

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: January 23, 2017	TIME: 9:00 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
NEXT MEETING: TBD @ 9:00 AM		
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Anne Colwell, Mark Ells, Rose Evans, Maggi Flanagan, Alisa Galazzi, Cathy Gibson, Gina Hurley, Tom Lacey, Heidi Nelson, Greg Quilty, Brenda Swain, Beth Wade, Mary Waygan, Katherine Wibby, David Willard		
Guests: Beth Bowman, Sid Davidson, Walter Phinney, Gina Giambusso, Deb Krau, Lynne Poyant, Elizabeth Wurfbain, Cassi Danzl, Arlene McNamee		
Unable to attend: John Economos, Jay Coburn, Edye Nesmith		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Paula Schnepf facilitated the meeting. Beth Albert welcomed the group and introductions were made by individuals.
- **Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2016:** Anne Colwell motioned to accept the Minutes of November 28, 2016, seconded by Mary Waygan. Minutes unanimously approved.
- **Coordinator’s Report – Paula Schnepf:**
 - **Housing for Love Walk:** David Willard: The 25th Anniversary Bob Murray Housing with Love Walk is a seven-day walk spanning the length of Cape Cod, from Provincetown to Falmouth. Since its inception, the Walk has raised more than \$4.5 million to help local agencies provide housing and prevent homelessness on Cape Cod. The Walk this year is being planned for the first week in July. The Walk Planning Committee meets monthly and Paula Schnepf represents the Regional Network on the committee and the Regional Network on Homelessness organizes a team for the Walk. Join us along the route, sponsor someone walking, or donate directly to one of the organizations benefiting from the Walk.
- **Updates:**
 - **Shelter and services for homeless individuals:** Arlene McNamee reported that Catholic Social Services is now operating the Noah Shelter under its new name of St. Joseph’s House. An onsite program manager has been hired and 15 cots have been added bringing nightly capacity to 50 beds (30 men & 20 women). A new activities director has been hired and the house is open 24 hrs/day with an average of 30 individuals participating during daytime hours. The shelter opens for night sheltering when temperatures reach 28 degrees.
Walter Phinney from HAC reported that an Award from the town of Falmouth and the faith-based community has been received to support the men’s home and women’s home in Falmouth through the end of March. There is typically a waitlist for both of these locations. HAC is also helping with housing issues on Martha’s Vineyard. Rose Evans noted that a coordinated

effort needs to be put in place to collect information from these type locations to be included in the coordinated entry system data collection efforts. Some locations are slipping through the cracks regarding data collection. Walter will follow-up on this.

- **Families at risk or experiencing homelessness:** Anne Colwell reported that the Family Homelessness Committee has met approximately 5 times. The next meeting is February 14th, 3:00 PM at HAC. The committee is focusing on the areas of 1) understanding the network of challenges for families, i.e. costs of housing, child care, access and barriers to services; 2) advocacy for Cape Cod families with legislature and local and state-wide organizations on items such as increased child care subsidies, a more robust food pantry on the mid-Cape/Barnstable area, and 3) mapping other challenges and creating a matrix, i.e. eligibility requirements, prevention efforts and access/barriers to services and resources. Anne is on a new Family Advisory Council on the State level and is gathering lots of helpful information. Brenda Swain noted that on some occasions families are splitting to enter the system as individuals vs. families because of different eligibility requirements. On rare occasions, families are giving caregiver rights to other family members or DCF in order to access the system as individuals.
- **Veterans, Greg Quilty & Gina Giambusso, Interim Exec. Director of Veterans Outreach Center:** Gina reported that there is transitional housing available for veterans on an individual basis but not families. There is a great need for emergency housing for families. The Town of Dennis Selectman voted unanimously to award the Veterans Outreach Center \$200,000 in preservation funds for the Dennis Housing Project on Route 134 through an RFP and has given them a 99-year lease for \$1/yr for the home that will house 5 individual veterans. The Veterans Center will raise funds to support the home and local businesses will donate labor and supplies to cover more than half the building costs. The Center continues its collaborative efforts to provide supportive services through outreach, training and housing assistance to veterans and their families.

Greg Quilty, Director of Veterans Services for the Barnstable District with the MA Dept. of Veterans Services, reported that there have been changes in the SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) program. Previously only renters were eligible for assistance. Now homeowners at risk of losing their homes can receive assistance in the form of help with utilities. He also reported that widows of Veterans are also in need of assistance.

➤ **Continuum of Care (CoC):**

- **HUD Awards:** Beth Albert reported that HUD has announced awards for the HUD CoC 2016 NOFA. The Cape region is the recipient of \$1,758,102 in awards for new and renewal projects. List of awards distributed
- **2017 Point in Time Count – Beth Albert:** The Point in Time (PIT) count, required by CoC's, is an annual community-wide initiative undertaken during the last 10 days of January. CoC's are required to conduct a sheltered and unsheltered count in compliance with HUD standards and PIT Methodology Guide. Unsheltered data is collected via face-to-face encounters and a brief survey. This year's PIT will take place on the night of January 24th and the following morning. Data will be collected through the HMIS system. A training for those who will be gathering this information was conducted on January 18th. Beth briefly reviewed a power point presentation from the training including Homeless Definition Rules, how data is collected, who cannot be included in the count, changes to the PIT count for 2017 and outreach efforts. Completed surveys must be submitted by January 30, 2017. All information will be compiled and cross referenced to avoid duplication and a report will be compiled by Lee Hamilton and Marc Israel and released at the end of February or early March.

- **Regional Network By-laws: Revisions for Policy Board and Executive Committee membership:** Beth Albert reported that the Regional Network Governance Charter, approved in March of 2014, was reviewed and revisions have been incorporated in the version distributed via email and at today's meeting. Beth reviewed revisions which included:
 - Meeting Frequency (pg. 7): added will hold "an annual membership meeting"
 - Policy Board (pg. 9): Terms: Policy Board members will serve "(1) year terms that are renewable annually".
 - Composition (pg. 9) Elected seats will include designated seats for "(1) Martha's Vineyard, (1) Nantucket, and (1) Shelter Provider".
 - Standing Committees (pg. 14): Added "HMIS Committee"

David Willard motioned, seconded by Heidi Nelson to accept revisions to Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Governance Charter. Discussion: Mark Ells requested a designated seat for a representative from the Town of Barnstable. Mary Waygan suggested removing one "Member-at-large" seat. Mary Waygan motioned, seconded by Gina Giambusso to add a designated seat for a Town of Barnstable representative and remove one member-at-large seat. Motion approved. Mary Waygan also asked that the section on compliance with Open Meeting Law be clarified. Mary Waygan motioned, seconded by Gina Giambusso to add under the Open Meeting Law section "The Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board complies with the Open Meeting Law of Massachusetts General Law". Motion approved. David Willard motioned, seconded by Heidi Nelson to adopt the revised Governance Charter with the approved amendments. Motioned approved unanimously.

- **Coordinated Entry System (CES)– Paula Schnepf:** Paula reported that members of the Network have been working on the Coordinated Entry System for the past 2 years. HUD mandated that anyone receiving HUD funding needs access to the data collected through the CES and data on any individual receiving HUD funding be entered into the CES. Great care has been taken to insure that the information collected in the CES database is secure. Agencies with access to the CES can match individuals with funding resources. Written standards, previously approved at a Policy Board meeting are adhered to. A scoring tool is used to rate an individuals' eligibility for funding and score must be 8 or above on a scale of 1-10. To date, information for 40 individuals has been entered and scored with 20 of those individuals scoring 8 or above. A high-level of outreach to raise awareness of this system has been undertaken. CES Committee meets bi-weekly to address issues with this process. The next meeting of the CES Committee is February 1, 2017 at HAC. The Policy Board will receive reports on the success of this new system.

- **Advocacy:** Paula Schnepf led this discussion. She encouraged attendees to think about and discuss cases of homeless households or households at risk of homelessness that experience barriers to access resources due to extenuating circumstances. Several issues that arose: need sooner interventions, elder displacement, families in transition, identifying individuals/families at risk of homelessness, individuals cycling through the system.
- **Note:** Policy Board Members will be contacted regarding nominations for Policy Board membership.
- **Next Meeting:** Monday, March, date and location TBD @ 9:00 AM
- **Meeting adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan