1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Introductions were made by individuals.

2. **Approval of Minutes of April 2012:** Susan Witte motioned, seconded by Heidi Nelson to accept the minutes of April 23, 2012 minutes as written, unanimously approved.

3. **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepp:**
   - May 22nd: 10 am – 12 Noon in the Harborview Conference Room (County Complex, old jail building) Part 2 of Workforce Development training with a focus at resources on the local level. Will be planning Part 3 of this training for June or September.
   - State released ESG state allocations to disperse federal funding. Focuses funding on shelter support and rapid rehousing and prevention. Two grants were applied for: 1) $120,000 for rapid rehousing services. The Regional Network met the criteria for rapid rehousing eligibility for funds. 2) Funding for shelter support staffing. Hopeful that the region will receive funding for shelter support – eligibility guidelines have gotten tighter. Case management to be tied to beds being occupied. HAC and the Council of Churches applied for this grant on behalf of the Regional Network. Anticipate announcement of awards in June. Please continue to advocate with legislators to put the Regional Network support funding back in the budget.
   - On May 15th, Paula & Beth Albert met with ICHH and presented the C&I Regional Plan to a State Homeless Council including the Lieutenant Governor, and Cabinet Secretaries for Veterans, Youth, Elders, DHCD and others. Paula distributed and reviewed an ICHH Organizational Map. Need to coordinate a Regional Network training with focus on Veterans services. Merrill noted that the Veterans Center is already working with Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket to coordinate trainings on both islands.
   - Paula spoke about the article in the Sunday, May 20th Cape Cod Times about homelessness. She also reported that the CCT Editorial Board had met with Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary, Housing & Community Development for discussion about how to move forward to help the homeless population.
   - June 11, 2012 – Regional Network Executive Committee has a retreat scheduled to focus on Governance for the Network.
   - June 12, 2012 – the S/C of the Client Coordination Council will meet to discuss implementation of the Regional Plan.
   - Regional Homeless Network Blog has been launched. Click here [http://caperegionalnetwork.wordpress.com](http://caperegionalnetwork.wordpress.com) for the latest postings on funding opportunities, trainings, resource guides and links to help us end homelessness in our region.
   - Regional Network Policy Board June meeting discussion: Susan Witte noted that the Nantucket Healthy Communities Collaborative conducts a luncheon meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month (June 26th) from 12 – 1:30 pm and thought this would be a good meeting for the Regional Network to attend in addition to having a Policy Board meeting prior (10:30 – 12 Noon). Meeting is held at the Fairgrounds
Restaurant. Paula will work with Susan to coordinate reservation of space at the restaurant for the P.B. meeting. Paula will look into Ferry schedules and possible group discount of fares. Suggested that the Policy Board present the Regional Plan at the 12:00 meeting and all agreed this would be appropriate.

- The Regional Network holds two seats (Rep & alternate) on the Barnstable County Health & Human Services Advisory Council. Term is expiring May 31st and discussion ensued as to who would be nominated for appointment by the County Commissioners to the HHSAC. Allison Alewine motioned, seconded by Heidi Nelson that Paula Schnepp be nominated as Representative and Caronanne Procaccini be nominated as alternate to the Barnstable County Health & Human Services Advisory Council for a three year term beginning June 1, 2012. Motion was approved.

4. Presentation – Homeless not Hopeless – Steve Brown & Billy Bishop: Steve began with reminding ourselves of things we already know and the importance of that knowledge. Homeless not Hopeless is based on two concepts: 1) Love is the default – care is a “verb” and 2) We need to have a clear understanding of the nature of addiction. Addiction is as much a community issue as an individual disease. He recommended the book “Walk Out – Walk On” which identifies what organizations like ours here on the Cape are doing.

Billy Bishop relayed the story of his long hard journey from alcohol addiction and homelessness and how back before 2000 the organizations and structure that we now know did not exist either on the Cape or in the state, i.e. the ICHH. Homeless not Hopeless was started by four homeless individuals (including Billy upon achieving sobriety) and is now in its 5th year of operation. The current Board also has several previously homeless people on it. The concept of the organization is built on trust within each of the three homes that are part of Homeless not Hopeless. Its mission is to educate and advocate for the needs of the homeless community; help homeless men and women get off the street by providing food and shelter; train them to deal with medical, psychological, spiritual and addiction issues and help them connect with available resources; urge those who are capable to find employment or volunteer their time; facilitate acquisition of financial assistance for residents; and teach goal setting, occupational and life skills that will lead to independent living.

There are two rented homes on Ocean Street – one for women and one for men. A third home, newly purchased, is located on Baxter Street. Residents of these homes pay community fees and contribute financially to food and utilities. This is in keeping with the goal of helping them to become self-sufficient and eventually move back into their communities as productive members of society but residents can stay as long as they need to achieve goals towards becoming independent. All residents are encouraged to work in some capacity. If not a paying job than they are shown ways to volunteer around the house or in the community. Without a doubt, the most important support HnH offers is respect. It is practiced and required of staff, residents and visitors. Education at HnH does not mean schooling but “leading people out” by teaching them from experience to address mental, physical, emotional and spiritual issues. HnH’s success rate of residents finding independent housing or continuing to live at HnH is 85%. Only 15% have been dismissed or can’t adjust. Residents must be sober and free from addiction and support is available to keep residents on this path.

Funding comes from four major sources: residents’ community fees, donations from individuals, agencies, churches and businesses, grants and fundraising, the largest portion coming from community fees paid by residents. The Duffy Health Center, the Cape Cod Council of Churches, Housing Assistance Corp and other agencies offer invaluable support. In closing, Billy invited anyone who wishes to stop by and visit one of the three locations to get a better understanding of the successes of Homeless not Hopeless. There is a need to educate the community and educate ourselves about addiction, mental illness, homelessness and the traumatization related to these. Heidi noted that a focus of the Regional Plan is to address chronic homelessness and looking at models such as HnH that address this issue.
5. **Update: FY2013 State Budget:** Senate released its budget on 5/21/12. Amendments are due by Friday. Most of the Governor’s budget made it into the Senate budget. Several line items are still being looked at. Governor requested $8.7 million for RAFT program. House passed. Only $200,000 is allocated for the Cape. This is a decrease from ½ million in funding received in the past. RAFT program targets funding to “couch surfers” & people who are doubled-up and families in transition. HAC manages the RAFT program and funding for the Cape. Senate budget should be passed this week.

6. **Update: Main Street Initiative:** Recent meeting of the Main St. Initiative: looked at resources for street and shelter outreach, opportunities for coordination, how to handle single point of contact (police are still the contact in a large majority of cases), trainings/education for merchants and residents. Working on getting procedures in place this week as the “season” is starting.

7. **Update: Continuum of Care:** Paula distributed information on SAMHSA’s SOAR program. SAMHSA is now accepting applications from Continua of Care that have not yet had the opportunity to participate in the federally sponsored SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Project. This program assists states and localities to expedite access to the Social Security Administration’s disability programs for persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness and who have a mental illness, a co-occurring substance use disorder or other serious medical condition. Applications are due June 1st. Discussion that Duffy is aligned with other SAMSHA funding and should take lead for CoC to make application. Motion by **Susan Bennett-Witte**, seconded by **Allison Alewine** that the Policy Board on behalf of the Continuum of Care submit application for the SOAR program and Duffy will take the lead. Motion unanimously approved. Heidi Nelson abstained.

8. **Regional Plan Implementation:** Discussion deferred due to time constraints.

9. **Partner Updates & Announcements:**
   - **Merrill Blum:** Distributed briefly discussed the MA Statewide Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans document. This is the official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is the 3rd year of the 5-year plan commitment. As of now, there are no VASH vouchers allocated for Cape Cod for FY2013. Merrill spoke with Coleman Nee regarding redistribution to include the Cape because there is a definite need here. Hearing scheduled for June 7, 2012 from 1 – 4:00 pm in Boston at 100 Cambridge St. Sue Rohrbach will touch base with Merrill re: a letter of support from Senator Wolf.
   - **Sue Rohrbach:** The Freedom from Addiction Network (FAN) with support from Gosnold of Cape Cod will present “Medical Marijuana – It’s Your Decision, Massachusetts”, a community discussion scheduled for Wednesday, May 30th from 5:30 – 7:30 at Cape Cod Community College in the Tilden Arts Auditorium. Event will include an informed pro/con debate by CCCC’s Debate Team, legislative update by Senator Dan Wolf, and audience participation. For more information, contact capecodjusticeforyouth@gmail.com.
   - **Merrill Blum:** “Stand Down” Cape Cod event scheduled for August 11, 2012 at Cape Cod Academy, 50 Osterville-West Barnstable Rd., Osterville. Event is sponsored by Nam Vets Association of the C&I and Duffy Health Center. For more information or to pre-register call 508/778-1590 ext. 11 or 508/771-9599 ext. 271. This event will bring veterans, their families and providers together to share information on services available. A job fair will also be included.

10. **Next Meeting/Adjourn:** Next monthly meeting scheduled for **June 26, 2012 in Nantucket.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.