



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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MEETING MINUTES

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 22nd, 2020

9:00am-10:30am

Meeting Held Using Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Beth Albert, Leo Blandford, Beth Bowman, Martha Burzycki, Cassi Danzl, Maggi Flanagan, Gina Giambusso, Suzie Hauptmann, Megan Homer, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Jan Kendrick, Susan Mazzarella, Walter Phinney, Eddie Murphy, Heidi Nelson, Edythe Nesmith, Dr. Arlene Rodriguez, Paula Schnepf, Mary Waygan, Maybelline Willner, Erika Woods

Members of the Public: Lee Hamilton, Dan Hoben

Barnstable County Staff: Dan Gray

Guests: Andy Clyburn, Joseph Taylor, Hadley Luddy, Gene Carey, Mike Riley

Unable to Attend: Mark Ells, Gina Hurley, Jacqueline Lane, Greg Quilty, Jen Roche, Karen Tewhey

Elected Officials: None

Assembly of Delegates: None

County Commissioners: None

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- a. Cathy Gibson, Chair, facilitated the meeting which began at 9:05am. Dan Gray read the following statement: *The meeting will be held through remote participation pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law on March 12, 2020. The public will be allowed to view the meeting; but no public comment will be taken. See attached instructions on methods to join the virtual meeting and link to meeting materials. This meeting will be recorded.*
- b. Dan completed a roll call of attendees.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Chair asked for motion to approve meeting minutes from January 27th, 2020- so moved by Beth Albert with a second motion by Edye Nesmith. Reference document #2.
- b. **Roll call vote-** all in favor, none opposed.

3. 2020-2021 Policy Board Nominations- *Nominating Committee included Cathy Gibson, Chair, Paula Schnepf, Executive Committee and Beth Albert, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS)*

Creating a Healthy Connected Cape Cod

The Mission of the Department of Human Services is to plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.

- a. Nominees are Gene Carey, Vinfen, Andy Clyburn, Town of Barnstable, Hadley Luddy, Homeless Prevention Council, Paul Niedzwiecki, Cape Cod Healthcare, Joseph Taylor, Cape and Islands Veteran's Outreach Center- Reference Document #3
 - b. Motion to approve nominations was given by Paula Schnepf with a second motion by Edye Nesmith.
 - c. **Roll Call Vote**- all in favor, none opposed.
4. **Electronic Posting of Agenda and Materials**- *Dan Gray, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services*
- a. Approval needed to accept procedural change to post all information and documents required by the Open Meeting Law electronically on the county website instead of physical copies in the county complex.
 - b. Motion to approve procedural change in posting materials was given by Suzie Hauptmann with a second motion by Cassi Danzl.
 - c. **Roll Call Vote**- all in favor, none opposed.
5. **Rehousing Data Collective**- *Beth Albert*
- a. Approval needed for Barnstable County, as the CoC and HMIS Lead for MA-503, to execute the Data Sharing Agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). As the designated "Partner Agency" to DHCD on implementing the Rehousing Data Collective, Barnstable County is authorized by the Policy Board to establish criteria and a process for establishing Provider End User accounts for participating organizations within the Cape and Islands Continuum of Care MA-503. Reference documents #4, 5 and 6
 - b. Beth described the evolution of the Rehousing Data Collective (originally the Homeless Data Warehouse) and reviewed security measures, the benefits of the Continuum of Care participation and the anticipated implementation.
 - c. Cassi Danzl asked how release of information would be enacted on older data as detailed in the Data Sharing Agreement. Beth confirmed that Personally Identifiable Information would not be available until a Release of Information is signed. The Data Collective will access de-identified information going back to 2012.
 - d. Motion to approve execution of the Data Sharing Agreement was given by Beth Albert with a second motion by Walter Phinney.
 - e. **Roll Call Vote**- all in favor, none opposed.
6. **Regional Network on Homelessness Response to COVID-19**- *Dan Gray*
- a. Motel Response, testing, shower program and food distribution- *Heidi Nelson, Duffly Health Center*
 - b. Shelter Response- *Susan Mazarella, Catholic Social Services*
 - c. Community Impact Unit- *Mike Riley, Barnstable Police*
 - d. Outer Cape- *Hadley Luddy, Homeless Prevention Council*
 - e. Upper Cape- *Suzie Hauptmann, Falmouth Human Services*
 - f. Family Shelters- *Walter Phinney, Housing Assistance Corporation*
 - g. Meal Programs- *Edye Nesmith, Cape Cod Council of Churches*
7. **Regional Network on Homelessness 2020-2021 Priorities**- *Cathy Gibson*
- a. Youth and Young Adult Homelessness- Since January 2019, the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) homelessness grant has provided services to more than 120 individuals. Additionally, HAC will be funded for 6 YYA beds through the Continuum of Care. In the coming year BCDHS will be

offering a year-long training Institute for YYA staff and will provide information to our partners on additional housing resources.

- b. Elder Homelessness- In 2018 the Regional Network established a task force to address Elder Homelessness, with recommendation made in March 2019. Regional Network partners report that they continue to receive calls and referrals for Elders facing homelessness. Additional resources may be needed to meet the needs of this subpopulation, especially as they are at high risk for poor COVID outcomes.
- c. Employment- Partnerships with the MassHire Career Center, SER-Jobs and the WIB were launched during the past year. We would like to continue to develop those partnerships and determine how to gather and track data for homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families accessing these services
- d. Engagement with the Islands- We held an Executive Committee meeting on Martha's Vineyard which explored opportunities to expand connections and collaborations. In the coming year we would like to expand our linkages to the Vineyard and engage in outreach to Nantucket.
- e. Emergency Response, including on-going response to COVID-19- The Winter/Weather Response workgroup was established to improve services during harsh weather. This workgroup quickly adjusted to address the COVID pandemic. In the coming year, this group will continue to work on Emergency Response in its entirety given the concern around a resurgence of COVID in the Fall and Winter.
- f. Increase the capacity of the Network to plan for and respond to funding opportunities- The CARES Act gave communities an opportunity to increase resources and services in response to COVID, and several Regional Network partner agencies applied for funding. During the coming year, we would like to continue to assess community needs and gaps and proactively plan for programming so we can quickly respond to additional funding opportunities, should they arise.
- g. A motion was made to accept the recommended Annual Priorities for the Regional Network on Homelessness by Walter Phinney with a second motion by Beth Albert.
- h. **Roll call vote**- all in favor, none opposed

8. Program Updates- *Beth Albert, Dan Gray, Heidi Nelson and Cathy Gibson*

- a. MA-HMIS- DHCD has allowed several CoCs, including the Cape and Islands, to use their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for data entry. On May 6, 2020 BCDHS received a letter from DHCD stating that the CoC would no longer have access to their HMIS system as of 12/31/21. BCDHS is engaging other CoCs to discuss options for procurement of an HMIS platform. Reference document #7.
- b. Tier 2 Awards and NOFA Debriefing- The total combined Tier 1 and Tier 2 funds awarded to the Cape CoC is just over \$1.9 million for 9 projects and 137 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing. Tier 2 funding will be used for a HAC Youth and Young Adult Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program for 6 scattered sites. Unfortunately, the CoC did not receive Bonus Funds. When BCDHS received the NOFA debriefing information it was learned that the response lost 10 points on 1 question for circumstances beyond the control of the CoC. An appeal has been submitted requesting reconsideration of these lost points.
- c. Point In Time and Housing Inventory Counts- The counts were taken on January 28th. Martha Taylor, HMIS Program Manager, has compiled all of the data and submitted it to HUD. The year-to-year and five-year comparison has been sent out and is also posted on the website www.bchumanservices.net. The unsheltered count in Barnstable County went down this year, but there was an increase in Dukes County. The unsheltered count has remained consistent for the past 5 years.

- d. Youth and Young Adult Training Institute- The September 2019 Community Needs Assessment identified the need for building the capacity of staff members for engaging with the YYA subpopulation. YYA interact with systems in a different manner than older adults, and staff need to adjust their approach accordingly. The training institute will go for a full year, with training sessions every other month and a review of the materials in the off months. The trainings will be launched the second week of July.
- e. Census 2020- Prior to the pandemic, Duffy Health Center was approached by the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) to lead the effort on ensuring those in PSH complete the census. Duffy expanded their effort to also assist sheltered and unsheltered individuals by partnering with additional agencies. They created a flyer in 3 languages with instructions for completing the census, including for those with no regular address. They also are assisting with the Service Based Enumeration in congregate settings. The response rate for the county overall is between 25-30% so efforts are needed to encourage responses from all Cape residents.
- f. Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)- Historically DTA has allowed individuals with no mailing address to use the DTA office for receiving mail in order to finalize any applications to DTA resources. DTA is now working remotely, so they have no way to distribute mail in this manner. They ask that any agency working with individuals or families that are using the DTA address to identify an alternative mailing address. Cathy will send out an e-mail to the Policy Board members with further information.
- g. The Policy Board will not be doing partner updates during this meeting. Information on any updates can be sent to Cathy, Heidi, Beth or Dan for distribution to the rest of the Policy Board.

9. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Edye Nesmith with a second motion by Walter Phinney.
- b. **Roll Call Vote**- all in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted by: Dan Gray, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services