

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

MEETING SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: January 26, 2015	TIME: 8:30 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
	NEXT MEETING: March 23, 2015 @ 8:30 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex	
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Sheila Lyons, Linell Grundman, Heidi Nelson, Greg Quilty, Maggie Flanagan, Lee Hamilton, Brenda Swain, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Rick Presbrey, Lou Eppers, Guests: Pat Cawley, Dan Badger, Dan Gray, Andrea White, Gina Hurley, Elizabeth Wurfbain, Jill Scalise Unable to attend: Diane Casey Lee, Jay Coburn		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Sheila Lyons welcomed the group. Intros made by individuals.

- **Approval of Minutes – November, 2014:** Heidi Nelson motioned, seconded by Linell Grundman to accept the November 24, 2014 minutes as written, unanimously approved, Brenda Swain abstained.

- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
 - October 30, 2014 submitted HUD CoC application for \$1.8 million. Have not heard award announcement yet.
 - New season, new Governor. C&I known to legislators. Put together an agenda detailing the Cape & Islands needs/issues to present at the Legislative Breakfast on January 30, 2015. The breakfast is being hosted by the C&I Regional Network on Homelessness, the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and the Foundation for International Justice.
 - Sheila attended a 3-day conference with Town Managers on January 22.
 - Annual Point in Time Count will be held on **January 28, 2015**. HUD requires CoC’s receiving funding to hold the PIT Count. The challenge is tracking down the unsheltered population. Trainings for the volunteers helping with this effort will be held on 1/26/15.
 - Unaccompanied Youth Survey. This is year 2 for this effort. Target population for survey is individuals under age 25. This survey allows for the use of a broader definition of “homelessness”. Survey collections will be done January 28 – February 6, 2015. The survey is available in hard copy and also via Survey Monkey. The data from both the PIT count and the survey translate into funding opportunities.

- **Legislative Agenda for 2015:**
 - Three (3) items suggest to move forward at this time:
 - Statewide Housing Court Expansion Bill: Support this legislation for the Cape & Islands. January 28th is the deadline for legislators to sign on as sponsors. This year this legislation has potential for success for passing. Motion that the Regional Network on Homelessness support the legislation for the Housing Court expansion. **Brenda Swain** motioned, seconded by **Linell Grundman** to support the legislation. Unanimously approved.

- Successful launch of the Day Center. Elizabeth Wurfbain reported that there needs to be better collaboration with other organizations especially around discharge policies. HAC received start-up grant funding. Legislative agenda includes request for \$550,000 in next years' state budget for operations and infrastructure of the Day Center.
- Senator Wolf filed legislation to give towns the ability to tax short-term rentals – same tax as B&B's, motels etc. Sue Rohrbach will check to see if funds received from this tax could be used for affordable housing and if this can be tied into the legislation.

➤ **Facilitated Discussion by Andrea White, MSW, Housing Innovations, LLC – Building a Coordinated Assessment System to Prioritize and Find Housing for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:** HUD provides technical assistance as needed. HUD has set a goal of ending homelessness by 2016. The Cape & Islands has joined the ZERO 2016 campaign. HUD has directed all CoCs to prioritize chronic homeless (CH) individuals for the most intensive housing options, permanent supportive housing (PSH) and provide uniform record keeping standards. Note: Rapid Rehousing is a short-term support, PSH is a more long-term solution. Homelessness is a crisis for the person/household and resolving the housing crisis as quickly as possible is the priority for and focus of the homeless system, however, some people do resolve their housing crisis on their own. HUD has piloted the VI SPDAT (Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Tool) as an instrument to document need and prioritize people for PSH and developed an MOU for providers participating in the coordinated access system for information sharing. PSH projects have been identified that prioritize CH persons and a list of providers that use a Housing First philosophy has been developed.

System Process for PSH: VI SPDAT and CH documentation; MOU with PSH providers; Establish providers list with eligibility and prioritization; Establish central prioritized waiting list and review committee; establish process to screen applications; Employ evidence-based practices such as Housing First. Noted that the C&I has no pool of affordable housing units at this time. Andrea offered additional suggestions to look at mediation to divert people from shelters, look at Medicare to assist with case management expenses. Heidi Nelson noted the need for developing not only affordable housing but also case management collaborations.

Housing First is a system philosophy AND evidence-based practice for PSH Program Model as well as rapid access to housing with supports provided post housing and low barriers to access and no pre-conditions regarding housing readiness. Housing First Program Model is lease-based and provides quick access to housing while providing needed services and housing is not contingent on compliance with services. Services are voluntary for tenants but staff must provide assertive engagement. This model is targeted to people with long-term disabilities. Services are provided post housing to promote housing stability and well-being with the expectation that person is assisted to meet lease obligations and recover valued life roles.

Andrea also reviewed HEARTH Act performance measures, coordinated access and prioritization system, and national trends in homeless systems. In closing, Andrea noted that we need to move from collection of programs to system. Coordinated access and prioritization has been successfully implemented with a variety of service models with permanent and time limited subsidies. What we did in the past was based on the best thinking at the time but there is new data and research to support present models. Systems must look at resources and gaps between capacity and need.

➤ **Meeting adjourned** at 10:20 A.M. The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for **Monday, March 23, 2015** in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan