



**Stratford C.A.R.E Committee**

**Minutes January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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**Mailing Address:**           ATTN: C.A.R.E.  
Stratford Community Services  
468 Birdseye St.  
Stratford, CT 06615

**In attendance:** Donald Goodson, Lynnette Baroni, Tamara Trojanowski, Lucretia Duwel, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Patrick Ridenhour, Stephanie Philips, John Fahan, Wade Pereira.

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Meeting called to order at 7:21 PM

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve agenda – TaShun Bowden-Lewis. Second- Lucretia Duwel.

**Approval of Minutes:** Donald Goodson noted a correction from last meeting. Instead of Donald it was Lucretia Duwel and the Education Committee that met with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss the study circles.

Motion to approve minutes – TaShun Bowden-Lewis. Second – Lucretia Duwel.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Total available in the bank account \$1,320.00.

**C.A.R.E. Logo/Tri-Fold/Website Report:** Chief Ridenhour will work on the text portion of the brochure and Olga will work on the logo. The Chair will contact Ludwig Gayanilo and William Boyd to get an update on the website.

**501(c)3:** Stephanie Philips proposed that C.A.R.E. contact the Town Attorney, Tim Bishop, to see if it is possible to have one of his summer interns work on the 501(c)3 for us on a pro-bono basis.

**New Business:**

**Special Guest Tammy Trojanowski of Stratford Community Services:**

Tammy informed us about “MEDALS” or Making Extraordinary Differences And Leading Stratford Awards. The Youth Committee of the Stratford Youth and Family Advisory Board is

pleased to announce the 2014 Medals Awards. A nomination is made by submitting a paragraph or two on why you think an individual (youth or adult), business or organization makes a positive impact on the quality of life in Stratford. Nominations are due by Monday, March 24, 2014 to the Youth Committee c/o Community Services 468 Birdseye St, Stratford or e-mail [ttrojanowski@townofstratford.com](mailto:ttrojanowski@townofstratford.com).

In addition, Tammy encouraged us to spread the word on joining the Community Conversation on Mental Health in Stratford co-sponsored by the Southwest Regional Mental Health Board. 6-12 people are needed. The discussions will be guided by a facilitator. Recommendations will be made to be acted upon by local officials.

**Black History Month 2014:** Lucretia Duwel announced the exciting news that her Programming and Publicity person, Tom Holehan, was able to secure a grant from The National Endowment of the Humanities to conduct a series of films, books, and discussions in celebration of Black History Month. Lucretia mentioned these events would be excellent opportunities to interest people into joining C.A.R.E. The Chair would like all members to commit to attending at least one session and possibly hand out C.A.R.E. brochures also.

**375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Town of Stratford:** Stephanie Philips stated that she believed the mayor has formed a committee to organize celebrations for the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Stratford. She and the Chair believes it would be a good idea to have a member from C.A.R.E. on that committee.

**Hopes and Concerns:** The Chair distributed the Hopes and Concerns grid that was expressed by C.A.R.E. members at the previous meeting. A discussion followed on how best to achieve increased minority representation in local government, in particular, the Board of Education. Stephanie Philips suggested that a good place to start would be membership on the public sub-committees of the Board of Ed. The overriding themes which emerged from the Hopes and Concerns meeting conducted by Gloria Mengual were: True Diversity, Equality, Understanding of Others, Increased Tolerance of Others.

**Mapping out our Assets, Resources, and Policies:** The Chair distributed the mapping out our assets, resources, and policies questionnaire that asks what does Stratford already have that can help C.A.R.E.'s goals come to life. Each member was asked to submit their answers to Donald Goodson by 1/22/14. Gloria Mengual would then take this input and facilitate a conversation about C.A.R.E.'s mission and goals moving forward.

**Police/Community Relations:** PAL Boxing is going well. The Dept is open to donations for the program and any suggestions to fill the gaps in working with disadvantaged youth in the community. Stefanie Philips mentioned that a free weights program may be a good idea.

**Adjournment:** 8:28pm

Motion –TaShun Bowden-Lewis. Second- Stephanie Philips.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Fahan*