

## **Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force**

April 6, 2017

9:30 – 11:30 am

Dennis Police Department

90 Bob Crowell Road

Dennis, MA 02660

**In attendance:** Patty Wilson, Barnstable County Department of Human Services; Erika Woods, Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment (BCDHE); Deborah Scavotto, Smooth Moving for Seniors; Paul Wild, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands; Sherrie McCullough, Brewster Health Department; Elton Cutler, Truro Council on Aging (COA); Kevin Grunwald, Harwich COA; Sue Dorey, ServiceMaster South Shore; Lori Miranda, Dennis Animal Control; Kalioppe Egloff, Barnstable County Cooperative Extension; Lynn Mulkeen, BCDHE; Linda Colby, Yarmouth Senior Center; Ali Gerry, BCDHE; Julie Brooks, Peaceful Place Organizers; Kathleen Pedini, Dennis COA

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Welcome, Introductions**

Erika Woods opened the meeting and started introductions.

Sue Dorey of ServiceMaster South Shore gave a brief introduction to the work that she does on the South Shore and Cape Cod with ServiceMaster. They provide services to the area, from Quincy to Provincetown. Sue specializes in fire and hoarding and will be receiving her national certification through ServiceMaster for hoarding.

#### **Update: Upcoming Events**

Erika asked attendees to complete a membership form. She asked that people reach out to others working in services relevant to hoarding for membership. Increasing membership will help with grant funding and support. The executive committee will try to get the form on the website for easier access.

There will be a Buried in Treasures (BIT) group offered in Barnstable at the Senior Center, beginning April 25. Erika recently ordered the books for this group using grant money. Check local papers or CCHTF website for more details on the group.

The task force received a \$3,000 grant from Cape Cod Healthcare. The money will be used to help run programs including local BIT groups. Trainings will be offered May 25 and September. These training will be level 2 trainings targeted toward individuals that completed level 1 training. Jesse Edsell-Vetter from the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership will be conducted the level 2 trainings. CCHTF will consider hosting another level 1 training before the May and September trainings if people express interest.

The executive committee is planning panel discussions in two areas, Mashpee and Orleans. The Orleans panel will be held Wednesday, June 21 from 4:30-6:30. The goal of the panel is to reach a broad audience, raise awareness and target people that may have a hoarding problem but are not sure where to seek help.

Next Thursday, April 13, 2017 there will be a Buried in Treasures webinar from 2:00-3:30. Presenters include Lee Shuer and Bec Belofsky Shuer of Mutual Support Consulting; Randy Frost of Smith College; Robert Walker of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Office of Recovery and Empowerment.

The Lee Mannillo Foundation will be hosting the Lee Mannillo 5K on Saturday, May 13. Proceeds will go to the foundation to provide services and support to families in the community that have experienced loss.

### **Presentation: Patty Watson**

Patty Watson is a member of the Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force Executive Committee. She works for the Barnstable County Department of Human Services (BCDHS) and has 25 years of non-profit experience. She views her current role as support for non-profits. Patty gave a 30-minute presentation on how to access and maneuver the extensive resources offered through the Department of Human Services webpage. The BCDHS does not provide direct services but rather collaborates and supports businesses and organizations. Patty highlighted some programs including: Aging and Disability Program; Continuum of Care which brings in millions of dollars to assist non-profits; and Affordable Housing Program. BCDHS is connected to regional advisory councils throughout Cape Cod to ensure that they are providing information on issues relevant to the county. The website is full of resources and publications on a variety of topics and includes an extensive list of emergency hotline numbers.

Patty demonstrated how to use both the Public Health and Wellness Portal and the Behavioral Health Portal. Each portal has a Learning Center feature which provides vetted resources and information to a variety of topics. The Learning Center is developed to help build health literacy around certain issues and delivers facts and basic information. Patty showed the process of how to research hoarding related information through the portal. She used the example of 'animal hoarding' which rendered only one result; Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force. She asked for input from the audience on what resources should be included for the future. The audience suggested a directory of animal control officers and MSPCA numbers. Patty then featured the Model Practices page which showcased a variety of evidence-based programs that organizations or individuals could utilize to develop their own programs. She finished the presentation by showcasing a Resource Map for Barnstable County. This feature allows the user to filter for resources and programs on Cape Cod that are specific to their needs and location.

### **Barnstable County Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force Website**

Erika briefly went over CCHTF website for audience members to view. Erika explained that the website receives a good number of hits and the number of calls received that refer to the website has increased. She asked that the audience make any recommendations for the site. CCHTF is not a direct service provider but wants to provide ample resources for people seeking help and information. The audience agreed that more clinicians and therapists specializing in hoarding, providing in-home coaching were necessary.

### **Discussion**

Elton Cutler described an active case he has been assisting with and the group offered insight and suggestions.

Someone suggested CCHTF have a booth at a local home show to help raise awareness. There is often a discounted price for non-profit tables. This approach would reach many people in a short amount of time. Volunteers would be needed.

Erika suggested contacting Boston University for the possibility of hosting a training. The university's School of Social Work has a well-developed hoarding program.

Linda Colby suggested offering social worker CEUs for trainings and presentations. Erika said CCHTF is interested in providing CEUs in the future but will need funds to pay for the CEUs.

Paul Wild made the announcement that Mass Council home aides group will be hosting a training they developed for home aides at elder services later this month. Spots are already filled with one home aide from 13 agencies. This will be a good opportunity for them to learn more about hoarding as 35% of home aides report hoarding as a problem.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting will be held June 1 at the Dennis Police Station.**