

## Health and Human Services Advisory Council Minutes

1/19/16

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

In attendance: Marva Serotkin, Aric Parnes, Deborah Youngblood

### Introductions

1. Discussion of roles council members have played in the past and goals for the group
2. Updates on department initiatives
  - a. Newton Cares – suicide prevention and mental health. Discussion of ways to increase attendance at QPR training
  - b. Economic Growth For all – introduction of Newton LEADS initiative and the working groups of EGFA. Discussion of partners and goals for the initiative.
  - c. Opioid Task Force – discussion of need for this new working group and strategies for getting it started
  - d. Youth Services achievement gap focus - discussion of this priority for youth services programming and collaborations with the school department
  - e. Public health nurse hiring – challenge of filling this vacancy discussed
  - f. Food Grading system – discussion of latest implementation of the program and restaurant grades
  - g. Bridge to Self-Sufficiency CWU Program – introduction of program to support Newton residents working toward economic independence
3. Biosafety committee – anyone interested in serving?