

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

MEETING SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: June 22, 2015	TIME: 8:30 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
	NEXT MEETING: September 28, 2015 @ 8:30 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex	
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Sheila Lyons, Beth Albert, Heidi Nelson, Lou Eppers, Diane Casey-Lee, Christine Austin, Jay Coburn, Lou Eppers, Beth Wade, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Steve Jochim, David Willard, Greg Quilty, Brenda Swain Guests: Lee Hamilton, Liz Smith, Kris Dower, Tara Wallace, Caronanne Procaccini, Leo Blandford, Mark Bilton, Rick Brigham, Arlene Crosby, Jane DeGroot, Nancy Jane Woodside, Caroline Corrigan, Jill Scalise, Unable to attend: Gina Hurley		

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

- **Recognition Ceremony: Paul Hebert, Christine Austin & Diane Casey-Lee:** Sheila welcomed the group and the three guests of honor and noted that they have all done incredible work serving the homeless in our region surely big shoes to fill upon their retirement! Paul Hebert, founder of CHAMP Homes faced programmatic challenges and found creative ways to purchase Pilot House and through his dedication made it work. Christine Austin, as Director of the Homeless Prevention Council has served the homeless population on the lower/outer Cape and has been an advocate all the way to the tip of Provincetown. She has truly made a difference in the lives of those she has helped. Diane Casey-Lee, through her work with the Council of Churches and her faith-based community has spent many hours above and beyond serving individuals and families in need of support. She has found creative ways to keep the Faith Neighborhood Kitchen on Bearses way serving meals several nights a week. Many kind words were offered for the three retirees. Paul, Christine and Diane thanked the group in attendance for their support.

Paul, Christine & Diane each received a Proclamation on behalf of the Barnstable County Commissioners, a Citation from the Massachusetts State Senate and a token gift from the Regional Network on Homelessness. Sheila thanked each again for their leadership and tireless service to local residents and for sharing their knowledge, wisdom and vision to help reduce homelessness in our region.

- **Approval of Minutes –March, 2015:** Lou Eppers motioned, seconded by David Willard to accept the March 23, 2015 minutes as written, unanimously approved,

- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
 - The C&I Regional Network has joined CoC’s across the state and the nation in the Zero 2016 Campaign. The mission of this campaign is to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. Efforts to date are going well. Paula will report back on these efforts in the Fall.
 - Continuum of Care: The Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services has been the collaborative applicant for the CoC since December 2014. The Department will oversee the work of the CoC, monitor grantees during the technical assistance phase. Paula Schnepf will provide assistance with CoC planning activities. Lee Hamilton will provide professional and technical services for

CoC planning activities and grant writing for HUD NOFA CoC application. This application brings approximately \$1.7 million to this region for homeless services. Lee reported that work will begin on the next application this summer. There will be 8 new vouchers available after September 1st for the chronically homeless and these vouchers will be administered by the Housing Assistance Corp.

- Affordable housing is extremely tight in our region. Paula will convene a housing round table in July to discuss finding affordable housing options. Suggested that she work with realtors in the area. Noted that tenants who have attended classes and attained have A1 certification are the most successful cases.

- **Update on the Governor's budget and Housing Court:** Paula distributed and reviewed the Homes for Families FY2016 Conference Committee Priority Recommendations. The House and Senate have passed recommendations and are finalizing the budget to go before the Governor. The definition of eligibility impacts who can be housed. Housing Court: The Cape & Islands are not yet part of the Conference bill. Developing capacity of infrastructure has begun. Diane Casey-Lee noted that the Council of Churches has submitted a letter of support for the Housing Court bill. A 15 member Rural Housing Commission released a white paper in December of 2014 that addressed housing, transportation and human services. There were two earmarks in the budget: one for \$550,000 to continue the Day Center at the NOAH Shelter and expand services. This has been reduced to \$150,000. The other earmark would provide \$45,000 for case management to the homeless on Martha's Vineyard.

- **Update: Leadership of Network:** A survey was sent out to Policy Board members to determine continued commitment to participate on the Policy Board and evaluate what areas need to be looked at for future recruitment. Paula will report back in the Fall.

- **Update: NOAH Shelter/Day Center:** Heidi Nelson reiterated the need for continued support of the Day Center from those in attendance and organizations not in attendance. Looking at establishing governance document to guide the Day Center operation. Also looking at reducing the number of meetings that are held. Quarterly Steering Committee meetings include a broad group of stakeholders, legislators and organizations to gather input. The Executive Committee consists of representatives from Duffy Health Center and HAC and also includes Paula Schnepf, Deb Krau, Elizabeth Wurfain and the Chief McDonald of Barnstable Police Department. The Advisory Committee consults with Greg Barr, Director of the NOAH Shelter. To provide the full complement of services at the Day Center a budget of \$550,000 is required. Currently services are limited due to limited funds. The Day Center has had significant success in providing services and finding housing for individuals. The future of the Day Center is being addressed in a work plan that is being developed. Moving the Center to a different location is a good possibility. The work plan will include what additional services and infrastructure would be needed down the road.

- **Report on 2015 Point in Time Count and Housing Survey:** A condensed summary of the 2015 Point in Time Count data was distributed and briefly reviewed. Due to inclement weather, the count had been postponed from January to February 25, 2015. The full report can be found on the Regional Network page on the Dept. of Human Services website at bchumanservices.net. * The HUD definition of homeless was used for the PiT Count so numbers do not reflect individuals that were couch-surfing etc. The numbers were slightly down in 2015 which may be a result of the severe weather conditions resulting in individuals and families finding alternate housing solutions. Also on 2/25/15 a housing inventory was undertaken to count the number of beds available. Rapid re-housing beds were included through the Veterans Administration.

➤ **Partner Updates:**

- Diane Casey-Lee: The Faith Neighborhood Kitchen on Bearses's Way continues to serve over 200 meals, 3 nights a week. She estimates that the faith-based community has contributed in excess of \$1.5 million in support. The Council of Churches receives funding from FEMA for administration purposes. Diane reported that 2 staff were temporarily furloughed to keep the caseworkers on the street.
- The Main Street Initiative continues to meet and work with the community to resolve issues that arise.
- The Town of Barnstable still has approximately \$15,000 to distribute through its CDBG program
- Housing for Love Walk: July 13 – 19, 2015: A team from the Regional Network will participate on Thursday, 7/16 for a leg of the walk starting at CHAMP Homes. Let Paula Schnepf know if you wish to participate.

- **Meeting adjourned:** Motion to adjourn at 10:00 AM. The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015 in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan