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Results of 2020 Annual Point in Time Homeless Count Released

May 13, 2020 (Barnstable, MA) – The Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness has released its 2020 findings from the Annual Point in Time Count which took place on January 28, 2020 on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket.

The Point in Time (PIT) counts people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, motels (if paid for by an agency), on the street, in cars, in abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. Counts are conducted annually in every community in the United States during the last ten days of January. The PIT does not count persons or families who are doubled-up and/or living with family and friends.

On the Cape and Islands, the total number of homeless persons (adults and children, sheltered and unsheltered) on the night of the 2020 count was 336, a decrease of 35 persons from last year. The overall decrease in total homeless persons is attributable in part to the removal of a project from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that had been previously considered a Family Emergency Shelter. It is also worth noting that Dukes County reported an increase of 12 unsheltered persons on Martha’s Vineyard compared to last year’s count.

Volunteers from dozens of agencies across the Cape and Islands assisted in collecting information during this year’s count. According to Beth Albert, Director of Human Services for Barnstable County, “The Point in Time is a community wide effort and is a snapshot of homelessness in our region on a given night. By collecting this data on an annual basis, we have a better understanding of the number and demographics of the homeless population and are able to track trends. The information helps us in planning and allocating resources.”

The PIT Count also collects information on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity and veteran status of the individuals and families included in the count.

The Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness is a broad based public private partnership committed to identifying and implementing solutions to ending homelessness on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. The results of the 2020 PIT are available at www.bchumanservices.net. #####