

CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING

DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE: Policy Board Annual Meeting	DATE: Sept. 24, 2018	TIME: 9:00 AM
RECORDING: Maria Silva, Barnstable County Human Services	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, Barnstable County Complex	
NEXT MEETING: Nov. 26, 2018		
PRESENT: Beth Albert, Karen Tewhey, Maybelline Willner, Heidi Nelson, Eddie Murphy, Katherine Wibby, Mary Waygan, Cassi Danzl, Tom Lacey, Maggie Flanagan, Suzie Hauptmann, Martha Reed, Edye Nesmith, Jen Roche		
STAFF: Martha Taylor		
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC/GUESTS: Lori Costa, DMH Jackie Lane, NAMI, Kim Talion, Intern HOC		
UNABLE TO ATTEND: Jean Challies, Gina Hurley, Cathy Gibson		

- **Welcome & Introductions:** Beth Albert facilitated the meeting.
- **Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2018:** Beth Albert moved to accept the minutes of May 21, 2018, seconded by Mary Waygan, unanimously approved.
- **Update on Regional Network Priorities for 2018/2019:**
 - **Emergency Planning**
Beth provided an update on the activities of the emergency planning committee, which includes representatives from Duffy, Catholic Social Services VinFen, HAC, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Barnstable County Human Services, and Barnstable PD. The group has been meeting since the spring to plan improved coordination and better utilization of existing resources for sheltering homeless individuals in weather related emergencies.

Heidi Nelson provided information about IFTS and Duffy’s role in administering these funds. The purpose of IFTS is to provide short term motel stays for people who are medically fragile and unable to stay in the emergency shelter. However, due to the extreme cold weather last winter, IFTS was used extensively and the program overspent it’s budget by \$25,000.

It was recently announced that a \$45,000 earmark (Senator Cyr) for a temporary emergency shelter was included in the state budget and awarded to Barnstable CCIT. Jackie Lane, the Ex. Director of NAMI and co-chair of the Barnstable CCIT drafted the proposal with Vinfen for the emergency shelter earmark. Jackie explained that a temporary shelter is for people who can’t access St. Joseph’s House and aren’t appropriate for IFTS. Planning for the emergency shelter is underway, including identifying a location. The Emergency Planning Committee will provide the plan at the November 2018 Policy Board meeting.

- **Support for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons**

Beth reported that in July 2018, she and Paula Schnepf had met with Paul Melville, the director of the Family Resource Center, about that agencies role in providing support to the McKinney Vento liaisons. Since Paul was not present at today’s meeting, an update on this priority area was tabled until the next Policy Board meeting.

- **Housing Court and Tenancy Preservation Program**

The Housing Court is now serving the Cape and Islands, the court is located in Plymouth. A Barnstable County location is slated to open in January 2019. Beth provided an update on the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP). There are seven TPP providers in the state, five are mental health providers and two are homeless agencies. The decision was made at the state to use the existing TPP contract with Fr. Bill’s Mainspring to provide TPP for the Cape and Islands. The Executive Committee has recommended that a local provider or an agency familiar with the Cape and Islands provide TPP services. Heidi Nelson contacted David Eng, from Mass Housing Partnership who coordinates TPP across the state, to discuss TPP implementation in our region. The outcome is that Father Bill’s is receptive to working with a local provider to deliver TPP. A meeting between Fr. Bills and the Regional Network Executive Committee is being planned.

- **Presentation on Martha’s Vineyard Homelessness Activities, *Karen Tewhey, Dukes County Homeless Coordinator***

- Karen Tewhey provided the Policy Board an overview of the unique challenges of homelessness in Dukes County and efforts by the Island community to address the needs of their residents. Challenges include shortage of affordable year-round rental housing; island rentals that are “not meant for human habitation” including sheds, detached buildings that lack heat, running water, bath or kitchen facilities. The homeless on the Island include seniors, women returning from detox, and adults with opioid addiction. The Island provide a winter shelter which is run by volunteers. There is an island Network on Homeless Prevention Coalition that includes clergy, various county institutions and councils, health facilities and volunteers which meet monthly. One programmatic solution is the creation of Harbor Homes – a congregate living program for the Island’s Homeless that is modeled on Homeless Not Hopeless. They are currently looking to purchase a home for this program which requires sobriety and offers case management.

- **Continuum of Care (CoC) - FY 18 NOFA Submission**

- Beth reported that the FY2018 CoC Consolidated application for \$1.75 M in HUD McKinney Vento funding was submitted on September 14, 2018.
- Over the past 4-5 funding cycles HUD has added numerous transparency and accountability requirements into the NOFA process. In addition, the Collaborative Applicant has instituted local practices to increase transparency and broader community

involvement including a release of a local RFP, project scoring tools, and offering two information sessions with renewal grantees and new applicants. This information is disseminated electronically to over 2000 individuals and organizations in our region. In addition to local notification & information sharing practices, HUD requires additional notification requirements including written notification to applicants 15 days prior to submission and public posting of the Priority Listing and the Consolidated Application 2 days prior to submission.

The role of the Policy Board in regard to the annual NOFA is to develop policies pertaining to the process, including appointing members to a Ranking and Review Committee and adoption of a Reallocation Policy. In the past, prior to the additional transparency regulations required by HUD, the Policy Board approved the recommendations of the Ranking and Review Committee prior to the submission of the grant. However, due to the stringent & redundant notification timelines required by HUD it is impractical to continue with this process. Note that HUD does not require the Policy Board to approve the application prior to submission, this is a local practice. Based upon the recent changes in the NOFA process, Beth motioned that the Policy Board continue to review and make policies surrounding the NOFA process to ensure transparency & accountability but that the Policy Board no longer be required to approve the priority ranking prior to the NOFA submission. The motion was seconded by Edey Nesmith. During the discussion, Heidi Nelson suggested that the entire CoC Governance Charter be reviewed and revised prior to voting on this issue. Based upon the discussion, Beth withdrew her motion. The Policy Board will revisit this issue at its next meeting.

- The Policy Board was provided a listing of projects that were included in the FY18 Consolidated Application. Martha reported on the following: funding priorities & changes in the 2018 NOFA including the new Domestic Violence Bonus and consolidation of projects through the application process; role of the review and ranking committee in determining Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects; the NOFA submission process (reallocation, new project scoring, renewal project scoring); and the final project ranking as recommended by the Ranking and Review Committee. In the 2018 competition, there are two new organizations applying for new projects, Independence House (DV bonus) and Sandwich Housing Authority (Reallocation and PSH Bonus).
- **EOHHS Grant Application** – Beth provided a summary of the EOHHS Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Services Grant that was submitted by the Department of Human Services for the region in the amount of \$240,000.00. Summary of the RFP and program components attached.
- **Partner Updates- None**
- **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned 10:36am. Next meeting is Nov 26th at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted: Maria Silva