



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**9:00am-10:30am**

**Meeting Held Using Microsoft Teams**

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**Members Present:** Beth Albert, Leo Blandford, Fran Bradshaw, Martha Burzycki, Andy Clyburn, Cassi Danzl, Cathy Gibson, Suzie Hauptmann, Jan Kendrick, Chris Lawson, Hadley Luddy, Susan Mazzarella, Eddie Murphy, Heidi Nelson, Edythe Nesmith, Greg Quilty, Paula Schnepp, Karen Tewhey, Mary Waygan, Maybelline Willner, Erika Woods

**Members of the Public:** None

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

**Guests:** Dr. Kumara Sidhartha, Cape Cod Healthcare

**Unable to Attend:** Megan Homer, Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Gina Hurley, Jacqueline Lane, Walter Phinney, Dr. Arlene Rodriguez, Joe Taylor

**Elected Officials:** None

**Assembly of Delegates:** None

**County Commissioners:** None

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

- a. Cathy Gibson, Chair, facilitated the meeting which began at 9:05am. Dan Gray read the following statement: *The meeting will be held through remote participation pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law on March 12, 2020. The public will be allowed to view the meeting; but no public comment will be taken. This meeting will be recorded.*
- b. Dan completed a roll call of attendees.

**2. Cape Cod Healthcare Accountable Care Organization's MassHealth Flexible Services Program- Dr. Kumara Sidhartha, MD**

- a. The Cape Cod Healthcare ACO is part of the Steward network that contracts directly with MassHealth and includes Duffy Health Center and Outer Cape Health Services. The ACO is a network of doctors and hospitals that shares financial and medical responsibility for providing coordinated care to patients in hopes of limiting unnecessary spending and improving health outcomes.

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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.*

- b. Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics. Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) is the synonymous term used by MassHealth.
- c. Flexible Services (FS) is a focused program piloting whether MassHealth Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) can reduce Total Cost of Care (TCOC) and improve members' health outcomes by implementing targeted evidence-based programs that address certain eligible members' HRSN such as food and housing insecurity.
- d. FS is a focused program, used by MassHealth ACOs to address the HRSN of a subset of their eligible members based on a clear set of criteria.
- e. FS is not an entitlement program nor a covered service. Not all eligible members will receive FS.
- f. FS is not intended to replace, substitute, or duplicate existing benefits or State/Federal social service programs, but to supplement where appropriate.
- g. FS offer ACOs the opportunity to test different approaches to reduce TCOC and improve members' health outcomes where it aligns with the member's care plan and specific HRSN resources are identified.
- h. ACOs will create evidence-based plans that target specific populations to reduce costs and improve health outcomes and monitor the results through performance metrics.
- i. In order to determine eligibility for FS, the ACO conducts a screening to assess the member's HRSN as part of the treatment plan. For the current pilot, the ACO would determine if appliances are needed in the patient's residence that would provide a positive impact on their long-term illness. An example was given for an individual who meets the three levels of screening.
- j. The ACO works with a Social Service Organization (SSO) which delivers the services and/or resources detailed in the treatment plan. Duffy Health Center is the SSO for the pilot program.
- k. As part of the pilot project the state requests that a logical Evaluation Plan is in place that includes metrics/targets such as health outcomes and/or leading indicators of TCOC such as utilization of the Emergency Dept. Evaluation Plans are reviewed by a State subject matter expert for likelihood of success. These services must be determined to be non-duplicative.
- l. The basics of the program are that the ACO and Duffy provide medically necessary home modifications. This is dependent on the patient having a home, even if it is unstable. Mass Health approves these services in 6-month increments. Eligible enrollees have complex physical and/or mental health needs and screening indicates that they have a need for home modification that could have a positive impact on chronic disease. Modifications include refrigerators, microwave ovens, HEPA filters, air conditioners and vacuum cleaners.
- m. The ACO is currently enrolling patients and can accommodate up to 30 members based on total budget. If budget is reached the total members may be capped below 30.
- n. There is also a frozen meals program through Cape Cod Healthcare for those who need nutritional assistance. The meals are designed by a registered dietician to address the patient's chronic medical condition when they are assessed as being food insecure. 10 frozen meals per week are delivered to the home for six months. The individual also receives dietician counseling sessions by phone. These patients are eligible to receive a microwave through the home modification pilot so they can reheat the meals.
- o. Referrals for screening can be made by contacting [helpinghands@capecodhealth.org](mailto:helpinghands@capecodhealth.org) or calling (508) 862-5505.

### 3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Chair asked for motion to approve meeting minutes from November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020- so moved by Beth Albert with a second motion by Edye Nesmith.
- b. **Roll call vote**- all in favor, none opposed. Andy Clyburn and Leo Blandford abstained from voting.

4. **Winter/Emergency Response Update**- *Susan Mazzarella, Catholic Social Services and Heidi Nelson, Duffy Health Center*

- a. Due to COVID, the beds available at the St. Joseph's shelter was decreased by 10 and they were not able to offer the 10 overflow beds provided during previous winters. In response to this depopulation, beginning on 1/11/21, Catholic Social Services (CSS) rented a block of rooms in a local hotel.
- b. Between the hotel and the shelter St. Joseph's has a capacity of 50 beds and when the temperature drops below 28 degrees, the overflow beds open for 10 additional guests.
- c. CSS has determined that the most effective management of two sites was to move 20 guests who have been staying at the traditional shelter for an extended period to the hotel. Most of these guests are women who are in process of securing stable housing. The traditional shelter continues to house the men's unit and what had been the women's unit is being used for overflow.
- d. Census has been approximately 40, with ability to take on 10 more guests. Stephane Ruault, the shelter Manager, is overseeing the overflow planning and sends an e-mail to all partners when the overflow beds will be "open". Guests of the overflow are asked to put their name on the waiting list at 3:30, and the overflow opens at 5:00. At 5:00 they start going through the list until they have 10 individuals in the beds and the doors close for overflow at 9:00. The overflow beds will be available until the end of April.
- e. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Duffy has been operating an isolation and quarantine motel response paid for by Cape Cod Healthcare through their In From the Streets (IFTS) program. There are no individuals currently in the COVID program. The contract for the COVID program goes through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- f. Duffy has been operating IFTS with funding from the commonwealth for providing a motel response for those who are medically frail and additional resources for the winter response. Duffy was utilizing 40 motel beds through December.
- g. The goal for the Winter response is to set guests up with long term stable housing.
- h. Duffy has been operating 12-20 additional motel beds and are hopeful that additional solution can be identified for future winters as the funding provided because of the pandemic likely will not be available.

5. **Vaccination Planning**- *Erika Woods, Barnstable County Dept. of Health and Environment and Heidi Nelson, Duffy*

- a. Vaccinations sites are being planned for the Cape, but they are not ready to announce formal plans at this time.
- b. The Fairgrounds site is being used for PCR testing. Cape Cod Healthcare is doing the registration for the site. This site is a "drive through" building and will be used for vaccinations when ready. The goal is to have the site provide vaccines three days per week and testing the other two. Eventually, they anticipate being able to have 700 cars per day go through the site.
- c. The county hopes to have sites in the Upper, Mid and Lower Cape, with the potential for a state-run site in the mid-Cape area. The DPW building in Orleans has been used for vaccinating first responders and will shift into a regional location when ready to move to the next phase. Another potential site may be the National Seashore with use of a tent to drive through.

- d. Once all the sites are up and running, they will also set up smaller sites within towns at emergency dispensing sites. CVS and Walgreens are also planning to have vaccines to distribute as well as other local health agencies.
- e. Planning has been difficult as the number of vaccines being distributed has been inconsistent. They will have the freezer ability to store any of the vaccines.
- f. The hotline run through the county will be able to assist those who aren't able to navigate the registration website.
- g. To determine eligibility for the phase of vaccination, they can currently request identification. This will become more difficult as further phases open.
- h. The individual towns will be taking the lead on vaccinations being distributed to those who cannot get to a clinic.
- i. Guidance from DPH last week clarified the scheduling for vaccination given the limitations of storage and the 6-hour timeframe for using a full vial. If the vaccine is transported, you must use all shots, as the vials cannot be transported twice. Having a standby list is critical for ensuring no doses are wasted.
- j. The agencies that are administering vaccines fill out a DPH survey each Monday so the state can reconcile what is being ordered with what has already been received. The following week is when the requested doses are received.
- k. All staff, volunteers and contractors from the shelters and transitional housing programs that wished to be vaccinated have received their first doses.
- l. During the week of 2/1/21 the guests and residents of the programs will begin vaccinations with assistance from Relief Home Health Services.

**6. CoC and HMIS Program Manager Updates-** *Martha Taylor and Dan Gray, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services*

- a. The US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2020 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) which provides funding for the Continuum of Care has been on hold awaiting legislative approval for changes to the competition. The legislation passed as part of the recent stimulus package and HUD announced that programs will be funded based on the 2019 awards. Further notice and guidance will come from HUD on next steps and the FY2021 NOFA.
- b. BCDHS conducts the annual Point In Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) as required by HUD during the final week of January. The PIT includes a count of both those who are in shelter and those who are unsheltered. HUD has provided guidance throughout the past few months on safely conducting the unsheltered count during the pandemic. In past years, participants are required to complete a face-to-face interview while completing the survey. For this year, the outreach teams will be partnering with Police Depts. to identify individuals sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation and utilize the information the teams already have on those individuals to complete the surveys. and de-duplicate for an accurate count. The count will take place on Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup> into Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- c. The BCDHS is the lead on the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness grant. This grant has been in place for about two years and the partners have been working to bring additional resources into the community for this demographic. Due to the impacts of COVID, EOHHS is making additional funding available and BCDHS requested \$130K for additional resources including a "HomeBASE" like program for YYA to secure and sustain housing, hiring a consultant to assist with planning for a Host Homes program, expanding the use of HMIS for the YYA program and adding resources for Champ Homes as they have expanded the number of YYA being housed. BCDHS is awaiting approval of the proposal.

- d. The CoC has been operating its Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) platform with permission to use the system operated by DHCD. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, DHCD will no longer support CoCs in using their enterprise. BCDHS is in process of procuring its own enterprise and released a Request for Proposal on December 17<sup>th</sup> with submissions due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. BCDHS will then begin the review process including product demonstrations by each vendor. The HMIS committee will be assisting with reviewing vendors. BCDHS is planning to have a vendor in place with data migration work beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 7. Partner Updates

- a. Greg Quilty announced that the Dennis Veterans Home is on track to open in February and the Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center is taking applications for the five units. If any agencies are working with homeless or unstably housed Veterans, they can make a referral by calling (508) 778-1590 and ask for Joe Taylor.
- b. Mary Waygen announced that the Town of Yarmouth is launching a COVID relief program this week that is funded through a Community Development Block Grant and Community Preservation. The program can offer assistance for mortgage and rent, utilities, childcare, internet costs and COVID testing. Applications are now being accepted for families in need.
- c. South Coastal Counties legal services has added additional staff to assist those facing eviction. They will be able to offer full representation in private tenant/landlord cases. Typically they can only offer full representation for those in subsidized housing.
- d. A training on Overcoming Legal Barriers to Housing, including CORI mitigation, will be offered to all partner agencies on Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Jan Kendrick will be the presenter and the training will be held through Teams. Anyone interested can contact Dan Gray for the link.
- e. Paula Schnepf provided an update on Mainstream vouchers allocated to the Yarmouth, Falmouth and Sandwich Housing Authorities for non-elderly disabled households giving preference to those experiencing homelessness. Yarmouth received an additional 30 vouchers which are pulled through the HAC waiting list. Sandwich is planning to use some vouchers for a project-based program and Paula has been in touch with agencies providing services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals for candidates.

## 8. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Mazzarella with a second motion by Beth Albert.
- b. **Roll Call Vote**- all in favor, none opposed.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Dan Gray, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services