



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
3195 Main Street, Post Office Box 427  
Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630  
Office: 508-375-6628 | Fax: 508-362-0290  
www.bchumanservices.net

## MEETING MINUTES

### CAPE & ISLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK ON HOMELESSNESS POLICY BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

9:00am-10:30am

Harborview Room, Barnstable County Complex

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**Members Present:** Beth Albert, Leo Blandford, Beth Bowman, Maggie Flanagan, Gina Giambusso, Cathy Gibson, Suzie Hauptmann, Gina Hurley, Jacqueline Lane, Heidi Nelson, Edythe Nesmith, Greg Quilty, Paula Schnepf, Karen Tewhey, Mary Waygan, Maybelline Willner

**Members of the Public:** Barbara Dominic, Trenton Robertson

**Barnstable County Staff:** Dan Gray, Martha Taylor, Maria Silva

**Guests:**

**Unable to Attend:** Eddie Murphy, Martha Burzycki

**Elected Officials: Assembly of Delegates: County Commissioners:**

1. **Welcome and Introductions:**

- a. Cathy Gibson facilitated the meeting which began at 9:03am.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Chair asked for motion to approve meeting minutes from September 24, 2019- so moved by Greg Quilty with a second motion by Beth Albert. All in favor, none opposed. Mary Waygan and Paula Schnepf abstained.

3. **Statewide Data Warehouse Update** - Martha Taylor, HMIS Program Manager and Beth Albert, Director Human Services

- a. Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is developing data warehouse for improved analysis and program efficiency.
- b. Benefits include documentation of chronic homelessness, more effective service delivery, improved allocation of resources, and ability to generate reports on a state-wide level.
- c. One concern is the release of information and who will be given access to Personally Identifiable Information (PII). The state has set up a multi-level system for staff access and what degree of PII each level has access to is still being finalized.
- d. Data will be downloaded from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), ideally to be initiated in early 2020, pending vote by the Policy Board.

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***Creating a Healthy Connected Cape Cod***

*The Mission of the Department of Human Services is to plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.*

- e. Data will not include information from the schools, as the definition for working with McKinney-Vento liaisons is broader than DHCD homelessness- this data currently kept by Dept. of Education.
- f. State vision is that the Data Warehouse will eventually include all information on homelessness services.

4. **Coordinated Entry in HMIS** - Martha Taylor

- a. The United States Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required that all CoCs must implement a Coordinated Entry System (CES) in HMIS by April 1, 2020.
- b. Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services (BCDHS) has been working on the build out of the CES with Social Solutions and Treadwell and are in final stages before going "live" January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Training of participating agency staff and Beta testing planned for December.
- d. Flow chart handout shows operation of coordinated entry.

5. **Mainstream Vouchers** - Paula Schnepf, Executive Director Sandwich Housing Authority

- a. HUD awarded approximately \$130M to housing authorities across the country for Mainstream vouchers to be issued to disabled households, with a preference for those experiencing homelessness, institutionalization and at-risk populations.
- b. Sandwich Housing Authority received 25 of same vouchers from HUD in 2019 and were able to place recipients within four months with assistance from partner agencies.
- c. Falmouth, Yarmouth and Sandwich submitted apps and were awarded 117 (Sandwich-60, Falmouth-27, Yarmouth- 30) additional vouchers, which will be available beginning in January.
- d. Good news is we have more resources, but challenge has been helping those who are placed to retain their housing.
- e. Housing Authorities will need good case management, agency "hand-offs" to housing authorities and support services to assist with sustaining housing.
- f. Eligibility- a disabled person must be 18 but does not have to be head of household.
- g. Waitlist practices are different across Cape housing agencies and Paula will coordinate with Yarmouth and Falmouth for these vouchers.
- h. Beth Albert suggested we put discussion of a "Moving On Policy" on the January 2020 Agenda.

6. **Point in Time Count Announcement** - Dan Gray, CoC Program Manager

- a. The night of the count is scheduled for Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Training and coordination session scheduled in Harborview Conference Room Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:00pm.
- c. There were no changes to the survey form for 2020.

7. **Martha's Vineyard Visit Briefing** - Cathy Gibson, Policy Board Chair and Heidi Nelson, Vice Chair

- a. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the leadership of the regional network went to Martha's Vineyard (MV) for a meeting including 5 members of the Executive Committee; Beth Bowman, Cathy Gibson, Heidi Nelson, Paula Schnepf and Beth Albert, as well as staff Dan Gray.
- b. Karen Tewhey reported on feedback from the meeting: Dukes County Commissioners commented on amount Barnstable County has invested in homelessness services and resources and recognized that Dukes County would need to increase funding on initiatives.
- c. Karen also reported that since October Dukes County met with Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes and a state supplemental fund of \$200,000 has been awarded.
- d. A 20 hour per-week Dukes County position for homelessness supports and system navigation has been fully funded.

- e. Vineyard homelessness advocates are working to replicate Homeless not Hopeless with a program called Harbor Homes which has built momentum since the October meeting, including an offer being accepted for a residential location.
- f. Heidi Nelson spoke on struggles faced by the Vineyard- CoC vouchers were awarded that had to be turned back as no housing was available; there is no year round rental housing available- all leases are month to month; the county has no way of raising funds as they have no taxing authority.
- g. Heidi also highlighted positive work being accomplished; Houses of Grace Winter Shelter with over 100 volunteers; a warming center at the parish center in Oak Bluffs which is open daily from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> from 11-2. Additionally, it was noted that the dedication of strong volunteer and faith-based communities on the Vineyard have led to meeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

#### 8. **Program Manager Updates** - Dan Gray

- a. Family Homelessness Subcommittee is being disbanded.
- b. Review of 2019-2020 Policy Board Priorities –
  - i. YYA grant has new handout which reflects information from the Community Needs Assessment. The grant has helped to provide services and resources to over 100 YYA and has helped to house 22 young adults.
  - ii. The YYA grant is awarded to 10 regions across state and all were recently expanded by \$130,000. BCDHS is partnering with HAC for a Stabilization position that will provide supports to YYA that have been housed.
  - iii. Winter response has been activated as the temperature has already dropped below the threshold. Duffy and BPD hosted a meeting to outline procedural steps for those accessing winter response. Heidi thanked Jackie Lane for her work securing money from Senator Cyr's office which provides a \$45,000 earmark. YYA grant supplied another \$9000.
  - iv. The Regional Network set a goal for sponsoring 4 trainings during 2019-2020. Two trainings have been completed to date. Current plan is to offer training to improve the skills of outreach workers working with YYA.
  - v. Family Shelter procurement is in process. Several changes to the system have been put in place, but few will have significant effect on Cape.
  - vi. Individual Shelter Procurement is in early stages. A listening session at Fr. Bill's/ Mainspring in Brockton provided little information on DHCD's plan.

#### 9. **2020 Census** - Beth Albert

- a. Handout distributed for census Complete Count.
- b. Getting an accurate count of homeless is important for federal funding available to the region.
- c. BCDHS will be focusing on the hard to count populations which are identified on back of handout.

#### 10. **Partner Updates**

- a. Mary Waygan announced Yarmouth Garden will be completed and lottery will be held in 2020.
- b. Suzie Hauptmann, Falmouth Human Services- RFP open with \$20,000 available for homeless services which is renewable for two years.
- c. Jackie Lane announced that the next round of CCIT funded by NAMI is scheduled for early December. Additionally, she had earlier announced that NAMI has expanded its role on Nantucket and is holding monthly meetings looking to fund initiatives.

- d. Cathy Gibson reiterated available resources for any family member caring for a child of another family member (i.e. grandchild, niece/nephew, etc.). These caregivers are eligible for educational and employment services.

11. **Adjournment** – Chair asked for motion to adjourn at 10:32am, Mary Waygan made the first motion and Beth Bowman seconded.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Maria Silva, Human Services