

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 5, 2022**

To view the meeting's recording, please click the following link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/ NFCS-zR7cmfNxiPJiyx6kmK7Sz1shxhxtvyp7T6J6DwxSwYWhlRn2QtEn\\_z8DEGIG1HoVSWoMkk4VpP.69SRP50fCaPKfHF1?continueMode=true&x\\_zm\\_rtaid=9KDUcc2cSny2jC3oFXXpYg.1657545952377.906d00cf34b941730357e0f5f76ed47c&x\\_zm\\_rhtaid=219](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/NFCS-zR7cmfNxiPJiyx6kmK7Sz1shxhxtvyp7T6J6DwxSwYWhlRn2QtEn_z8DEGIG1HoVSWoMkk4VpP.69SRP50fCaPKfHF1?continueMode=true&x_zm_rtaid=9KDUcc2cSny2jC3oFXXpYg.1657545952377.906d00cf34b941730357e0f5f76ed47c&x_zm_rhtaid=219)

(Meeting starts at Time Code: 00:45:10)

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A meeting of the Human Services Committee was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 electronically via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM by Sarah Gallagher, Chair

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Gallagher Chair; Adrian Webber, Vice-Chair; Laurie Sweet; Katie Kiely

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Betty Wetmore; Cory O'Brien; Marjorie Bonadies

**Public Input:** There were five speakers and five written comments which can be viewed here:  
<https://www.hamden.com/DocumentCenter/View/6286/07-05-2022--Human-Services-Committee>

The following items were addressed:

- 1. Order authorizing the application and if offered the acceptance and expenditure of funds for the 2022-2023 Summer Youth Employment Grant DOL SYEPT (\$20,000)**  
-- Moved by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Ms. Rubino explained these yearly funds. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.
- 2. Order authorizing the application and if offered the acceptance and expenditure of funds for the 2022-2023 Summer youth Employment Grant DOL SYEPT (\$67,000)**  
-- Moved by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms. Kiely. DISCUSSION: Ms. Rubino explained these funds. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.
- 3. Resolution of the Legislative Council Medicare for All**  
-- Moved by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Mr. Stevens said that the public commenters had already covered many of the important points and so he would not repeat. He continued and explained that this resolution is similar to ones passed in the past two years nationally and in Connecticut. Stamford, New Haven, New London and Willimantic passed similar things. It is

based on model legislation provided by Medicare for All Connecticut and President Baez and Attorney Gruen tweaked it a bit to make it more specific to Hamden. Mr. Stevens said Peter Cunningham and Sivan Amar from Medicare for All Connecticut were present and invited their comments.

Ms. Amar said issues with access to healthcare have been detrimental to American society. The number one cause of bankruptcy in America is medical debt. She does not have statistics for Connecticut but said she is confident it is similar to the rest of the country. There are huge disparities across race and gender lines, not only economic, so that having healthcare that is affordable and accessible to all is truly one of the most intersectional issues of our time because we all need our health in order to work and contribute to society. In light of recent events it is even a matter of reproductive justice. Even though Connecticut is a safe haven state for both providers and patients from out of state seeking reproductive health it is still a matter of having the funds to pay for such services. Under a universal single payer system, everyone would have access to them. If we are all so supportive of the calls for justice that are being sent out now, being in favor of a universal, single payer system would ensure that every single person has access to this. She added the issue of saving money for families as well as the taxes and budgets for the town.

Ms. Gallagher said she is honored to have this in this committee. She explained the many ways a bill like this would benefit everyone in our society and the many services that it would make available to everyone. This is a fundamental and foundational bill that could really support our nation and our residents. Mr. Cunningham said this would be a powerful statement from this body that we support health justice. Mr. Farmer said Medicare for all is civil rights and explained the history of Medicare.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta, Clerk  
Rose Lion, Secretary  
for Sarah Gallagher, Chair