



Health & Human Services Committee

**October 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes
1:00 PM/ Barron Center**

Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Councilor Ray and Councilor Brenerman
City Staff Attendance: Dawn Stiles, Linda Weare, Karen Percival, Ed Latham

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Tour of Barron Center Facility:

Council and staff were given a tour by Karen Percival of the entire Barron Center facility.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Lunch and Presentation on “Age Friendly Communities”:

Linda Weare gave an overview and update. AARP is going to provide a small amount of financing (up to \$8k) per year. She stressed that making a community more age friendly is beneficial for everyone.

Councilor Brenerman questioned what else can the Council do to support this? Linda indicated that this will be going to full Council soon and will need the full support of the Council. She pointed out that the Steering Committee includes a representative from each of the neighborhood groups. It would be nice to connect this plan to the Comprehensive Plan.

Ed would like to see more education and grow Senior Housing. He would also like to see updates to the Council.

Linda gave an update on the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine. They have recently received a 3 year grant.

The October issue of Downeast Magazine has an article spotlighting elder abuse and references the work that Linda is doing. A copy of the article will be given to each Councilor.

Linda also gave an update and overview of the Greater Portland Hoarding Task Force and the challenges facing the issue of hoarding.

Ed encourages Linda to continue to lobby and advocate to the Council on all the good work.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Overview of Departments:

Department Heads introduced themselves to the Committee and Dawn gave a general overview of the Barron Center.

Karen Percival then gave a more detailed overview of the facility including a history of the Barron Center and Matthew Barron's vision. Karen also discussed topics such as hospice, Medicare partnerships, the building and how BC becomes their home and sometimes becomes their family.

Lisa LaBonty, Director of Admissions is usually the 1st point of contact dealing with hospitals, Drs Offices and DHHS. She walked thru the process of admission and wait lists and Gould Assessments.

Barbara Sours Finance Mgr for HHS distributed spreadsheets and indicated that moving forward it would be very difficult to cut staffing and noted there may be some room for an increase in census. She also discussed 2 BC trust funds.

John Key from Environmental Services recently joined the Barron Center after working at Maine Veterans home and is happy about his move. His needs assessment priority is the fire alarm system which is going to be replaced.

John also discussed direct digital controls to manage the energy system which is outdated. This became an issue during one of the recent surveys when the facility was cited for not being able to maintain water temperatures throughout the building.

He indicated that the parking lots and loading docks will also need improving shortly. A lot of the work needed is cosmetic. Storage is a major issue especially for the Recreation Division that needs immediate storage.

Ed Latham Director of Nursing spoke next about the Barron Center and challenges facing nursing care in general such as spiritual needs, medical marijuana and transgender issues. He discussed the original Mission of the Portland City Hospital to take care of our residents. He feels the priorities are keeping with the Mission which means; staff friendliness, competency and building aesthetics being low on the list.

Councilor Ray questioned if there were imminent items that needed to be addressed in the facility? Yes, fire alarms, call bell system and pillow speakers.

CNA program was discussed and Karen indicated they are working with Portland Adult Ed. She would like to see classes being conducted at BC for CNA's Food Service and Laundry.

Ed's areas of inquiry would include; financial spreadsheets. Moving forward we may need general funds to subsidize operations and we need to start planning for that. Diverse population moving into nursing home care and working with staff to train, physical facility – not a priority to the bottom line.

Ed stressed that he wants folks to bring forward challenges and issues for the 5-Year Plan.

With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.