

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF JAY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Attendance: Kathy Connolly, George McCabe, Wally Walters, Robin Licari, Lynn Ladieu

GUEST SPEAKER: Andre D'Avignon, Essex County Suicide Postvention Team

Andre talks about the Postvention Team. He works with and accepts referrals from Terry Morse, Essex County Director of Behavioral Health. It is a team composed of a mental health professional, 1 or 2 volunteers from the Postvention Team and a Spiritual Leader. He talks about how he works with the "Suicide Survivors". The network of friends and family are often at increased risk of suicide when a member of that network commits suicide. He talks about how a person's suicide is often a surprise to a Suicide Survivor. Andre states that Essex County had only 2 or 3 deaths by suicide this year which is lower than usual. Most of the people who die by suicide are below the age of 35. Suicide is often a result of a mental health disorder but also Andre lists social media, drugs, alcoholism as risk factors. He reports that the person is feeling hopeless and trapped. The Postvention Team lets a family know that they are available to help or to give them information.

EXPANDING HEALTH CARE: Human Services Committee is collaborating with Mercy Care of the Adirondacks to provide transportation, friendly visit, run errands, phone calls to homebound Seniors and to provide respite for caregivers. This is a need within the Town. The next Volunteer Training with Mercy Care will be in February. We currently have 3 Mercy Care Volunteers in the Town but we need 3 more. Human Services Committee will publicize and promote the Volunteer Training in February.

CHILD CARE: Little Peaks and Keeseville Child Care remain the closest Child Care Centers. 90% of Child Care provided is private and not under regulations. Lynn will talk with Head Start and Early Head Start Programs at Holy Name to determine if other childcare opportunities exist at Holy Name. Wally states that he wants to continue to work on this issue because childcare is a quality-of-life issue that also determines if people want to live or stay in the Town of Jay. George brings up the topic of a Child Care Cooperative where there is only one childcare professional, and the rest of the childcare is provided by parents in the Cooperative. There is a discussion regarding whether Human Services Committee should send out a survey regarding childcare needs in the Town. Robin talks about how most of the childcare is done by the schools. Lynn states that AVSC received a grant to have a pre-K program this year.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Essex County Suicide Prevention Team will be having their 5K race in the Town of Jay and different locations were discussed including one in the Acres, between the Jay Green and the Upper Jay

Recovery Lounge and Wally suggests talking with Knut Sauer because he had previously planned a 5K race in Au Sable Forks. Problems accessing QPR discussed.

YOUTH AND RECREATION: Kathy Connolly states that Gabrielle Schultz, Director of the Upper Jay Arts Center is interested in doing a Junior Jam in February or March. Gabrielle states the Junior Jam will include Keene, Lake Placid and AVCS. She is going to reach out to the teachers, music teachers in the surrounding school districts. Gabrielle is looking for funding and volunteers to provide a Junior Jam.

FOOD BANK: Door will open on Tuesday, November 11th. Robin had the first volunteer meeting and then were 10 enthusiastic volunteers ready to help. The Food Bank received donations from the Adirondack Foundation, United Way and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Robin requested a transfer of food items and donations from the Town. Group talks about the difficulties starting something new and setting up quickly because of the decrease in funding of SNAP benefits. Robin states there is a Food Drive in front of St. James Church this Saturday. The residents of Jay have been incredibly generous and supportive. Group talks about the stress on the Regional Food Bank and how this will affect our application.