

## CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

<b>DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE:</b> Policy Board	<b>DATE:</b> September 26, 2016	<b>TIME:</b> 8:30 AM
<b>RECORDING:</b> Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	<b>MEETING PLACE:</b> Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> November 28, 2016 @ 9:00 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex		
<b>PRESENT:</b> Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Anne Colwell, John Economos, Maggi Flanagan, Gina Hurley, Marc Israel, Steve Jochim, Heidi Nelson, Edye Nesmith, Greg Quilty, David Willard		
<b>Guests:</b> Lee Hamilton, Elizabeth Wurfain, Sid Davidson, Patty Watson, Mary Waygan, Karen Tewhey, Denene Shimkus, Walter Phinney, Katherine Wibby		
<b>Unable to attend:</b>		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert facilitated the meeting and welcomed the group and introductions were made by individuals. Suggested to move the start time of these meetings ahead to 9:00 AM to benefit members of the Network who are traveling from the Islands.
- **Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2016:** Heidi Nelson motioned to accept the Minutes of June 20, 2016, seconded by Gina Hurley. Minutes unanimously approved
- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
  - 3 pillars of Regional Network included in the Strategic Plan: Facilitate, Educate and Advocate
    - Facilitate: includes grant writing, CoC monitoring by the Dept. of Human Services.
    - Educate: New Family Homelessness Group. Series of workshops have been held with more planned for the future. Housing First has come to the surface as very important. C&I needs to do a better job of communicating resources and workshops etc. with a more active use of media resources. Dept. of Human Services is a great place to gather resources in one place.
    - Advocate: ability of individuals and collective groups to gather information on issues and bring to the legislature. Process to seek federal funding has become more cumbersome. Distributed and briefly reviewed Continuum of Care Policy Brief - Ending homelessness, improving efficiency: Recommendations for the HUD CoC program. This brief asks for reasonableness with the application process for funding, reward higher performing CoC’s, consistency in release of application and deadlines, simplify and streamline data reporting.

Greg noted that one example is that VASH and Housing First programs conflict. Paula noted that agencies, partners and funders need to come together to work more effectively, need to capture data more efficiently. Schools are noting more family homelessness and that should be a stronger focus. Heidi noted that in a recent Boston Globe article that compared states, Massachusetts had a higher rate of homelessness. There has been progress over the past 6 years. Need to better

structure the C&I Regional Network and learn more about existing programs. Lee commented that 77% of renewal projects were related to Housing First Program. Suggested to come up with a Fact Sheet denoting successes and challenges on the Cape & Islands. Beth noted that previously quarterly trainings were helpful but currently the focus is on getting the Coordinated Entry System up and running and also grant writing to sustain the funding that the C&I receives. Suggested future topics including family homelessness, domestic violence training and how to offer all agencies some level of support.

➤ **Continuum of Care:**

- **2016 HUD NOFA application submitted 9/13/16:** Renewal request of \$1,792,916 includes 150 renewal beds, 5 new beds, and 4 new projects. HMIS and Coordinated Entry System (CES) projects are priorities. Tremendous investment by the County to bring this funding into the region.
  - **Review of Written Standards (Board vote):** Review of Written Standards submitted with HUD application. Document distributed and reviewed. Discussion of needs vs. resources. Regional Network using assessment tool to determine who should be eligible for housing resources. Referral process by County – short term. Includes provider decline policy as well as client decline policy. The goal is to be transparent and have a fair, non-discriminatory process. Paula Schnepf noted that a requirement/heavy recommendation that those receiving funding through the HUD grant be in attendance at these meetings. Heidi Nelson motioned, seconded by David Willard to approve the Written Standards (revised version), unanimously approved.
  - **Update on Coordinated Entry system:** New \$30,000 grant for CES. RFP issued for Coordinator. Ranking/Review committee reviewing applications.
- **Lt. Governor’s meeting on October 11: Focus on Homelessness in Hyannis/Cape Cod:** This meeting is scheduled for 10:45 AM at Barnstable Town Hall. Beth will follow-up with Rose Evans regarding Policy Board members attendance at this meeting.
- **Update on Veteran’s Initiatives, Greg Quilty:** Greg reported that there are 2 counselors on staff at the Veterans Outreach Center and they have had 764 counseling sessions thus far this year. The Food Pantry serves 1,700 veterans each year. The Center has served 21 incarcerated veterans. Greg encouraged agencies to ask clients if they are veterans and refer to the Outreach Center if needed for additional resources. The Center has the ability to check on an individual’s veteran status. There are 24 VASH vouchers on the Cape used for supportive housing. These vouchers can be recycled. Housing First model is a preference as there are some prerequisites for VASH vouchers i.e. case management. Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSFV) was initiated in late 2013. In 3 years this program has served 400+ veterans and their families on Cape Cod. \$400,000 has been received in funding, the bulk distributed to individuals but there have been some families who received funding as well. This program could pay up to 10 months in rent arrears. SRO program – 16 beds, 4 single vacancies at this time. Working on opening another house for Veterans in Dennis. Have received approval from planning board and selectman. This initiative will be on the October 18 ballot for approval. October 1<sup>st</sup> is Veterans Appreciation Day. Female veterans receive additional services off Cape.
- **Recap on meeting on Family Homelessness, 9/15/16:** This group will be meeting monthly. Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2016.

- **Response to proposed 2017 HUD Fair Market Rents for Barnstable County:** Matrix distributed and reviewed. HUD determines fair market rents. Local Housing Authorities, HAC, and the CoC have been working together to respond to the significant drop in Fair Market Rents for Barnstable County with Congressman Keating's office and HUD. The request for re-evaluation has led to a delay in the implementation of 2017 FMRs until January 6, 2017.
  
- **Partner Updates:**
  - Mary Waygan: Yarmouth is working to redevelop Cavalier Motel into 69 unit development. Council on Aging adopted Age-Friendly Community Model. Summit planned for March. Mary will send Beth and Paula the link to this information.
  - Patty Watson: Distributed flyers for the My Choice Matters: Parenting to Prevent Substance Use Summit planned for Sunday, November 20, 2016.
  - Beth Albert: Regional Substance Abuse Council, Treatment working group has put together a Substance Use – Resources and Information on Cape Cod booklet. Contact Human Services for additional copies.
  
- **Meeting adjourned:** Heidi Nelson motioned, seconded by John Economos. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for **Monday, November 28, 2016 at 9:00 AM** in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan