

## CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

<b>DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE:</b> Policy Board	<b>DATE:</b> November 28, 2016	<b>TIME:</b> 9:00 AM
<b>RECORDING:</b> Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	<b>MEETING PLACE:</b> Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> January 23, 2017 @ 9:00 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex		
<b>PRESENT:</b> Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Anne Colwell, John Economos, Cathy Gibson, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Gina Hurley, Marc Israel, Sheila Lyons, Barbara Milligan, Edye Nesmith, Rick Presbry, Greg Quilty, Beth Wade, Mary Waygan, Katherine Wibby, David Willard		
<b>Guests:</b> Sid Davidson, Walter Phinney, Gina Giambusso, Noah Hoffenberg. Derick Bussiere, Jill Brookshire, Georganna Reed, Michelle Springer, Heather Harper, Deb Krau, Karen Tewhey, Tracy Longo		
<b>Unable to attend:</b> Maggi Flanagan, Brenda Swain, Heidi Nelson		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Paula Schnepf facilitated the meeting. Beth Albert welcomed the group and introductions were made by individuals.
- **Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2016:** David Willard motioned to accept the Minutes of June 20, 2016, seconded by Edye Nesmith. Minutes unanimously approved with abstentions from Beth Wade and Katherine Wibby.
- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
  - Housing for Love Walk is being planned for July 2017. This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walk. Paula is representing the Regional Network on the planning committee.
  - David Willard thanked Sheila Lyons for her dedication and advocacy for homelessness on Cape Cod and for bringing Barnstable County on board to look at these issues in our region. He presented her with a token of thanks from the Network. Sheila was honored to work and serve Barnstable County as both a County Commissioner and member of the Regional Network. She noted that the Regional Network has become more effective in sharing and collaborating across the region and urged the Regional Network to continue with the great work they do for our communities.
- **Updates:**
  - Shelter and services for homeless individuals
    - Beth Wade: CHAMP Homes has closed Pilot House 1 for renovations.
    - Derick Bussiere, HAC Outreach Specialist: Efforts underway to map individuals in camps and connect with services and programs.
    - Karen Tewhey – HAC on Martha’s Vineyard: Winter shelter is open January – March and operated by churches. United Way has generously awarded a crisis intervention grant to help house homeless individuals in hotels earlier than January due to weather factors. Homelessness on the Vineyard is always a challenge and an advisory group was formed to look at

options to assist with housing the homeless. HAC is assisting with the Belonging to Each Other program in Falmouth to house homeless individuals between December 1 and March 30.

- Edey Nesmith – Director of Cape Cod Council of Churches: Homeless Memorial Service will be held on 12/21, the longest night of the year, at 5 PM. The service will begin at the Hyannis Green and then march to the Federated Church. Faith Assembly of God in Hyannis received occupancy permit to begin preparing and serving meals to those in need. A goal of the program is to encourage families to attend and so families will be served at 5 PM and then the program will be open to the community at 5:45 PM.
- John Economos: Mashpee Village affordable housing project will designate 8 units to be used for homeless families and those with mental health issues.
- Gina Hurley: Following McKinney-Vento regulations, as of 12/10/16 children awaiting foster care will no longer be designated as homeless. Following No Child Left Behind guidelines, schools will be required to document homeless children.
- Cathy Gibson, DTA: Opening Cathy's Kitchen for a Cause serving survivors of Domestic Violence. Developing supportive services for homeless women. Working with HAC to find a location to house program which will include a vocational piece to provide trainings, earn a certificate and support employment search. The Mason's organization has granted access to their commercial kitchens to be used for whatever the program needs currently are.
- Families at risk or experiencing homelessness
  - Anne Colwell: A group has been formed to focus on family homelessness challenges, barriers and gaps. The group has been meeting monthly and are educating its members on the wide array of issues surrounding family homelessness. Discussed entry points into the system for families and are identifying these. Will invite the coordinator of the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program that offers resources that supports families to speak at their meeting. The group would like to identify what resources families are accessing. The group agreed that there needs to be more education around services for homeless families and youth. Anne also reported that there is a need for a Barnstable area Food Pantry and that although there are numerous smaller programs the needs of those facing food instability in the Barnstable area are not being met due to fragmented services and limited hours. Anne also reported that the group will be looking more into the challenges with transportation issues. The group will not look too much into affordable housing at this time and felt that is best left to the experts. They will however, identify barriers to increasing access to resources and focus on preventative resources that can be accessed earlier. A goal is to also advocate for families from a legislative standpoint. There is also a need for help with child care for grandparents raising grandchildren. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sheila Lyons pointed out that it would be advantageous if more work that can be done with specific detailed requests prior to presenting requests to legislators so that legislators can be more knowledgeable when advocating for funding and legislation.
- Veterans
  - Greg Quilty: The building of a home for homeless veterans on Route 134 in Dennis has had much success to date. The Town of Dennis Selectman voted unanimously to allocate \$200,000 as recommended by Community Preservation Committee towards project development. The home will house 5 veterans in a neighborhood setting. A few issues remain to be worked out with 1 resident who abuts the property. Would like to see these efforts duplicated across the region. SSVF program (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) is celebrating their 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. \$400,000 has been

distributed to veterans and their families for housing and to prevent evictions. Need still remains for more case managers. The Veterans Center has entered into an MOU with the Sheriff's department to provide case management for veterans incarcerated at the Barnstable County House of Corrections, both during their incarceration, and their transition and re-entry into the community and combat recidivism. VASH program is continuing to sustain services. Greg has accepted a new position starting in mid-December as Director of Veterans' Services for the Barnstable District. Barnstable District includes all Cape towns except for Falmouth but does include Wareham. Gina Giambusso has been appointed as the Interim Director of the Veterans Outreach Center.

- Unaccompanied youth
  - Beth Albert and Paula Schnepf attended the Interagency Council of Housing & Homelessness on Youth conference in Boston on November 18, 2016. The 2017 Point in Time Count will be a baseline year for unaccompanied youth and data from the 2017 count will be incorporated into planning for the C&I Regional Network.
  - Would like to revisit the "players" serving youth on the Cape & Islands. Noted that there is overlap in data and services for youth and families.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC):**
  - **Coordinated Entry System (CES) – Going LIVE December 1, 2016 – Paula Schnepf:** New \$30,000 grant received through HUD to support the CES. RFP issued and Tracy Longo was hired to coordinate the Coordinated Entry System launch.
  - **2017 Point in Time Count:** Will be held the fourth week of January; specific date to be determined.
  - **Nominating Committee for Policy Board and Executive Committee membership:** Will be pulling together a committee to review current and future membership of the Policy Board and elections of a Chair and Vice Chair. Let Beth Albert know if you would like to be part of this committee. Anne Colwell, Cathy Gibson and Gina Hurley expressed interest in being part of this committee.
- **Advocacy:**
  - **RAFT and FY2018 State Budget – Noah Hoffenberg, HAC:** RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) is a Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) funded homelessness prevention program. RAFT provides short-term financial assistance to low-income families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This program saves the Commonwealth a substantial amount of money and 78% of the funding supports women. The State saves \$140 million a year using permanent housing vs. shelter solutions. The program is up for annual review of funding.
  - **Housing Court:** We will be again advocating for expansion of Housing Court to the Cape & Islands.
  - **2017 HUD Fair Market Rents:** Although area HA's requested a re-evaluation of the decreased 2017 FMRs, the cost and time required to do so is prohibitive. Fortunately, due to the request being made, the new FMRs will not go into effect until 1/06/2017.
- **Next Meeting:** Monday, January 23, 2017 @ 9:00 AM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex.
- **Meeting adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan