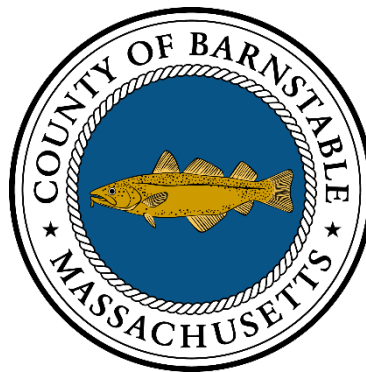


BARNSTABLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

November 2021 – December 2022



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Mission of the Department of Human Services

The Department's mission is to:

1. Plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and,
2. Promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.

The Department has a record of organizing regional approaches that promote health and wellness for underserved populations by mobilizing a community response to needs identified through data collection, analysis, and evaluation.

Primary Role

The Department's primary roles are to:

- Plan
- Convene
- Educate

Guiding Principles

The following principles and strategies guide the Department's work:

- Focus on policy, systems and community change rather than on individual behavior
- Integrated approach to prevent topical and systems silos
- Asset focused approach building on strengths while addressing needs
- County-wide approach with attention to underserved areas
- Action is based on qualitative and quantitative data and evidence-based practices

Health and Human Services Advisory Council

In 2003 the Barnstable County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 03-19 which established the Health and Human Services Advisory Council. The Advisory Council, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, is responsible for providing advice to the Barnstable County Commissioners and Assembly of Delegates concerning the human service needs of the residents of Barnstable County. A major purpose of the Advisory Council is to assist in the development of a Health and Human Services Plan which identifies issues for action by County government.

Healthy Connected Cape Cod

Healthy Connected Cape Cod is the conceptual framework that ties together the work of the Department. The principal aim is undertaking regional approaches to plan and implement activities that promote health and well-being for County residents by engaging residents, health and human service organizations, coalitions, and networks throughout Cape Cod

The following diagram highlights the major health and human service focus areas for the Department:



FOCUS AREAS AND OUTLINE OF MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 Focus Area: Public Health Planning and Surveillance

Aim: To coordinate and support regional efforts that improve health outcomes for county residents. Major responsibilities include:

- 1.1 Acquire, interpret, and monitor relevant health, housing, socio-economic data for Barnstable County.
- 1.2 Disseminate relevant data and information to community-based organizations, elected officials, towns and county residents via presentations, publications, on-line resources, and social media.
- 1.3 Provide leadership and technical assistance to a wide range of health and human services committees, coalitions, and groups.
- 1.4 Foster and support interdepartmental collaboration.
- 1.5 Convene Barnstable County Health and Human Services Advisory Council.

2.0 Focus Area: Housing and Homelessness

Aim: To coordinate the Regional Network on Homelessness and administer grant-funded programs of regional impact.

2.1 Regional Network on Homelessness:

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene Regional Network
- Provide staff support to Regional Network
- Provide leadership, planning, priority-setting and implementation of practices and policies adopted by the Regional Network Policy Board

2.2 HUD Continuum of Care

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer Annual HUD CoC Collaborative Grant Application
- Administer Planning Grant
- Administer Coordinated Entry System
- Administer Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Coordinate Annual Homeless Point in Time Count
- CoC Grantee Monitoring
- Coordinate with HOME and CDBG Grantees on submission of Consolidated and Annual Plan to HUD

2.3 HOME Investment Partnership Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer HOME grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Convene Barnstable County HOME Consortium
- Administer Monitoring for HOME funded projects
- Conduct Environmental Reviews
- Commit HOME funds for eligible projects
- Submit Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and Consolidated Annual Evaluation Reports to HUD

2.4 HOME-ARP Investment Partnership Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer HOME-ARP grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Convene Barnstable County HOME Consortium
- Administer Monitoring for HOME-ARP funded projects
- Conduct Environmental Reviews
- Commit HOME-ARP funds for eligible projects
- Submit Annual Allocation Plan and Annual Reports to HUD

2.5 Homeless Youth Services Grant

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer EOHHS grant funds to increase capacity of subgrantees/community-based organizations serving homeless youth and young adults
- Implement recommendations from county-wide homeless youth needs assessment
- Develop and implement recommendations for preventing and reducing homelessness among youth and young adults

3.0 Focus Area: Behavioral Health and Substance Use

Aim: To support regional behavioral health initiatives by providing leadership, data analysis, technical assistance, strategic planning, and resources.

3.1 Barnstable County Health and Human Services Directory

- Maintain and update on-line resource directory of health and human services
- Provide community education and publicize resources

3.2 Regional Substance Use Council (RSAC)

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene and staff the Regional Substance Use Council and its workgroups
- Coordinate across the region in order to be better aligned and prepared for grants and funding opportunities
- Identify gaps and disparities in the service system
- Maximize interagency collaboration
- Maintain regional data
- Administer DPH/BSAS MassCall3 Grant, coordinating across region and providing technical assistance to key stakeholders in the topic of youth prevention of first-time substance use, following SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)
- Administer DPH/BSAS OD2A Grant, coordinating across region and providing technical assistance to key stakeholders in the topic of overdose prevention, harm reduction and recovery efforts
- Enhance and promote "My Choice Matters" public education campaign

3.3 Barnstable County Children's Behavioral Health Work Group

- Understand, plan for, and address the gaps and enhance the strengths for the Cape and Islands behavioral health system of care for children ages 0-18
- Continued work to improve collaboration and consistent communication with local behavioral health providers and agencies, advocacy organizations, and state agencies, specifically the Department of Mental Health, regarding service delivery, staffing needs, program development and funding opportunities
- Creation of a systematic and comprehensive Needs Assessment to identify strengths and gaps, clarify priorities, quantify service delivery needs, inform quality improvement needs, and advance advocacy and action planning

- Continue the work of the five sub-committees covering Student Loan Forgiveness; School Mental Health; Clinician Licensure; Regulatory; and Action Team
- Conduct periodic review of the CBHWG Action Plan, and modify to reflect changing needs

4.0 Focus Area: Aging and Disability

Aim: To support regional efforts that improve coordination of services and address unmet needs of Barnstable County's older adults and people with disabilities.

4.1 Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (SHINE)

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer SHINE grant from the EOEA
- Operate Regional SHINE Office
- Provide staff and administrative support for Regional SHINE program
- Implement outreach and marketing plan, specifically targeting underserved populations
- Monitor and analyze client contact and utilization reports generated by State Health Insurance Program
- Secure private funds to support additional program staff
- Recruit, train and manage approximately 60 SHINE volunteers

4.2 Healthy Aging Cape Cod - Age and Dementia Friendly Planning

Major Responsibilities:

- Re-convene Healthy Aging Cape Cod Steering Committee following COVID-19 public health emergency
- Administer Tufts Health Plan Foundation Grant
- Encourage the 15 towns to develop Age and Dementia Action Plans
- Review the 15 towns' aging and caregiving-focused needs and resource assessment drafts of 2020

5.0 Additional Department of Human Services Priorities for 2021-2022

- 5.1 Secure dedicated funding for continued growth of SHINE program
- 5.2 Maximize Department's Social Media presence to achieve greater community engagement
- 5.3 Secure grants to support increased planning and services to persons in recovery
- 5.4 Secure grants to support increased overdose prevention planning and services
- 5.5 Secure grants to support increased services to youth (0-17 and 18-24) at risk of Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- 5.6 Evaluate the efficacy of the Department's On-Line Resource Directory
- 5.7 Explore and implement alternative housing models for Youth and Young Adults experiencing housing instability
- 5.8 Implement new, stand-alone Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)