

TOWN COUNCIL

Committee to Assess Homelessness in the Town of Barnstable



Selectmen's Conference Room

May 15, 2018

6:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call:

Members present: Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum; Vice President of the Town Council; James H. Crocker Jr.; Councilor Britt Beedenbender; Member at Large, Deb Krau; SGT Jennifer Ellis, Barnstable Police; LT Jeanie Challies, Barnstable Police; Mark Ells, Town Manager; Councilor John G. Flores; Councilor Debra Dagwan **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jack Yunits, Barnstable County Administrator; Beth Albert, Barnstable County Director of Human Services; Vaira Harik, Barnstable County Department of Human Services Senior Project Manager

Chair of the Committee opened up the meeting at 6:05; Councilor Cullum thanked both Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Human Services; Vaira Harik, Department of Human Services Senior Project Manager; Jack Yunits, Barnstable County Administrator for coming to tonight's meeting, Chair of Committee asked for public comment: Laura Wentzel asked about the status of the other Town Managers hearing about our issue and also if outside Council was consulted on the Dover Amendment. Town Manager Mark Ells answered the portion regarding the other Town Managers, and that meeting has not occurred yet, but will be taking place on June 5, 2018 where he plans on bringing up the subject. Town Attorney Ruth Weil did obtain outside Council regarding the Dover Amendment and the educational portion. Town Manager Mark Ells wanted to mention that most of the other Town Managers are not interested in this subject at all, so he does not know what kind of a response he will receive, but he will approach it. Chair of the Committee Councilor Cullum mentioned also that Representative Will Crocker is keeping the H331 Bill alive by doing some work with the wording of it and putting things in there that draws attention to the Bill and removing those statements that hurt the bill, so he will keep us informed on that as it either progresses or dies.

SGT Ellis wanted the Committee members to be aware of the homeless man in the wheelchair, Peter Christian, and his dog Bear. SGT Ellis stated that the dog had bitten one of her officers last week that resulted in him going to the ER to be treated and the dog being quarantined for 10 days. SGT Ellis stated that he has been given options for housing, but refuses those options, he wants us to give him housing here on the Cape and that is not going to happen, he is a Level 3 registered Sex Offender without restrictions, however she is aware that he spends a lot of time here at the Town Hall complaining about no one helping him, she wanted the Committee members to be aware that they have tried to help him and he refuses the options given to him.

Jack Yunits, Administrator for the County gave a brief history as to why they were both at tonight's meeting. It was prompted by a meeting that Mr. Yunits attended for this Committee and it was asked at that meeting for the County to help in any way possible the Village of Hyannis in particular, but the Cape area with the Homeless saturation that is happening here in the Village of Hyannis. It was at that point that I had asked the Committee to give us some time to gather data from other areas, and various examples of models for housing, so Beth Alberts from the County and Vera have been working very hard to gather that data. Mr. Yunits also wanted to comment to Ms. Laura Wentzel, and he understands her frustration and has concerns regarding the impact on business in Hyannis as well with

the presence of the homeless. Ms. Alberts updated this Committee last January with the grants and all the programs that are and were available, so I am going to explain some of those projects and some other new 2018 programs. We did have 24-7 hotline years ago, however that funding was a grant and that grant had run out and then the program ended. They have taken a 30,000 foot analysis of the homeless response time and looked at other models of 24hr hotlines. We have a robust well connected group of service people and by that, police, fire, social service that work really well together, and communicate very well with each other on the individual homeless situations as they arise, so Ms. Alberts looked at this as more of an access issue rather than a resource issue, there is a big difference. (See insert below on programs)



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Elizabeth Albert, Director
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May 15, 2018

To: Town of Barnstable Homeless Committee
From: Beth Albert, Director Human Services
Re: Update on County's homeless initiatives

1. Continuum of Care Program

- a. **Description:** The CoC grant program is a HUD program that provides permanent supportive housing to homeless households. This year the region's grant award is \$1.6 M and supports housing subsidies for 134 individuals. The Department of Human Services is the Collaborative Applicant for the region – this means we coordinate all aspects of the regional program, from the annual application to grantee monitoring. The CoC is highly regulated and monitored by HUD. All clients must be entered into Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and provided support services.
- b. **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** is a web-based information management system that collects data on all CoC program recipients and provides required reports for the CoC. Effective July 1, 2018 Barnstable County will become the HMIS lead agency for the region. Under the County as of 7-1-18
- c. **Coordinated Entry System:** New HUD requirement for CoC funding. Barnstable County implemented a CES system in 2017. Purpose is to prioritize and link the most vulnerable homeless households to available CoC housing resources. System components include community-based service providers who have staff trained to conduct assessment and make referrals to CES and a CES Coordinator who tracks referrals and makes "matches" to available CoC beds. CES work group meets monthly. In 2018 we plan to add a CES data collection module to our HMIS system, thereby adding CES data to the HMIS system to better identify and track homeless individuals.

Started in 2006

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.

Continuum care highly regulated, coordinated entry system run by the County, prioritize the chronic homeless and most vulnerable so the housing vouchers that do come in we want to make sure that they are the first priority, but with that comes a lot of other issues in housing these individuals because of their mental status. Working with Vin Fin and we look at their lists as well and want to make sure that their list are matched with ours. Weather related issues and the Homeless is a concern of ours as well, so we make sure that there is funding for them to be put up into hotels and other areas, this is a new

program, but hope to be fully funded by August. Home Program is another Federal program, and in this program we have developed 30 homes in this type of housing for the homeless.

Town Manager Mark S. Ells asked Ms. Albert if there really was an emergency response plan during weather related issues. Ms. Albert answered that she is not aware of a regional plan, but there are many components that work with it; **In from the Streets** is one program that raises money just for this purpose, the plan currently as it is today is a little fragmented, where is the un met need for this, we also need to make sure that the shelter has its capacity met in these cold conditions as well, so we need to have the Social Services get together and craft a plan as well so that when these conditions occur there is a definite plan, right now it s fragmented. Town Manager Ells stated being at the end of this when it occurs as we put together this plan, I would want at the very least our Police Department to be part of that planning. Ms. Albert agreed that the current list needs expanding in creating this plan. Chair of the Committee would also like a representative of the Town to be on this as well, some accountability to the tax payer. Councilor Flores asked if there was any specific action plan/strategic plan that say we are going to take this data and use it as a direct correlation to placing them in housing, data is great, but taking the data and turning into a plan is what we need. Ms. Albert said it is not a matter of engaging the homeless, because we have the resources to engage, I believe that there are some homeless individuals that have made the choice not to access those services no matter how many times they are engaged with a Social Service Agency. Ms. Albert stated that the Homeless individual that is entered into the Coordinated entry system has to agree to be assessed, and when the individual is assessed we have minimal information, with that information we then match them with some housing options, but if they do not fit into that type of housing, then right now Ms. Albert does not have a model to introduce that says it will fit this type of individual, so if we have a registered 75 individuals that agree to go through the program and we place 15 in housing, then that is measurable, but we do not have the type of housing that these individuals need because they are difficult.

Deb Krau asked that the only beds or places to stay were those places funded by the coordinated entry system, and so far that is in Hyannis. So we are placing all those people to Barnstable, so is there a way to house them somewhere else besides here. It is getting worse and worse here in Hyannis and the only beds that are available to anyone are those funded by Continuum Care Program, and those are right here. Ms. Alberts stated the program works just like a voucher, the landlord has to accept it, it is a regional voucher, they can go anywhere; however the landlords that accept it are here. Provincetown and Falmouth have a good portion of those vouchers as well.

Chair of the Committee asked about getting Continuum Care in another area of the Cape so that the housing could be spread out, or how does that work. Ms. Albert answered stated that whoever receives the grant for the funding, Duffy, Housing Assistance Corp, etc. all grab the grant money and use it for the housing portion of their programs. If we can find landlords, which there is a huge shortage of because of various reasons then we get lucky in another areas if there is a landlord willing to rent to this person.

Councilor Dagwan asked if the data they collected would that creates housing for another town. There needs to be other locations sought out for housing. Ms. Albert said yes it most certainly can because they are regional vouchers, the problem is most of the services are in Hyannis. Councilor Dagwan wanted to make sure that there was someone from the Council on Aging or the Senior Center was considered for the Committee on Homeless of the Elderly. Ms. Albert stated yes, it is a new Ad-Hoc Committee that is being formed. SGT Ellis mentioned that some of the people on that list of Coordinated entry are individuals that are going to be on that list forever because they have a bad rental history, or landlords will not rent to them, so they will remain on the list until there are State Government Housing or Federal Housing that will take responsibility for these individuals. Mr. Yunits wanted also to reassure the Barnstable Police that he is going to look into the issue with the Court System and the Hospital with regards to letting these individuals out or calling you to come and get them when they have nowhere else to go, it is not your responsibility to deal with the mental health, so he is going to look into that and find out why they are either let out of jail so to speak and also released from the ER when they should not be. The cost pf all this is huge to the first responders and our police, the numbers are staggering. St Josephs

has been successful is letting some of the individual aware that living elsewhere is less expensive to live off Cape than on Cape. Ms. Krau asked if the other Social Service agencies do this as well. Ms. Albert stated they have not tracked the individuals that are moving off Cape as part of the coordinated entry system. Ms. Krau stated that it is great that Catholic Social Services does this education to some of their clients about other areas that are not as expensive.

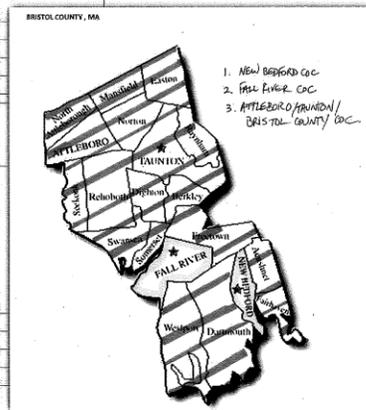
Vice President Crocker asked about the coordinated entry system and if there are people on the list and there is money available, but there are no landlords. There are people on the list that we are doing our best to match them to a landlord, but yes there is a huge shortage of landlords. I would suggest you market to the Community Preservation Committee groups in each town because often there is funding available for mandatory affordable housing and homeless housing, the smaller projects benefit from this because every town is looking for the 10 percent of housing in their plan. The other point made was on the Emergency side of the Homeless plan, and that is to include your very own Administrator who has a lot of clout here, and let's face it your whole department has the clout and it carries so do not be afraid to use it, you are the driver in this issue.

Ms. Albert went over the information regarding the full time equivalents and resources devoted to the Homeless issue. (See information below)

A	B	C	D	E	F
Scan of the Individual Homeless Response System on Cape Cod, May 2018					
Service Providers/Staff Time Devoted to Homeless Outreach	FTE Equivalent	Geography	Coverage	Funding Source	Additional Information
Duffy	1.0	Cape wide	M-F 4/10 hour days	Federal Funds	
HAC	2.0	Cape and Islands	M-F 8:30 - 6	DHCD	
Outreach Falmouth	0.7	Falmouth	M-F 8:30 - 6 pm and Sat. AM	Town of Falmouth	2 days week HAC contracted position \$100K HS Staff
Belonging to Each Other	0.5	Falmouth	Seasonal	Private Donations	Seasonal Shelter
VinFen	4.0	Cape wide	M-F 8:30 - 5 but have after hours access for	State- DMH	Includes 1 LICSW
CSS- St. Joseph	1.0	Cape wide	24/7, CSS Staff on-call 24/7	State- DHCD	Navigator Position, not shelter operations
ASGCC	1.0	Cape wide	M-F 8:30 - 5	State DPH and Private	Outreach and Prevention
Homeless Prevention Council	1.0	8 towns of the lower - outer cape	M-F 8:30 - 4	Private and Towns	Outreach and Prevention
	11.2				
Health Care Response					
CCHC ACO	2.0 FTE	Cape Wide, Falmouth and Hyannis Hospitals	M-F 8-4 or 9-5	Fed/State/Medicaid Reimbursement	New Resource: Of the 5 navigator positions created by the ACO, 2 are embedded in ED (1 in Falmouth and 1 in Hyannis) and are charged with working with the "top 100" heavy users of medical and ED Care, they will be working with homeless.
Bay Cove Emergency Services	0.5	Cape wide	24/7	DMH	Devotes .5 FTE to homeless outreach work.
Outer Cape Community Health Center	3.0	8 towns lower/outer cape		Fed/State/Ins. Reimbursement	Navigators - paid for by grants from towns on Lower/ Outer Cape, hope to increase to 5 FTE by Fall 2018
	5.5				
CCIT Teams					
Barnstable CCIT Team	Accumulation of Time Spent on Response to Homeless Clients	Includes participation from Yarmouth, Hyannis Fire & Service Providers, Sandwich jointing. Includes participation from Brewster, Harwich, Orleans, Chatham PD & Service Providers. Just getting organized	Town of Falmouth		Depending on town spend anywhere from 50-50% of time on homeless high utilizers.
Dennis CCIT Team					
Eastham- Provincetown CCIT Team					
Falmouth CCIT Team					

County					
CoC	1.0 FTE			HUD	
Regional Network Coordinator	0.5 FTE			County	To administer \$1.6 M CoC program and coordinate regional network on homelessness
HMIS, 7-1-3B	0.5			HUD	
CoC grant writer	0.2			County	
CES Coordinator	0.4			HUD	
	2.6				
Regional/Town Coordination					
Coordinated Entry System	1x/mo.	Regional			
CIU	1x/week	Town of Barnstable			
CCIT/Barnstable	1x/mo.	Towns and Service Providers			
CCIT/Dennis	1x/mo.	Towns and Service Providers			
VinFen Monthly HOET	1x/mo.	Service Providers			
CSS/St. Joseph's House	1x/week	Service Providers			
Falmouth Essential Services	1x/mo.	Falmouth			
Provincetown Human Services	4x/year	Service Providers & Police			
NAMI Quarterly with CCHC, CCIT	4x/year	CCHC, CCIT Teams, Bay Cove			
* Interviews with the following: Sgt. Ellis, Sgt. Gelnett-Dennis Police, Joanne Gretzinger-Bay Cove, Jackie Lane-NAMI, Leo Blandford-Outer Cape Health, Jill Brookshira-ASG-CC, Susan Harrington-CCHC, Maggie Flannigan-HPC, Chris Hottle-Provincetown Senior Center, Gene Carey, Fran Bradshaw-VinFen, Karen Ready-CSS, Heidi Nelson-Duffy Health Center.					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Analysis of Bristol County's "The Call" 1-800-HOMELESS Call Line										As of	4/17/2018	
2													
3	Total Pop. of Bristol County (2016)	558,324											
4	Estimated Cost Per Call (2017)	\$45.90											
5													
6	Bristol County	CoC Population (2016)	Total Homeless (2015 Count)	Number of Calls (2017)	Ratio of Homeless to CoC Pop. (per 1,000 Pop.)	Ratio of Calls to CoC Pop. (per 1,000 Pop.)	Ratio of Calls to Homeless Count	CoC Funding (2017)	CoC Funding per Homeless Person (2017)	CoC Contribution to "The Call" (2017)	CoC Contribution per Call (2017)	Estimated Total Cost Per Call	Estimated Annual Cost of Program
7	New Bedford CoC	95,032	437	3,371	4.6	35	7.7	\$ 1,721,502	\$3,939	\$46,757	\$13.87		
8	Fall River CoC	88,930	406	3,239	4.6	36	8.0	\$ 1,743,743	\$4,295	\$100,088	\$30.90	\$45.90	
9	Greater Bristol CoC (Attleboro, Taunton, Bristol County)	374,362	240	1,523	0.6	4	6.3	\$ 809,318	\$3,372	\$27,357	\$17.96		
10	Total	558,324	1,083	8,133			7.5	\$ 4,274,563		\$ 174,202			\$400,000
11													
12	Compared to:			(Estimate)			(Estimate)						(Estimate)
13	Barnstable County	214,276	362	2,715	1.7	n/a	7.5	\$ 1,649,356	\$4,556	n/a	n/a	\$45.90	\$124,627
14													
15													
16	(Sources: Census.gov; Martha Taylor; Catholic Social Services/Diocese of Fall River)												
17													
18													
19													
20	Operations: "The Call" 1-800-HOMELESS Call Line												
21													
22	The call line operates from 8am to 8pm, 7 days per week.												
23	Staffing = 6.0 FTEs												
24	The majority of the call come in between Monday - Friday from 8am to Noon.												
25	In 2017 they received a total of only 39 calls after 8pm.												
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H:\HOUSING\Analysis of Bristol County 1-800-Homeless The Call.xlsx

SGT Ellis stated that we are regionally training the CIT officers in other towns; Barnstable was the first to start the program and then it caught on, and does not see the need for another layer of administration, we having a housing issue and a landlord issue, and until we have more of those available we are not going to get individuals housed. We need more mental facilities, we need more substance abuse beds, we need a government housing agency that oversees the housing of these individuals that are difficult to rent to a private landlord.

Ms. Krau asked who we call after 5pm on Friday. There is no one on the weekends to call in crisis. SGT Ellis stated there isn't really anything we can do on a Friday anyway, they will not get housing anyway, so we refer them to where they have to go on Monday; we give them the proper resources to connect with individuals.

Mr. Yunits wanted to also mention that he recognizes the huge hole in our a shelter program as well that needs works, we will have more shelters and places for folks to go to, we do not have enough and we are going to work on that as well, and when that is complete we will let you know what it was that we came up with. Councilor Flores asked that Ms. Albert compile the data collected and come up with some sort of action plan based off of the data. Ms. Albert stated this is going to be a yearlong process, but that is the goal of this program and getting the data input into it so that a plan can be produced. That is our goal. Town Manager Mark Ells would like to join with Mr. Yunits look at some of the properties that the county owns and possibly look at the funding through the funding that Vice President Crocker mentioned to get those buildings to a position that could house these individuals.

Councilor Cullum had to leave, Chair of the Committee left Councilor Beedenbender to lead the meeting. (6:55pm)Below were hand written notes by Town Manager Mark S. Ells regarding Public Comment questions.

LEGAL COUNSEL : KEVIN BATT
ANDERSON & KREIGER
w/ 017-021-6514
TASKED WITH ADVISING ON THE
ABILITY TO IMPOSE "SPACING
REQUIREMENTS" FOR GROUP HOMES

INCLUDING :

- G.L.C 40A S. 5 PETITION TO PROHIBIT GROUP HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS
- OPINION TO THE PLANNING BOARD ON G.L.C 40A Q. 5 PETITION TO PROHIBIT GROUP HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS
- REQUEST FOR ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY DENNIS MURPHY ON BEHALF OF JULIUS AND WENTZEL.
- PROPOSED BARNSTABLE SPECIAL ACT TO ALLOW BARNSTABLE TO REGULATE NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL USES IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

Councilor Beedenbender asked for a motion to Adjourn: Councilor John G Flores made the motion to Adjourn, Councilor Dagwan seconded the motion, all members presented voted in favor of Adjournment.

ADJOURN: 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: June 19, 2017 at 6pm Selectmen's Conference Room