

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: June 20, 2016	TIME: 8:30 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2016 @ 8:30 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex		
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Jay Coburn, Anne Colwell, Lou Eppers, Maggi Flanagan, Cathy Gibson, Linelle Grundman, Beth Hardy-Wade, Heidi Nelson, Edye Nesmith, Rose Evans (via conference call)		
Guests: C&I Delegation: Seth Rolbein- Senior Advisory to Senator Wolf, Lee Hamilton, Michelle Springer, Elizabeth Wurfbain, Sid Davidson, Patty Watson, Deb Krau, Mary Waygan, Leslie Pearce, Margeaux Weber, Linn Torto – ICHH and Karen Tewhey- Martha’s Vineyard via conference call		
Unable to attend: Gina Hurley, Brenda Swain, John Economos, Greg Quilty, Sheila Lyons		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert welcomed the group and Linn Torto, Karen Tewhey and Rose Evans via conference call.

- **Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2016 & March 28, 2016:** Edye Nesmith motioned to accept the Minutes of January 25, 2015, seconded by Linell Grundman. Minutes unanimously approved with Beth Wade abstaining. Edye Nesmith motioned to accept the minutes of March 28, 2016, seconded by Beth Wade. Unanimously approved with Linell Grundman abstaining.

- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
 - Seth Rolbein, Senior Advisor to Senator Wolf, reported that revenues are expected to decrease. The Senate will wait to announce the FY17 budget until they can sort out what funding will be available. It is possible that this information will not emerge in a timely manner.
 - Paula reported that the Regional Network continues to support and promote funding for a Housing Court in our region. The Senate has proposed funding but the House rejected and so it will go back to the Senate for review. Senator Vinny deMacedo is advocating for funding for a Housing Court here on Cape Cod. Funding may stay in the budget but may not be available this year.
 - Zero 2016 campaign: This campaign promotes zero homeless veterans and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. Barnstable County has moved 59 veterans from homelessness to housing and 60 individuals. Participants in this campaign have been asked to extend their commitment through 2017. Paula reviewed the Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness commitment towards this effort including tracking the homeless movement through the process. Linn Torto (on phone) noted that ICHH continues to back the work of the CoCs. Linell Grundman motioned, seconded by Cathy Gibson that the C&I Regional Network on Homelessness renew and extend their commitment to the Zero 2017 Campaign. Unanimously approved.

- **Homelessness Forum 6/6/16 follow-up:**
 - **Update on Coordinated Entry, Outreach, and Surge:** Heidi Nelson and Edye Nesmith noted that outreach is the first step to engage the homeless. Nationally, seeing more people living on the streets. Continue to increase outreach and distribute resource

materials but there continues to be a problem finding housing. Jen Cullum, Barnstable Town Councilor, asked Main Street Initiative to bring together the organizations doing outreach to collaborate with on-going efforts. The Hyannis Community Impact Unit has hired additional officers to police the Hyannis Main Street business district. Five summer community service workers have also been hired to assist the Hyannis Police Department in their efforts. Heidi reported that the homeless camps have been dismantled and follow-up in those areas will continue to assure that the camps do not re-emerge. Outreach activities will be documented. Police have requested a “necessities closet” be available 24/7 to distribute materials and personal necessities to the homeless population they come in contact with. Several organizations have added new outreach workers. The Town of Barnstable has issued an RFP for an outreach coordinator that will be funded through June 2017. A new group, “**Boots on the Ground**” has formed to do outreach and case management. They will focus on one or two individuals at a time and follow throughout the process.

Coordinated Entry System will identify homeless individuals and coordinate services regionally. This system will collect info from outreach workers and other sources to coordinate services and housing resources regionally and track any possible duplication. The Regional Network has not solidified any single point of entry for this system. A survey of service providers that receive CoC funding will be distributed to evaluate what types of individuals are housed with this funding.

Several people in attendance discussed the unfortunate circumstances of individuals losing vouchers because they can’t find compatible affordable housing. Group discussed looking at options and how to engage landlords and homeowners of vacant houses to rent to clients with vouchers. Linn Torto, ICHH, supports the plan to identify resources and support options to encourage landlords and homeowners to participate in providing affordable housing. Also noted, some vacant homes need repairs to be able to house tenants and need to look at ways to help with modest renovations to provide housing for tenants. The Governor has pledged an extra \$5 million to housing efforts. Landlords will also need a resource to call with problems/issues with tenants. Jay Coburn suggested putting together a toolkit of information and resources. Also need to know what housing is available. Michelle Springer will call the Cape Cod Commission to see if they can assist in this effort.

- **Needs Assessment/Request to Legislative Delegation:** Paula Schnepf discussed packaging a needs assessment and other information for funding initiatives for homeless households. She will set up a meeting with Rose Evans, DHCD to discuss.

➤ **Continuum of Care:**

- **Statewide Policy Brief:** Massachusetts Continuums of Care (COC) Policy Brief was distributed and briefly reviewed. With Congress’ adoption of the 2009 Hearth Act, intended to streamline the CoC program, improve community planning, and measure performance, it also substantially increased the administrative burden, which significantly undermines the ability of CoCs to effectively plan and efficiently end homelessness as Congress intended. Efforts statewide to streamline the application process, simplify reporting, and provide technical assistance are being recommended. Linn Torto shared the Policy Brief with the Governor and drafted a letter to support its recommendations. The Cape & Islands CoC/HUD 2015 CoC Application was awarded \$1.9 million which includes support for 155 permanent supportive housing beds, \$67,000 to support HMIS, a \$50,000 planning grant, and \$30,000 to support the Coordinated Entry System. The CoC is looking at upgrading the HMIS/ETO system which does not currently collect all info that HUD requires.
- **Preparation for 2016 CoC Application (RFI for New Projects, Reallocation, etc.):** In June the next round of the HUD/NOFA application may be released; the CoC will issue a RFI for new projects and continue grantee monitoring. Of note: 11 of 16 State CoCs lost funding in the current round totally \$4.9 million in projects. The C&I CoC remains strong in its efforts and funding.

- **Presentation on Family Homelessness:** Maggi Flanagan reported observations that currently families are camping, doubling up in housing units, moving around with friends and family etc. because of the lack of affordable housing. Cathy Gibson, DTA, reported an increase in cash assistance applications also. Approximately 90% of families in shelter are moving off Cape to find housing and employment. Anne Colwell of CCCD reported seeing an increase in vouchers and families living in hotels and shelters. They are moving off Cape but often times return. Perhaps a needs assessment with these families would be appropriate to look at their needs and case management opportunities. Also connect with agencies working with children and families to gather information. Rose Evans of DHCD (via phone): She understands there are gaps. She encourages continued conversation about creative ways to address the gaps. Suggestion that the Policy Board include discussions each month on the topic of family homelessness and perhaps a panel discussion. Also, gather information and data and connect with Mass Coalition regarding advocacy efforts. Put together a report detailing policies that are perpetuating homelessness.

- **Update on Local Projects:**
 - Stratford Capital purchased Cody School in Bourne with plans for affordable housing units.
 - Dakota project – 120 units planned for the old Cavalier Motel in South Yarmouth
 - Karen Tewhey, Martha’s Vineyard, reported a different picture on the island. Employed individuals are struggling to pay rent. During the busy 4 month busy season there is a huge lack of workforce housing. People are compelled to live in housing deemed “not for habitation” to keep a roof over their head.
 - Jay Coburn reported on 2 new developments in Eastham which will provide several units of affordable housing.
 - Linn Torto noted the need to increase stock of affordable housing which will require changes in zoning laws and increase in funding resources.

- **Housing for Love Walk, Monday, July 11 – Sunday, July 17, 2016:** Beth Albert noted that members of the Policy Board have previously walked in support of this effort on Thursday during the walk week. It is also important to collect pledges to support prevention efforts. Contact Paula Schnepf if you will be able to participate.

- **Partner Updates:**
 - Jay Coburn: The Massachusetts Rural Policy Advisory Commission will meet on the Lower Cape on September 23rd. The Commission advises the state on a wide range of issues affecting rural communities in the Commonwealth including affordable housing and access to social services
 - Patty Watson: Forward highlights/events from your organization to Patty Watson, Department of Human Services at patricia.watson@barnstablecounty.org for inclusion on the department website and newsletter. Also check out the Public Health & Wellness portal at www.bchumanservices.net to review or add your agency’s information.

- **Meeting adjourned** at 10:00 AM. The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for **Monday, September 26, 2016 at 8:30 AM** in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan