

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board	DATE: November 27, 2017	TIME: 9:00 AM
RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
NEXT MEETING: January 29, 2018		
PRESENT: Paula Schnepf, Beth Albert, Anne Colwell, Maggi Flanagan, Gina Giambusso, Cathy Gibson, Gina Hurley, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Paul Melville, Greg Quilty, Karen Tewhey, Beth Wade, Mary Waygan, Dave Willard		
Guests: Lee Hamilton, Tom Lacy, Martha Taylor, Pat Cawley, Walter Phinney, Unable to attend: Brenda Swain, Katie Wibby, Ed Murphy		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert facilitated the meeting. Beth introduced Martha Taylor, Continuum of Care Program Manager for the Dept. of Human Services. Beth Albert welcomed the group and introductions were made by individuals. Beth acknowledged David Willard, who is retiring, for his assistance and support of the Regional Network on Homelessness since it was convened in 2009. Several other individuals present thanked David for his work with non-profits across the region and his commitment to the homeless population as well as veterans. David also became very involved with the Bob Murray Housing with Love Walk after Bob passed away and has been instrumental in its recent success. Beth presented David with a small token of appreciation from the Policy Board.
- **Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2017:** Paul Melville motioned to accept the Minutes of September 25, 2017, seconded by Mary Waygan. Minutes unanimously approved with Beth Wade abstaining.
- **Presentation: Regional Community Needs Analysis, Tom Lacey – CACCI:** The mission of Community Action Committee of Cape & Islands (CACCI) is to provide resources and skills to individuals and families in the region to attain and retain independence and economic self-sufficiency through personal growth, family stabilization, life skills and employment readiness. Programs of CACCI include Client Self-Sufficiency (access to Health Insurance and Care, supplemental Nutrition assistance (SNAP) benefit enrollment assistance, Immigration Resource Center, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and other seasonal programs), Child Care Network, and Safe Harbor shelter. CACCI affiliations with JTEC/Career Opportunities and the Cape Cod Literacy Council.

CACCI's designated service areas include Barnstable County, Dukes County, Nantucket County and seven towns on the South Shore. CACCI developed the Community Assessment Report as part of the development of its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, a requirement of the Community Services Block Grant CSBG). The guidelines for this report were determined by the Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development. Customer characteristics are based on CACCI's FY2016 data (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016). 2,681 households were served consisting of 6,347 persons during this period. Data shows the largest percentage of customers served were from the mid Cape (56%), followed by the Upper Cape (20%), the South Shore (10%), Lower Cape (9%), Dukes County (2) and Nantucket (1%). Data also gathered information on household income, household type i.e. single parent, two parents, etc.

A planning committee was formulated and conducted research and internal and external data collection. Significant findings in the report noted issues with:

- Child care: Insufficient childcare vouchers available and not enough affordable childcare available;
- Health care: Access to health care coverage, including dental care is a challenge as is access to behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment;
- Immigration: Immigrants are often wary of seeking services due to immigration status, language barriers and other reasons;
- Affordable and available housing: Lack of affordable housing and limited rentals; the need for stable, year-round housing. Even individuals who receive a housing voucher have difficulty finding a rental unit
- Employment and Training: Need for good paying jobs with a living wage. Education and/or training was often considered unaffordable or unavailable. The link with education and training to help low-income residents become self-sufficient is crucial.

CACCI stands committed to the goal of providing services to individuals and families with low incomes residing on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and within the extended South Shore service area. Its Strategic Plan Service Delivery for 2018-2020 is designed to assist its customers in creating stability and achieving economic security. CACCI will continue to develop its Immigration Resource Center and expand its out-posting of the Child Care Network, the regional child care information and referral program. CACCI's Certified Mass Health Connector Navigators assist customers on C&I in applying, enrolling and maintaining insurance plans. CACCI will continue to manage its Safe Harbor Shelter, part of the state's emergency shelter system for women and children who are homeless and have experienced domestic violence and provide case management for these families. Through its affiliation with Job, Training, and Employment Corp (JTEC) and its co-location with Career Opportunities Center, staff will refer its customers to the Center's *Services for Job Seekers* to provide opportunities for job readiness and placement. To view the full CACCI Community Assessment Report & Strategic Plan – 2018-2020 visit www.cacci.cc.

➤ **Report on Regional Network events:**

- **Monday, October 23, 2017: Elder Homeless Summit – Beth Albert:** The Summit was held in Wareham as a joint effort with the South Coast Network. Alice Bonner, Secretary of Elders Affairs for the State reported on the Commonwealth's vision for addressing the alarming and escalating crisis of elder homelessness. There was also a presentation on the latest housing and homelessness statistics impacting persons over 50 years of age. There is now an 800# for elder protective services. Regional Network will get information out on the system redesign. Data from MHSAs statewide study showed 32% of chronic homeless were older adults, with 34-38% rate here on the Cape. The Regional Network will become more involved with this issue on the state level. Regional Network needs to focus on tracking elders and strengthening their safety-net before they end up in emergency shelters.
- **Monday, October 30, 2017: Housing Court Expansion – Paula Schnepf:** Chief Justice Sullivan and Annette Duke, Housing Attorney for the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute were in attendance. Reported that on July 17, 2017 Governor Baker passed budget with housing court expansion as of July 1, 2017. The new law expanded 4 Divisions and created new one. Five new judges were appointed for a total of 15 for the Department, 2 must sit in each of six divisions, 3 ride circuit. SE region must have 2 judges. Governor originally proposed \$1 M budget, \$750,000 was passed, House overrode veto, back up to \$1 M, waiting for Senate. C&I is currently part of SE region (Plymouth, Bristol & Wareham). Barnstable County cases will temporarily be heard in Plymouth which may pose a transportation issue. Looking for space in Barnstable. Also looking at video conferencing for folks on the islands. Landlords currently make the choice where to file – District or Housing Court. The Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) is currently available for individuals with disabilities in the Plymouth Court. TPP handled 652 cases last year, prevented homelessness in 607 cases. Cape Mediation has a strong presence in our region assisting with resolution of landlord/tenant issues.

- **Update – Family Homeless Prevention Committee – Gina Hurley:** Focus on impact to children of homelessness. Schools need better resources available at their fingertips. Transportation is a big issue and a barrier to housing families and keeping kids in school. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2018 at 2 PM at HAC. Suggested that DHCD and also CCRTA be invited to attend these meetings.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC) – Martha Taylor:**
 - **2018 Point in Time (PIT) Count:** The PIT Count is required by HUD for all Continuums of Care as part of the HUD funding. This count is a 24-hour snapshot of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in our region during the last 10 days of January. We are not required to conduct a count of unsheltered individuals every year but the C&I CoC conducts this count to better inform program planning and to optimize resources. The 2018 Count is scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 30th into Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Drawback is that individuals are hesitant to give out information but the Count is specifically looking for demographic information. Information is gathered through HMIS for the shelter population. Members of the Policy Board, social service professionals, government representatives, and a host of volunteers go out into the community to meet and interview homeless individuals to gather information. The 2018 PIT Count data collection survey has been updated to incorporate new HUD reporting requirements regarding gender identity, homelessness due to domestic violence, and children of parenting youth families. It was noted that the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless is different from the HUD definition and thus lots of families are not included in the Count. This is a community effort and volunteers are welcome to assist in this initiative. A training session will be scheduled for January 17, 2018.
- **Partner Updates:**
 - **Anne Colwell:** There is currently a bill #2796 in the House to eliminate the 30-day wait period for childcare vouchers. Vouchers are currently valid for 6 months of childcare.
 - **Beth Wade:** Champ Homes is working on a new strategic plan.
 - **Lysetta Hurge-Putnam:** Independence House recently opened a new home to serve homeless households as a result of domestic violence situation.
 - **Karen Tewhey:** Currently there is no shelter on Martha’s Vineyard. Volunteers are in need of technical assistance to better serve homeless population with behavioral health issues.
 - **Mary Waygan:** Town of Yarmouth submitted a letter of interest for a parcel of land to build affordable housing.
 - **Cathy Gibson:** DTA is looking at ways to administer child care vouchers to better serve children. Currently, the issues with long-term vouchers are linked to parents’ success. The Homeless Memorial will be held on December 21st at 5 PM at the Federated Church in Hyannis.
 - **Gina Giambusso:** Veterans Outreach Center has multiple projects in progress to help homeless veteran population
- **Meeting adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2018 (due to holiday earlier in month).

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan