



South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

**South Shore Community Partners in Prevention (CHNA 23)
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
9:00AM – 10:15AM
Zoom Meeting**

Minutes

In attendance: Michael Jackman, Congressman Keating's Office & SSCPP Chair; Cheryl Kramer, Student Wellness Case Manager, Cape Cod Community College; Karen Peterson, BID Plymouth; Wanda Jacobs, Program Manager Workshops & Groups WE CAN; Mary Jo French, LICSW Outpatient Care Coordinator at Spaulding Rehab Hospital in Sandwich; Amy Sylvia, South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center; Karen Kintz - Domestic Violence Specialist, Department of Transitional Assistance; Sue Giovanetti, Plymouth Area Coalition; Dora Teague, Case Management Coordinator, South Shore Community Action Council; Allyson Holland, Plymouth WIC Community Coordinator; Jessica Parson OCES Supportive Housing Specialist for Plymouth; Rana OLoughlin RN PHW VNA Cape Cod; Susan West, BID Plymouth; Sam Correia, Outreach Librarian at the Duxbury Free Library; Ami Bowen, Marketing & Community Engagement, Harbor Health; Meg Payne, Director of Public Health at the VNA of Cape Cod; Patrick Ronan, Father Bill's & MainSpring; John Yazwinski, Father Bill's & MainSpring; Kelly Macomber, Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Plymouth Public Schools; Charlette Tarsi, Program Manager - Plymouth County HUB; Jen Cantwell, Community Engagement Coordinator, Plymouth County District Attorney's Office; Sean Halpin, Plymouth Public Schools; Karyn Bubbins, BID Plymouth ACCESS Program Free & Anonymous HIV testing; Malissa Kenney, Healthy Plymouth and Cape Cod Collaborative Arts Network; Lindsay Reik, Plymouth Center for Active Living/Plymouth Council on Aging; ; Nikki Galibois, South Shore Community Action Council; Bill Abbate; Gosnold; Kim Scotland, United Way & SSCPP Coordinator; Anna Marini, Duffy Health Center; Carla Houghton; Theresa Harmon; Jess Gustafson; Leah Morrissey

Mike Jackman, SSCPP Chair kicked off at 9:00 am. All provided self-introductions.

All voted to approve the December general meeting minutes.

Major Topic: Housing & Homelessness Panel (Part 1 / 2)

Panelists: Sue Giovanetti, Chief Executive Officer, Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless
John Yazwinski, President & CEO, Father Bill's & MainSpring

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Mike introduced speakers and shared that housing security is an important part of overall health. He shared today is part 1 of a 2-part panel. In February, we will focus on permanent housing information and will include NeighborWorks Housing Solutions.

- Sue shared an overview of what has been happening with the migrant families in Kingston. In October of 2022, things changed suddenly when the Coalition was asked to take on the Baymont Hotel. Helping 67 families currently and most are in-tact. This includes 115 children with 70 under the age of five. It is a very active building.
- 20-25% of families within the hotel shelter are from southeastern MA. They have a separate set of circumstances and every single family is dealing with homelessness.
- At the beginning, did not get great community support but since after the first few days the community has been amazing. Some families have found housing, but many are having trouble getting working papers which is a large obstacle to housing.
- DHCD has been supportive and School on Wheels will be starting very soon also at the hotels for the children to provide educational support and mentors. Also plan to start ESL classes. The biggest challenges have been medical and transportation. Partner with TPP initiative but in first month spent \$4,000 in Lyft rides alone. Are working through this and transitioning as many families are possible. When families come in through state, they get started with BMC and it is hard to get folks to want to go to a doctor in this area. This and dental have been issues of concern.
- The food piece is an area that requires a lot of work. Most hotel rooms have a refrigerator and a microwave. Hotel provides continental breakfast and the coalition provides dinner. Need to be sure families have access to food and also work toward making families self-sufficient. Location is not easy for accessing stores that take SNAP. Twice a week they have restaurants that come in to cater dinners.
- There are several large families. School has worked out great for the kids and the majority are in the local schools. Daycare has been challenging. The kids have assimilated well into the community and fortunately the weather has been fairly good this winter. Hotel does not have a playroom like a shelter would, but there is a large courtyard.
- Sue wants to increase understanding that homelessness impacts very good people that want to work and build a good future for their families. The families are beyond grateful and polite. Are utilizing different volunteer translators and have a staff member that speaks Spanish. Use TransPerfect through DHCD and Google Translate. Are always looking for more translators for the hotel.
- The Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless was able to help nearly 1,000 families with gifts this holiday and their work is much beyond what is taking place with the families in the hotel. They continue to run their regular programs. Sue believes everything we do should be driven by compassion and a concern for social justice.

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- John Yazwinski shared about the work of Father Bill's & MainSpring (FBMS) and their work with homeless unaccompanied individuals in the Plymouth area.
- FBMS shelters about 133 families a night through the southern MA region. Of these people, about 20% are migrants. Have been seeing across the spring an influx of undocumented migrants. FBMS led the work with the migrants in Marthas Vineyard.
- For some time, were able to get folks out of the hotels from about 2009-2021. Sadly, we are now seeing folks back in hotels across the state.
- FBMS will shelter about 280 individuals in Quincy, Plymouth and Brockton in any given night. Currently offer 700 units of permanent housing for formerly homeless individuals. Have seen a huge increase in women elders coming in at this point which is also a national trend.
- In the Plymouth area, FBMS partners with the Plymouth Taskforce. They have the overnights of hospitality to provide emergency shelter in Plymouth. This program begins in late November and runs through April. Rotate between three shelters in Plymouth and are following social distancing protocols. More information and site schedule can be found here: <https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org/emergency-shelter>. If someone wants more information about the seasonal shelter, they can call the Plymouth Housing Office at 774-273-2707.
- In January, the nights of hospitality had 17 individuals, 8 were women, in the Plymouth shelters alone.
- FBMS has 80 permanent housing units in Plymouth area and more in Wareham. They have targeted the chronically homeless and as a result, the 17 people mentioned are all pretty much new.
- Are seeing there is not enough housing for people. In Plymouth, have seen an increase in people from Wareham. Have not seen an increase of people sleeping outside in Plymouth.
- Use the housing first model and hope to be a low threshold shelter program.
- Often discuss if Plymouth needs or should have a year-round shelter. Right now, do not have a shelter beyond the winter in the Plymouth area. Are currently converting the Quincy and Brockton shelters to be more of a resource center with beds. Ideally, would like to do this in Plymouth with political will.
- Opened for A&A.

Adjourned at 10:06am.

Next Meeting: February 8th

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