



AMHERST SURVIVAL CENTER

Inspired by need and founded on faith in people helping each other. Where people in need receive food, clothing, relief from isolation, and social service referrals and information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“SURVIVAL CENTER REPORT SUBMITTED, CHANGES ALREADY UNDER WAY”

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The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the completion of an external assessment of the Amherst Survival Center’s (ASC’s) programs, administration, and finances. The assessment recognizes ASC’s **programmatic accomplishments** and **basic fiscal soundness**, while offering an analysis of **serious administrative deficiencies**. The report, prepared by local nonprofit Policy Development (PD), also offers **concrete recommendations** to help the organization move forward.

“We have already begun making important changes, and we have committed ourselves to using the assessment and recommendations as a guide.” - Richard Habhab, ASC Board President

“Policy Development’s report is thorough and fair, and points ASC in the right direction. We look forward to supporting ASC in any way we can to help them implement the recommendations quickly.” – Larry Shaffer, Amherst Town Manager

“There is less tension, more common ground, and the way forward is now apparent. It’s not going to be easy, but caring and talented people seem to be coming together to make sure the transformation succeeds.” - Aron P. Goldman, PD Executive Director

Highlights from the report include: a distinction between mismanagement and misconduct, and how one can lead to the other; recommendations for greater transparency and inclusion; a recommendation that a new Executive Director establish new expectations, revise job descriptions, and consider staff changes; an urgent appeal for Board diversity and a Board Treasurer; and a description of ASC’s substantial programmatic accomplishments and recent organizational improvements.

The assessment and recommendations are based on three months of private interviews with diverse stakeholders, bi-weekly open forums, a formal document review, direct observation, and PD’s experience with human services organizations and sector best practices.

An executive summary, and the full report, can be downloaded here:
www.policydevelopment.org/survival