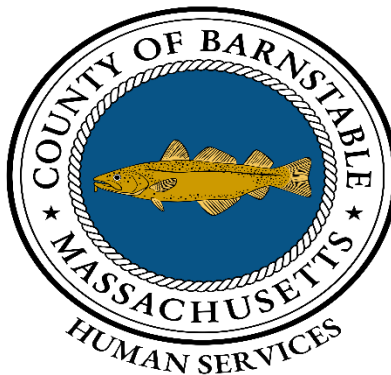


BARNSTABLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ANNUAL PLAN

for the period:
January 2024 – December 2024



**Joseph R. Pacheco, Director
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 427 Barnstable, MA 02630**

www.capecod.gov



HumanServicesBC • Healthyconnectedcapecod • BCHumanservices

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
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 icons highlight the major health and human service focus areas for the Department:



1.0 Focus Area: Social Determinants of 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 Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness and administer grant- funded programs of regional impact.

2.1 Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene and provide staff support to the Regional Network
- Provide leadership, planning, priority-setting and implementation of policies and procedures and adopted by the Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board and Executive Committee

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
- Conduct Annual Housing Inventory Count
- Conduct Annual CoC Grantee Monitoring
- Conduct CoC Environmental Reviews
- Convene various CoC-centered sub-committees (HMIS, CES, YYA)
- Coordinate with HOME and CDBG Grantees on submission of

Consolidated and Annual Plan to HUD

- Provide administrative support to the Youth Action Board
- Implement the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Plan to Address and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

2.3 Homeless Youth Services Grant

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (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
- Convene the Youth and Young Adult Homelessness committee and provide support toward implementation of the Coordinated Community Plan action steps
- Provide support to the Youth Action Board

2.4 HOME Investment Partnership Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer HOME grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Convene Barnstable County HOME Consortium Advisory Council
- 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

2.5 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 Advisory Council

- Administer Monitoring for HOME-ARP funded projects
- Conduct Environmental Reviews
- Commit HOME-ARP funds for eligible projects
- Submit Allocation Plan and Annual Reports to HUD

2.6 Shared Regional Housing Services Pilot Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer ARPA appropriation through Ordinance 23-03 for FY24-FY25
- Manage technical work of Program Consultant Barrett Planning Group
- Provide specialized regional housing services and increase staff capacity to the 15 towns of Barnstable County
- Conduct community engagement with town officials

3.0 **Focus Area: Behavioral Health and Substance Use Prevention**

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 Network of Care Service Directory

- Maintain and improve accessibility of the Network of Care (NOC) on-line resource directory of health and human services
- Engage providers and service organizations to regularly update their NOC profiles
- Provide community education, publicize resources and promote use of NOC

3.2 Regional Substance Addiction Council (RSAC)

Major Responsibilities:

- Maintain a Cape-wide Regional Substance Addiction Council
- Update priorities to effect policy change
- Provide support to identified regional priorities
- Maintain communication strategy
- Support evidenced-based and promising practices and programs
- Provide surveillance, information management, and technical assistance

3.3 Substance Use Prevention

Major Responsibilities:

- 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)
- Update and maintain accurate print materials and web resources for educational purposes including enhancements to the "My Choice Matters" public education campaign
- Provide training, support and technical assistance to Barnstable County's 15 communities on the opioid settlement funds and town-based substance use coalitions

3.4 Barnstable County Children's Behavioral Health Work Group

Major Responsibilities:

- Increase access to, and maximize efficacy of the Cape and Islands Behavioral Health system of care for children ages 0-21
- Continued work to improve collaboration and communication with local behavioral health providers, 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 sub-committees covering School Mental Health, and Action Team
- Conduct periodic review of the CBHWG Action Plan, and modify to reflect changing needs
- Complete the Children's Behavioral Health Baseline Assessment ascertaining the behavioral health needs of youth and young adults (YYA); understand the availability and accessibility of behavioral health services for YYA; and inform future efforts towards advocacy and collaboration and service sharing across the region

4.0 Focus Area: Aging Well & Healthy Living

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 Aging Well

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene and facilitate the Cape Cod Wellness Work Group, a collaborative effort by regional stakeholders, Barnstable County Department of Human Services, and the MA Department of Mental Health to promote a Healthy Connect Cape Cod by improving the network of communication around wellness issues, promoting agency collaboration, sharing information and supporting programs to raise community awareness and inspire action
- Administer the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Public Health Workforce Expansion Grant
- Implement recommendations from "COVID-19 Pandemic Response to Older Adults on Cape Cod: After-Action Report and Recommendations"
- Engage in Age- and Dementia-Friendly Cape Cod certification process

4.2 Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (SHINE)

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer SHINE grants from EOEA
- Operate Regional SHINE office
- Provide staff and administrative support for Regional SHINE Program
- Sustain outreach and marketing plan, specifically targeting underserved populations
- Monitor and analyze client contact and utilization reports generated by State Health Insurance Program
- Conduct Medicare annual Open Enrollment
- Secure and maintain private funds to support additional program staff
- Recruit, train and manage approximately 70 SHINE volunteers throughout Cape Cod and the Islands
- Support partner organizations by providing certified SHINE volunteers and updated information related to Medicare and SHINE services
- Assist residents eligible for Medicare navigate the complex maze so residents can make informed decisions that align with both health and financial need

5.0 Additional Department of Human Services Priorities for 2024

- 5.1 Sustain Department's external communications to achieve greater community engagement
- 5.2 Secure grants to support increased planning and services to persons in recovery
- 5.3 Secure grants to support increased overdose prevention planning and services
- 5.4 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)
- 5.5 Expand the utilization of the Department's NOC Service Directory
- 5.6 Explore and implement alternative housing models for Youth and Young Adults experiencing housing instability
- 5.7 Expand participation in HMIS
- 5.8 Secure grants for continued support of the Older Adult Social Services Navigator initiative
- 5.9 Maintain collaboration and grant support to assist in the creation of additional affordable rental housing units throughout the Region