

Troy Township
Social Services Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 24, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Committee Chairperson Trustee Jerome Nudera, Jr. called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Vice-Chairperson Trustee Johnnie Greenwood.

In Attendance:

Chairperson Trustee Jerome Nudera, Jr.	Vice-Chairperson Trustee Johnnie Greenwood
Administrator Jennifer Dylík	Community Services Director Cindy Stasell _(non-voting)

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz
Dawn Damiani

A quorum is established.

Guests and Citizen Comments:

Chairperson Nudera opened the meeting up for public comment. After asking a third time, and hearing none, Chairperson Nudera closed the meeting for citizen comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Nudera presented the minutes from June 12, 2025 Social Services Committee meeting, for approval. The motion was made by Administrator Dylík; seconded by Vice-Chairperson Greenwood to approve the minutes from June 12, 2025, Social Services Committee Meeting.

Roll call vote: Greenwood-Aye; Nudera-Aye, Dylík-Aye.
3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion carried.

Review and Discussion: Community Services Director Stasell reported on the following:

Presented what Townships were found to have programs similar to what Troy Township is researching, which are: DeKalb Township, Elk Grove Township and Hanover Township. Printed information was distributed on what these townships cover and how they handle the applications and programs. The differences in what these townships cover, pay for and the application process were discussed. Also presented was:

- Information that was obtained from a past insurance adjuster and some of the items that may or may not be covered and different questions we may want to ask.
- Some items we may need to look into- does the person seeking assistance have ALE (Additional Living Expenses) insurance coverage. What will that coverage pay for and for how long. Or, does the applicant even have insurance coverage, homeowners or renters' coverage.
- Items to consider for coverage could be hotel costs, medications, clothing, household goods, food, pet boarding, rental deposit, gift cards.
- Would there be a limit on how many times you can receive assistance.
- Could Salvation Army help with replacement items, such as household goods, clothing vouchers to the Salvation Army resell store, furniture.
- Discussion with Fire Chief Hertzmann and what happens during the fire and afterwards. Red Cross is called, and they coordinate hotel stays. Some insurance agents do arrive on site and assist with further needs. Chief Hertzmann said the two major needs they see during a fire is pet assistance and obtaining medications.

- FEMA information was presented, that FEMA would not be applicable to a local house fire. That FEMA would only be called for natural disaster.

Chairperson Nudera discussed what to look at next. The first may be what is the definition of a catastrophic event. Some of these events may be individual events but could have multiple families/properties and it would be different from other natural disaster events.

- We need to look at the other townships and what do they have and model off of what they may be doing.
- That we should be the provider of last resort. Check if any other providers are paying for these services.

Administrator Dylík comments and presented information on:

- Hanover Township funds their fire assistance through a non-for-profit foundation. We have a state statute and what we are allowed to use our taxpayers dollars for.
- Hotel stays would be covered under public safety. Social services for the poor and aging.
- Divide into 2 different categories: Insured and Uninsured. If insured, does the Red Cross cover the first one to two nights and is the insurance covering it after that? There could be potential need for hotel, pet, medications, household goods but the insurance should be covering this after the initial need. If uninsured Red Cross should still cover the first one or two nights then the township could come in and cover an additional 2 to 3 nights of hotel stay, if they can prove they don't have insurance and have the need for extra nights to figure out where they are going to live next. This may be where we can help with pets, meds and refer to Salvation Army for additional needs and rebuilding.
- We need to work with our attorney on what falls under public safety. Does pets and medication fall under public safety.
- Have 2 categories: Insured and Uninsured. 3 areas to help with could be hotel, pets, medications. We speak with our attorneys to see if pets and medication fall under the state statute. If not, then we are looking at 2 nights hotel stay and then referring to the Salvation Army for household goods.

Administrator Dylík stated we could speak with our attorneys to find out what would be involved in setting up a non-for-profit foundation. But, for now, we should speak with our attorney about what can be covered. Dylík asked that the most we would look to cover is a short two-to-three-day window at a hotel while the residents figure out where they would be staying. Stasell suggested food and gift cards to possibly cover other necessities. Greenwood referenced the information about other townships giving each family member a set amount and if we could just give the set amount to the family. Nudera asked to speak with the hotels about a set payment amount.

Greenwood stated we should be secondary support and let the primary organizations handle the initial support such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, shelters or food pantries. Dylík and Stasell stated there are not a lot of shelters nor walk-in food pantries in our area. Stasell explained that most of the pantries are micro pantries and have limited amounts. Greenwood asked if we would have a checklist for residents to make sure they have sought help from other organizations. Dylík confirmed we would have an application and coordination with the other organizations.

Greenwood expressed concern about covering pets, but it would be discussed with the attorneys and check with local shelters, vet clinics and animal control on whether they would be willing to help or give discounted rates. Dylík suggested we focus on fire assistance and what the attorney states we could help with then look at the next possible need, such as medication with a financial stipend or could we cover medication, one time repair, or deductible to help a senior citizen.

Nudera asked to contact the attorneys and draft up the next steps for the next meeting. Nudera wanted to inquire with other villages and cities to see if they have any programs like what we are looking to implement. Dylík suggested we speak with Elaine Bottomly with Will County. Trustee

Greenwood requested that we encourage that our funds be spent in our township and if we could partner with our local businesses. Nudera suggested we try to use a voucher system if we can and went on to discuss coverage and policy for housing, pets, medical, food and possibly being under public safety and social services for the poor and aging. Nudera and Dyluk spoke about administering the program through an application then completing it immediately and it would be handled by either the Township Supervisor, Administrator or Community Services Director. Dyluk suggested it be the Community Services Director first as she handles all the calls for assistance then have additional people to handle calls if she is gone or unavailable. For the next steps Nudera asked to check with the attorneys. Dyluk stated she would contact them with what we are looking for and what would be covered. Nudera then asked to establish the next meeting.

The meeting date was set for August 21, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Nudera asked for any announcements. No announcements were made.

Administrator Dyluk made a motion to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Trustee Greenwood.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Cindy Stasell, Secretary