

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK TO END HOMELESSNESS

MEETING SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: October 26, 2009	TIME: 8:30 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Admin. Asst., BC Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Rm 11/12 – Barnstable Superior Courthouse	
	NEXT MEETING: 11/23/09	
PRESENT: Bob Murray, Sheila Lyons, Claire Goyer, Connie Teixeira, Merrill Blum, Alan Trebat, Beth Albert, Paula Schnepf, David Willard, Steve Jochim, Allison Rice, Diane Casey-Lee		
UNABLE TO ATTEND: Estella Fritzingler		

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of August 24th

Alan Trebat motion, Connie Teixeira to approve minutes with the following corrections:

#7: S/C will - delete the words *be formed*

#10, paragraph 2: Duffy is waiting prevention and rapid re-housing - add the words *for individuals only.*

Unanimously approved with changes.

2. Welcome New Member(s)

At the October 5th meeting Billy Bishop of Homeless Not Hopeless was voted as member of the Policy Board. Diane Kaufman from Homeless Not Hopeless will also be joining the Client Coordination Council

3. Report of the Network Coordinator – Alan Trebat

- ◆ HMIS Data Admin Position: Beth Albert reported that a contract is being executed between Barnstable County and HAC for a part-time data administrator for the Regional Network. It has been forwarded to the County Commissioners for approval and will then be sent to HAC for signatures.
- ◆ Triage Phone System: RFP was issued in early October to establish a 24/7 phone triage system. No responses were received. Beth & Alan to revisit. Discussion re: central posting location. Beth noted that the RFP had been quite widely distributed through the Dept. of Human Services contact database.
- ◆ ICHH Qrtly Reporting: Alan reported that this was submitted last week. Alan to forward report to Policy Board members.
- ◆ Alan distributed latest daily motel #'s received from ICHH (he receives almost daily report). Bob noted that the Cape's numbers were not reflected in the report. Cape numbers are not going up as families/individuals in motels are putting themselves there vs. being placed/paid by the State. HAC & CACCI use diversion vs. placement in motels.
- ◆ ICHH Peer Learning Session on November 16th in Worcester
- ◆ Alan has received the suggested condensed Assessment Tool forms. Data Committee to review.

- ◆ Client Coordination Council: Training for caseworkers scheduled for 11/9 and 11/16 with Cape Mediation. Focus on advocacy skills to support caseworkers to assist clients working through different issues. 16 slots have been filled with 13 still remaining. This training is being funded with the Fireman Charitable Foundation \$5,000 grant received by the Regional Network. The CCC steering committee will meet on Thursday, 10/29 to review training session outline. Alan will send out reminder notice. Beth noted that Alan could forward the training notice to the Dept. of Human Services for a broader distribution.

4. Latest Distribution of Funds & the Impact on Family Homelessness

Discussion around the HPRP funding and the small amount of funds for family prevention on Cape and Islands, in addition to loss of other family prevention dollars in the past 12 months. Allison Rice noted that HAC has actually lost funding compared to previous years i.e. RAFT (Residential Assistance to Families in Transition) funding decreased by a half million dollars. The funding for this program that usually comes in September has still not arrived and HAC fields approximately 30 calls a day seeking assistance. Paula suggested compiling a matrix of funding across the Cape to include both historical data as well as current data in terms of funding amounts, individuals vs. families, short vs. long term funding etc. Claire noted that there is a need for immediate response and a definitive plan for future long term solutions considering the current economy trends. It was also noted that there are no Massachusetts state eligibility requirements as in other states and therefore Massachusetts is housing individuals and families from all over the country. It is more cost efficient to prevent use of shelters than to move individuals & families out of shelters once they are there. Allison will gather available data from HAC and check on possibility of Americorps volunteer working on this project short term.

Sheila will draft simple, to the point letter to the DHCD noting that the Cape & Islands Regional Network is disappointed in the decisions re: inconsistent fund distribution amounts and the insufficient funds given to the C&I will only increase the number of families needing shelter in local hotels. Will forward draft to the Policy Board today for review & discussion.

5. Policy Board Response to Family Prevention Funds

- ◆ Alan will continue to attend ICHH meetings and trainings and gather information to share with other network members.
- ◆ Members only attend trainings that apply to the Regional Network's work but continue local trainings as needed.
- ◆ Concentrate on raising additional funds and allocate towards families for prevention funding. Review eligibility requirements and process for acquiring funds. Bob suggested a large mailing in early 2010 with a goal of raising \$400,000. Seek corporate sponsorships to defray expenses of mailing.
- ◆ 11/4: Chairs of Regional Networks to meet with Lt. Governor for debriefing and what's been happening in the regions. Alan will follow-up re: who needs to attend from the Cape delegation

6. Sub-Committee Reports

7. Other Business

Discussion: Affects of State 9C cuts. Merrill Blum noted the proposed 27% cut in funding by Governor in many areas.

Diane Casey-Lee: Council of Churches will convene an in-gathering on 12/2 at Corpus Christi Church in Sandwich.

8. **Next Meeting---Time & Place:** The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for Monday, November 23rd @ 8:30 AM, Rms 11/12 @ the Barnstable Superior Courthouse.
9. **Adjourn:** **Bob Murray** motioned, seconded by **Sheila Lyons** - meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.