

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: June 26, 2017	TIME: 9:00 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2017		
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Mark Bilton, Jean Challies, Anne Colwell, Alana Dupuis, John Economos, Maggi Flanagan, Gina Giambusso, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Marc Israel, Ita Mullarky, Heidi Nelson, Greg Quilty, Brenda Swain, Beth Wade, Katherine Wibby, Dave Willard		
Guests: Lee Hamilton, Deb Krau, Michelle Springer, Kristin Bono, Roxanne Reynolds, Hadley Luddy, Patty Watson, Caronanne Procaccini, Cassi Danzi		
Unable to attend: Gina Hurley, Ed Murphy, Paul Melville		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert facilitated the meeting. Beth Albert welcomed the group and introductions were made by individuals.

- **Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2017:** David Willard motioned to accept the Minutes of January 23, 2017, seconded by Heidi Nelson. Minutes unanimously approved.
- **Update on Annual Action Plan:** Paula Schnepf reported that at the March meeting the Policy Board discussed its focus on 4-5 goals that included:
 - **Status of Housing Court Expansion:** This initiative may be stuck going forward due to support of funding in the House of Representatives. The expansion is supported by the Cape and Islands delegation although some expansion programs are vulnerable. Paula testified before the House in May on behalf of the C&I Regional Network on Homelessness.
 - **25th Housing for Love Walk:** The Bob Murray Housing for Love Walk has raised \$4.7 million. This year’s Walk is scheduled for July 10-16, 2017, schedule distributed. The Regional Network supports the walk by participating as a group locally on one day of the walk. This year that day will be Thursday, July 13th and anyone wishing to join the group should meet at Champ House, 82 School St. in Hyannis at 8:00 AM and proceed on the established route ending at the Ice Cream Shop in Sandwich at Russell’s Corner, Rt. 6A. A sign-up sheet was circulated and T-shirts will be available for participants. More information can be found at www.murrayhousingwalk.org. Informational rack cards were also distributed.

- **Family Homeless Prevention Committee – name change and update:** Anne Colwell updated the group on the work of this Committee including the name change to the Family Homeless Prevention Committee. The group has been meeting once a month. Discussions have focused on the child care voucher program and mapping out agencies and services/resources/processes available to assist families. The mission of this group is a driver to prevent family homelessness and provide advocacy and awareness about this issues.

- **Panel Discussion on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:** The State and HUD are focusing on homeless youth regarding education, providing resources and mapping agencies working on this.

- **Kristin Bono, Program Director, Justice Resource Institute (JRI):** JRI coordinates services for youth ages 0-21 years of age. They offer Acute Care & Juvenile Justice - a range of programs designed to support youth struggling with intensive acute symptoms. These programs include long-term intensive residential treatment programs as well as short-term stability support (both a CBAT program as well as a Partial Hospital Day Program). They offer Behavioral Health Clinics & Trauma Services - an array of innovative and evidence-based outpatient mental health services throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. All of JRI's Behavioral Health Centers and Trauma Services use intervention methods aimed to meet the unique needs of children, adults, and families. Additionally, they offer Community Services - providing a wide variety of specialized in-home and community-based services throughout Massachusetts. These services include intensive care coordination, in-home and outpatient therapies, mentoring services, in-home behavioral support, parent/caregiver support and education, mentoring support. Kristin reported that often times mental health and/or developmental issues lead to youth being displaced from housing and JRI can assist them find a variety of housing options. JRI works in collaboration with Duffy Health Center who provides case management and other services and resources. Kristin reported a myriad of barriers such as adequate access to case management, services and resources in our region. JRI has two peer mentors who are state funded through 6/30/17 who work with youth ages 16 -21. JRI will absorb the costs of retaining the mentors after that date. Youth can be referred to in several ways: they can self-refer and also be referred through doctors, agencies etc. These youth must meet certain criteria for assistance such as: have a mental health diagnosis, be on MassHealth, and be in residential care with plans to transition to home.
- **Roxanne Reynolds, Department of Children and Families (DCF):** Roxanne works with the Housing Stabilization Unit which provides case workers for families struggling with housing issues. She reported that youth do not generally self-identify as struggling with housing but many are “couch-surfing”, living in camps or in cars etc. DCF has an adolescent outreach worker to assist in identifying youth in need of services and housing. The Family Unification Program helps families with tasks such as applying for Section 8 vouchers etc. She did note that adolescents can only receive an 18 month voucher at this time. She reported that DCF also encounters many barriers to helping families find services and housing in our region. DCF continues to collaborate with agencies in our region to assist families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Hadley Luddy, Homeless Prevention Council, Interim Executive Director (HPC):** The Homeless Prevention Council (HPC) is a 501 (c)3 organization established in 1991 to address homelessness in the eight towns on the Lower/Outer Cape. As a community based organization, HPC is positioned to identify the unique problems and the available resources to assist clients to avoid becoming homeless. The agency works with other advocacy groups, town agencies and churches to help people access housing, transportation, food, clothing and other needs. The Homeless Prevention Council provides case management services that give extensive counseling and guidance to those at risk of becoming homeless. This aspect of the client services includes: advocacy and access to housing programs, funding, budgeting, etc. In addition to case management services and collaborative programs, the Homeless Prevention Council maintains programs to improve the lives of the homeless and near homeless of Lower Cape Cod. HPC's marketing campaign provides outreach to homeless youth and provides a connection to services with these individuals. HPC looks at data they have collected from those they serve to follow current trends.

Beth Albert noted that we need to continue to interconnect agencies and resources for homeless or at risk of homelessness individuals and families. The Regional Network will strive to keep this conversation going regarding homeless or at risk of being homeless youth.

- **2017 Continuum of Care NOFA: Proposed revisions to ranking of renewal and new projects:** The new Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has not been released yet. The Regional Network on Homelessness is the Policy Board for the Continuum of Care. The Review and Ranking Committee will review new and renewal projects who respond to the RFP for funding through the NOFA. A draft of the proposed application process, scoring and ranking of projects was distributed and revisions were discussed. After discussion, David Willard motioned, seconded by Heidi Nelson to adopt the revisions to the application times and deadlines and scoring chart for new and renewal projects. Unanimously approved. If needed, a special meeting will be scheduled to adopt ranking of projects by Ranking Committee.
- **Update on Coordinated Entry System:** The Annual NOFA through HUD requires that a Coordinated Entry System be created and up and running by January 1, 2018.
 - **Presentation about CES, Paula Schnepf:** Paula explained that each Continuum of Care (CoC) must establish and operate a coordinated assessment (entry) system. The overarching Goals of the CES are to reorient system to focus on those being served, minimize time and frustration accessing help, maximize use of system resources, and identify service gaps for system planning. By January 23, 2018, CES must: cover the entire geographic region, easily assessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services, be well advertised, include a comprehensive and standardized assessment tool, provide an initial, comprehensive assessment for individuals and families, and include specific policy to guide operation for individuals and families feeling domestic violence. Paula explained the assessment process, roles and responsibilities, process and tools and the agencies currently using the assessment tools in our region. Paula explained the coordination administration, principles and process for the CES and how does a person get matched. Housing CoC providers in our region include HAC, Duffy Health Center, Champ Homes, Barnstable Housing Authority, Falmouth Housing Authority, DMH and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Roles and responsibilities of these agencies were reviewed. Governance of the CES was reviewed and includes written standards, Memorandum of Understanding, CES Steering Committee and CES Policies and procedures.
 - **Approval of CES Policies and Procedures Manual:** The Draft Coordinated Entry System Policies & Procedures manual was reviewed. Katherine Wibby motioned, seconded by Lysetta Hurge-Putnam to accept the Coordinated Entry System Policies & Procedures as presented. Unanimously approved.
- Updates:
 - Beth Albert reported that the Continuum of Care Program Manager position has been reposted and will remain open until the position is filled.
- **Meeting adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2017

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan