

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: January 25, 2016	TIME: 8:30 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
	NEXT MEETING: March 28, 2016 @ 8:30 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex	
<p>PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Heidi Nelson, David Willard, Edye Nesmith, Cathy Gibson, Linell Grundman, Rose Evans, Cynthia Klopfer, Marc Israel, Robert McGillveary, Brenda Swain, Tom Lacy, John Economos, Lou Eppers Guests: Lee Hamilton, Michelle Springer, Maggi Flanagan, Elizabeth Wurfain, Shandreka Brown, Seth Rolbein- Senator Wolf's office, Chip Russo, Noah Hoffenberg, Deb Krau, Pam Gordon, Paul Rifkin , Karen Tewhey- Martha's Vineyard via conference call Unable to attend: Jay Coburn, Kara Blake, Beth Hardy-Wade, Liz Smith</p>		

➤ Welcome & Introductions

- **Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2015:** Heidi Nelson motioned, seconded by Linell Grundman to accept the November 16, 2015 minutes as written, unanimously approved,
- **Coordinator's Report – Paula Schnepf:**
 - Point in Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory (HIC): January 27, 2016: Submitted HUD grant for \$1.7 million which included 2 new projects. Waiting to hear regarding awards. This year's application made the Regional Network aware of a number of items i.e. improving performance, working with grantees and requirements to spend down award dollars. As part of the CoC grant the Regional Network is required to participate in the Point in Time Count.
- **Continuum of Care:**
 - The Point in Time count will be held this year on January 27th from sundown to sunrise on 1/28. Instructions distributed and briefly reviewed. This project will count the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals. The info collected will be entered in the HMIS system by Marc Israel. In the past case managers were relied upon to provide much information. In 2016 greater efforts will be made to collect data on a face-to-face basis where possible and take into consideration those in permanent supportive housing. It takes several months to tabulate the info collected. The report will be made available when it is completed. This year there will be no advance media. HUD's focus is to reduce chronic homelessness.
 - Governance and "mapping" to Regional Network: Paula Schnepf distributed and discussed four governance and mapping documents for the Regional Network, the Continuum of Care, Governance and Information & Advocacy. It is the responsibility of the Policy Board to communicate information on efforts in the region.
 - Update on Coordinated Entry System: Paula reported that there were two meetings in December to discuss creating the infrastructure for the CES. At the second meeting, we had a presentation of the Homelink system which is designed specifically to prioritize individuals needing housing and the available resources.

- Grant opportunities: MRVP's, Family/Youth Homelessness, ESG: MRVP's: State has 100 MRVP's available. Regional Network applied and was awarded 10 for chronically homeless individuals. HAC is the lead agency. The Regional Network will need to supply tenant selection plan, prioritize by greatest need and issue by 6/30/16. Waiver granted for fair market value in this area. RFR: The Regional Network passed on an application with a due date of February 2, 2016 – youth tied to families with very targeted funding. Will work on better communication with Network members re: pushing out RFR's. ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant: Federal to state to organizations. Application due end of February. HAC most likely applicant.

➤ **Updates on Local Initiatives:**

- Elizabeth Wurfain: Hyannis/Transitional Living Center, meeting today 1/25, continue to move forward on finding a new location. Barnstable Town Councilor group looking at overall picture of Hyannis, need to appoint two non-council reps.
- Paul Rifkin: The group, Belonging to Each Other aims to help save lives of unsheltered individuals. They are working with faith-based groups to procure a house in Falmouth and offer overnight hospitality to homeless individuals. The town of Falmouth has not yet passed inspection on a possible location and currently the group is housing individuals at area hotels. The groups funding is running low and they are looking for donations to continue their work. Donations can be sent to St. Barnabas Church, PO Box 203, Falmouth, MA 02541. Checks should include “Belonging to Each Other” in the memo line. To date they have assisted 9 individuals. The Council will discuss ways to provide guidance to all towns regarding providing houses for shelters and town governance guidelines.
- Karen Tewhey, HAC liaison to Martha's Vineyard: opened hospitality locations but ran into some code issues with the churches. A number of groups have fundraised to help the churches provided services. Funding was made available for families to be housed in two motels. Funding for Karen's position is earmarked in the FY16 state budget.

➤ **Legislative Agenda: Housing Court, FY2017 Budget:** Funding has been included in the Governor's FY2017 budget to expand housing courts. Network members are encouraged to continue their advocacy efforts.

➤ **Partner Updates:**

- Linell Grundman: Cape Cod Selectmen & Councilors asked for panel on housing and homelessness: Mark Ells, Asst. Town Manager, Barnstable, Edye Nesmith, Cape Cod Council of Churches, and Paula Schnepf, Regional Network made a presentation and responded to questions.
- Lee Hamilton: Safety is important when housing homeless individuals. Need to take a closer look at what towns are doing.
- Heidi Nelson: Duffy has a new Outreach Case Manager position. Housing First program – in 2015 33 individuals were housed and 75% remain housed in 2016.
- Lou Eppers: Reported a steady increase in elders needing protective services through Elder Services of C&I.
- Chip Russo: Champ Homes is seeing additional housing needs for chronically homeless individuals. They are seeking funding to build additional housing.
- Seth Rolbein: Sue Rohrbach, District Director for Senator Dan Wolf has retired. Seth reported that the Governor's budget will be released soon.

- Cathy Gibson: Big changes are coming at the Department of Transitional Assistance, in particular with the SNAP program. The federal work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents go into effect on January 1, 2016 in Massachusetts. Able-bodied individuals may only receive SNAP benefits for up to three months within 36 months without meeting the work requirements, some exceptions apply.
 - Marc Israel: Working with NOAH Shelter to find out where people are going after they have received shelter and services at NOAH and subsequently do not return.
 - Cynthia Klopfer: The Cape Cod Family Resource Center will be hosting a housing workshop facilitated by HAC to provide information on the various programs offered through HAC to help families and providers learn about housing opportunities, homelessness prevention, education, and counseling seminars. The Center has also hired a new Family Support Worker.
- **Meeting adjourned:** Motion to adjourn at 10:00 AM. The next meeting of the Policy Board is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2016 at 8:30 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan