

## CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

<b>DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE:</b> Policy Board	<b>DATE:</b> May 21, 2018	<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> July 23, 2018		
<b>PRESENT:</b> Beth Albert, Beth Bowman, Jean Challis, Cassi Danzl, Maggi Flanagan, Gina Giambusso, Suzie Hauptmann, Tom Lacey, Paul Melville, Edye Nesmith, Paula Schnepf, Naomi-Tavares-Silva, Karen Tewhey, Mary Waygan, Katherine Wibby, Maybelline Willner		
<b>Members of the Public:</b> Martha Taylor, Hadley Luddy, Jan Roche, Patti Machado, L. Forest Malatesta, Pat Cawley, Lee Hamilton, Julie Malloy		
<b>Unable to attend:</b> Heidi Nelson		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert facilitated the meeting. Introductions were made by individuals.
- **Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2018:** Edye Nesmith motioned to approve the March 26, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Beth Albert. Unanimously approved with the following changes: Add “Annual Meeting” to the title, change “Next Meeting” to May 21, 2018. Note, the May 21st meeting was rescheduled from the previously scheduled May 28th meeting. Abstained: Beth Bowman, Suzie Hauptmann, Paul Melville, Katie Wibby, Mary Waygan.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC):**
  - **HMIS Transition from Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) to Barnstable County Dept. Of Human Services:** Beth Albert reported she has been working with HAC to transition the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to Barnstable County. The part-time position recruitment (19.5 hrs/wk) has been posted and hopeful the position will be filled by July 1, 2018. This individual will work closely with Martha Taylor, CoC Program Manager in the Dept. of Human Services. Edye Nesmith motioned, seconded by Mary Waygan to affirm transition of HMIS lead from Housing Assistance Corporation to Barnstable County Human Services. Unanimously approved, Cassi Danzl abstained.

A Data Warehouse Governance Board has been convened at the state level. Conceptually, this entity will collect unidentifiable client data as well as identifiable client data which will be able to be shared across CoC regions. The Cape and Islands CoC has a seat on this Board. Beth recommended Martha Taylor be appointed as the C&I representative and Beth Albert be appointed as the alternate to help guide the state in the development of the data warehouse. Mary Waygan motioned, seconded by Paul Melville to appoint Martha Taylor as the C&I representative and Beth Albert as the alternate. Unanimously approved.

  - **Status of FY2017 Program changes:** Due to reduction in FY2017 HUD funding to BHA’s CoC projects (Pilot Plus, CCSHE, and Housing First), the CoC has been working with BHA to absorb the CoC beds into other available vouchers. To date, no client has been impacted and 18 of the Housing First program beds that were not funded have been absorbed by BHA, FHA and Bourne HA. In addition, DMH will absorb the 2 CCSHE beds, and remaining Pilot Plus program participants (3) have been absorbed into

BHA subsidies. At the end of April 2018, BHA informed the CoC that they would not be executing the FY 17 Housing First contract for \$135,074. HAC has been administering the Housing First Program for BHA and have been involved in the downsizing of the program. After conferring with our HUD representative and in consideration of significant time constraints involved – all CoC renewal projects had to be listed on the Grant Inventory Worksheet which was due to HUD by May 8, 2018 – HAC offered a proposal to preserve the program. HUD, BHA and HAC are working on a contract amendment that will allow HAC to take over management of the program effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The program will be reduced from 17 to 8 beds, retaining the HIV/AIDS preference and adding Hep C diagnosis. HAC will also provide case management to the program participants and ASGCC will provide Support Services. BHA has ensured the CoC that all the remaining Housing First participants will receive mainstream vouchers by June 30. At its April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Executive Committee of the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness agreed to accept the HAC proposal resulting in a grant amendment switching CoC Grant funding from Barnstable Housing Authority to Housing Assistance Corporation for the Housing First program.

- **Anticipated FY2018 NOFA schedule:** This year the CoC will no longer require applicants to submit a Concept Paper for new projects, instead the CoC will ask for a Letter of Intent. If the program proposed is an eligible CoC project, new applicants will be directed to submit their applications directly into Esnap and will be reviewed and ranked accordingly.

➤ **Presentation: Lower/Outer Cape efforts on Housing and Homelessness:** Hadley Luddy, Homeless Prevention Council, noted that HPC serves 8 towns on the Lower/Outer Cape from Harwich to Provincetown. The Homeless Prevention Council provides comprehensive case management services that give extensive counseling and guidance to those at risk of becoming homeless. Both long and short-term assistance to clients include; advocacy and access to housing programs and funding, budgeting and negotiation for rent and mortgage payments. In addition, the three full-time case managers assist clients in assessing their ability to earn a living and, if appropriate, encourage them to pursue further job training and/or education. The agency works with other advocacy groups, town agencies and the faith-based community to help people access housing, transportation, food, clothing and other needs regardless of circumstances. HPC is partnering with the Community Development Partnership to ensure clients stay housed. Homeless Youth Outreach is a new program offered by the Homeless Prevention Council. This program will target and support youth on the Lower Cape in need of stable and safe housing, community resources and a network of support. The HPC is partnering with the Massachusetts Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and the local CoC to administer the 2018 Massachusetts Youth Count Housing and Homelessness survey so that state and local providers can better understand the housing and service needs of youth and young adults under the age of 25 in Massachusetts. Over the past three years, the results of similar surveys have helped to push the legislature to invest a total of \$3.7 million in housing and services for young people who have experienced housing instability and homelessness. Other programs of HPC include the Adopt-a-Family program which helps feed a family over the holidays and the Backpack to School program which provides backpacks and school supplies to children. HPC has renovated unused space in their building to provide a 1-bedroom unit of affordable housing.

Forest Malatesta, Outer Cape Health Services: The Outer Cape Health Services Community Navigator program began in April 2016 and helps assist residents with unmet medical, behavioral health, or human service needs through collaboration with local agencies, providers, and community groups. The Navigator works closely with community agencies with referrals and service coordination to help clients in their community by building relationships and identifying support networks. Navigators refer and connect clients to community resources such as social services, mental health services, substance abuse services, homelessness/housing assistance, medical care, and case management. They problem-solve barriers to access and assist in navigating the variety of services available as well as coordinating medical care. The Navigator meets clients at a safe location of their choosing, including their home, a public location, or Outer Cape Health Services

locations in Provincetown, Wellfleet and Harwich. They have also offered CCIT training for first responders and connect individuals with social workers in the public defender's office.

- **Proposed Regional Network Priorities for 2018/2019:** At the March 2018 meeting presented 5 priorities for the Regional Network going forward.
  - **Elder Homelessness:** A lot of work in this area is being done in the Commonwealth. Issues came to light during the transition of the Noah Shelter from HAC to Catholic Social Services. The Regional Network has created a Task Force to look at gaps and develop a safety net to safeguard the senior population at risk of becoming homeless and move elders already homeless back into housing.
  - **Expansion of (CES) Coordinated Entry System (Chronically Homeless, Veterans, Families):** Paula Schnepf has been assisting in building the CES and the plan is to expand this system over the next year. Until now, individuals were scored and matched in the CES for housing. Catholic Social Services received grant funding to assist in matching families through a different assessment mechanism. Contact Paula Schnepf if you would like your organization included in the Coordinated Entry System.
  - **Emergency Planning (Chronically Homeless, Families, Veterans):** Group had its first meeting several weeks ago and second meeting is scheduled today to meet with Sean O'Brien, Director of the Barnstable County Health Department and a member of the Regional Emergency Planning Committee team here on the Cape. St. Joseph's Shelter in Hyannis will also be a part of these efforts. Focus will be to coordinate an emergency response to events such as the prolonged severe cold weather this past winter that affected the homeless population in our region. A written County-wide plan will be developed and map out tiers of needs/emergencies. Vinfen is also considering opening a temporary shelter during emergencies. Plan should be in place by the Fall of 2018 to respond to such emergencies. Karen Tewhey reported that there is currently no shelter infra-structure on Martha's Vineyard.
  - **Support for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons (Families, Unaccompanied Youth):** The Regional Network will support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison's in our region. Each school district has a liaison to support families and connect them to services. Gina Hurley and Cassi Danzl will convene a committee around family homelessness. Paul Melville, Program Director of the Family Resource Center noted he would like to connect more with the school liaisons to provide resources to services and he would like that list forwarded to him.
  - **Housing Court and Tenancy Preservation Program:** Regional Network will continue to advocate and educate in this area as well as look at barriers. Housing Court expansion was approved in the legislature; however, the closest housing court is in Plymouth which can create a transportation barrier to access. The Regional Network will continue to advocate for a housing court here on the Cape. Senator Cyr has added an amendment to the current legislation to add a location in our region. Tenancy Preservation Program works with tenants, including families with children with disabilities, facing eviction. TPP specialists assess the reasons for an eviction, identify needed services, develop a treatment plan to maintain the tenancy, and monitor the case for as long as is necessary. Though not a housing search program, if the tenancy cannot be preserved, TPP coordinates the tenant's transition to a more appropriate placement, preventing homelessness whenever possible.
- **Partner Updates:**
  - Karen Tewhey, Martha's Vineyard: thanked the United Way of C&I for their continued support and funding.

- Beth Bowman, United Way C&I: Barbara Milligan has taken a position in Vermont and Beth is now the Acting Director of the C&I district. There will be a search for recruitment of a new Director.
  - Gina Giambusso, Veterans Outreach Center: Dennis House site continues to work its way through the courts. The site does have town support.
  - Jean Challis, Barnstable Police Dept: 9-12 officers have completed the Community Crisis Intervention Training. 55% of officers have Mental Health First Aid certified.
  - Patti Machado, Barnstable Reaction Dept.: All staff have received the Mental Health First Aid training.
  - Katie Wibby: Elder Attorney Tom Kosman has retired, and Katie will now be the elder attorney at South Coastal Counties Legal Services. SCCLS also has an employment opportunity for a health care attorney in their Hyannis office to be filled by the end of summer.
  - Mary Waygan, Affordable Housing – Town of Yarmouth: Affordable Rental Housing Lottery for a total of 30 units in Dennis, Yarmouth and Orleans for the Ready Renters program will be held. Applications are due by May 22, 2018.
  - Suzie Hauptmann, Falmouth Human Services: the Falmouth Housing Corporation is developing 20 units of workforce housing in the town of Falmouth.
  - Paul Melville, Family Resource Center: The new Center on Nantucket target opening is next week at 3 Freedom Square.
  - Maggi Flanagan, Homeless Prevention Council: Provincetown voters approved spending on universal child care to provide free child care for infants to kindergarten age.
- **Adjournment:** Beth Albert motioned, seconded by Paul Melville to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2018

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan