



Human Services Committee
367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA
January 10, 2023
5:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. BUSINESS

A. Roll Call: Administrator Cynthia Lovell took roll call: All members participating remotely due to the extension from the Governor's office protocol due to Covid restrictions.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/87803676684> Meeting ID: 878 0367 6684
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I. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Roll Call
- Update on Committee Membership (standing item)
- Duffy Health Center
- Reminder on Conflict of Interest training
- Discussion of priorities and plan of action
- Public Comment
- Approve minutes of December 13, 2022
- Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Members present: Cheryl Powell (Chair); Carlos Barbosa; Rep Steven Xiarhos;
Kimberly Crocker-Crowther; Scott Fitzgerald ; Liz Rabideau **Absent:** Meaghan Mort

Chair of the Committee opened the meeting at 5:35pm. Chair announced the meeting is being taped and attended via a Zoom link for all to use, asked for any Public Comment, seeing none on the Zoom screen or dialed in by phone.

Chair of Committee stated they are actively looking for members, would like to have alternates assigned, in the event a regular member is absent, the alternate is there for any voting that needs to take place. Chair reminded all current members to make sure their conflict of interest training is up to date. Chair of the Committee would like to involve the Youth Commission on the Human Services Committee; she believes they would have valuable information.

Chair of Committee introduced Duffy Health Center to present to the members of the Committee abrief overview of the programs they offer and the services they provide



Sara Grambach, MS
Director of Development & Community Relations
Erin Russell, LICSW
Director of Behavioral Health
Daniel Rodrigues, LICSW, PMH-C
Director of Substance Use Disorder Services

Sara Grambach, Director of Development & Community Relations started the presentation by giving a brief summary

About Duffy Health Center

Mission:To provide **equitable**, integrated primary health care and support services for persons who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness on Cape Cod and to improve the quality of life for vulnerable **and marginalized** populations through community collaborations, leadership, and advocacy.

Vision:We envision Cape Cod as a community where all persons have access to quality health care, safe and stable housing, and lives filled with hope and purpose.

Duffy Health Center: History

Early 1990's: volunteer program based at the NOAH Shelter (now St. Joseph's House)

1997: Incorporated

2002: Received federal Health Care for the Homeless funding

2005: Housing First case management

2006: State licensed to provide mental health services

2017: Renovation to expand group visits and SUD

Duffy Health Center Services

- Medical Primary Medical Care
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment
- Chronic Disease Management
- Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Psychiatric Services

- Case Management Housing First Case Management
- Medical case management/case manager of the day
- Outreach to the streets, camps and shelters
- Recovery Support
- Spiritual Care/Suicide Prevention

Duffy Health Center

- Budget: \$12 million (FY23)45% Grants
- 45% Reimbursement
- 5% Fund-raising
- 5% Other income
- Medicaid 65%, Medicare 15%, Connector 10%, uninsured 10%

Duffy Grant Revenues FY2023

- Federal Grants 65%
- State Grants 30%
- Other 5%

Total \$6.8 million

Duffy Health Center: Relationships

Duffy works in many spheres

- Homelessness Regional Network on Homelessness

Primary Health Care/Community Health Centers

- Mass. League of Community Health Centers
- Cape and Island CHC Network

Mental Health Treatment

- Association for Behavioral Health (Mass.)
- Behavioral Health Provider Coalition of Cape Cod

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Regional Substance Abuse Council
- Townpartnerships

Causes of homelessness

At varying levels of analysis, homelessness is a housing problem, an employment problem, a demographic problem, a problem of social disaffiliation, a mental health problem, a substance abuse problem, a family violence problem, a problem created by cutbacks in social welfare spending, a problem resulting from the decay of the traditional nuclear family, and a problem intimately connected to the recent increase in persons living below the poverty level, as well as others.

*James Wright in "The Worthy and Unworthy Homeless,"
Society, July/August 1988*

U.S. Point-in-Time Count -2022

On a single night in 2022, roughly 582,500 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States. Six in ten (60%) were staying in sheltered locations—emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing programs—and four in ten (40%) were in unsheltered locations such as on the street, in abandoned buildings, or in other places not suitable for human habitation.

There continues to be an overrepresentation of people who identify as Black, African American, or African, as well as indigenous people (including Native Americans and Pacific Islanders) among the population experiencing homelessness compared to the U.S. population. People who identify as Black made up just 12 percent of the total U.S. population but comprised 37 percent of all people experiencing homelessness and 50 percent of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children.

The number of people experiencing either sheltered or unsheltered homelessness increased only slightly between 2020 and 2022, increasing by 1,996 people (or less than 1%)

However, between 2020 and 2022, the number of people counted in unsheltered locations rose by three percent or 7,752 people. The number of people staying in shelter dropped by two percent between 2020 and 2022 (5,756 fewer people).

MA Point in Time Count 2022 (contd)

Total Homeless Persons: 15,507

- Persons in households without children: 5,502 Of these, 1,122 persons unsheltered
- Persons in households with at least one adult and one child: 9,976 Of these, 13 persons unsheltered
- Persons in households with only children: 29
- Total Chronically Homeless Persons: 2,460
- Chronically Homeless persons in households without children: 1,558
- Chronically Homeless persons in households with at least one adult and one child: 902

Observations: Point in Time Count 2022

Total Homeless Persons

From 2020 to 2022, the total number of homeless persons in Massachusetts decreased by 2,468. That includes a decrease of 683 unaccompanied adults, a decrease of 1,766 persons in families, and a decrease of 19 persons in child only households.

Massachusetts is one of the top five states with the largest absolute decreases in people experiencing homelessness between 2020 and 2022.

Individuals

Massachusetts is one of the top five states with the largest decreases in individual homelessness between 2007 and 2022 (2,761, or 33.3%).

Chronic Homelessness

From 2020 to 2022, the total number of chronically homeless persons in Massachusetts increased by 418. Chronic unaccompanied adults increased by 99, and persons in chronically homeless families increased by 319.

Massachusetts is one of the top five states with the largest decreases in chronic homelessness for individuals between 2007 and 2022 1,232, or 44.2%).

Observations: Point in Time Count -2022

Families

A little under half of all people experiencing homelessness as part of a family with children were in four states: New York, California, Massachusetts, and Washington. About two in ten (22%) were in New York (34,805 people), and they were essentially all sheltered. Six percent (9,976 people) were in Massachusetts and, similarly, virtually all were sheltered. (Massachusetts and New York City are among the only places in the country with an entitlement to shelter for families.)

Massachusetts is one of the top five states with the largest decreases in family homelessness from 2020 to 2022 (-1,766, or -15.0%).

However, Massachusetts is one of the top five states with the largest increases in family homelessness between 2007 and 2022 (3,141, or 46.0%).

The Massachusetts Balance of State CoC is one of the top five largely suburban CoCs with the greatest number of persons experiencing family homelessness (2,302)

Veterans

Veteran homelessness decreased in 35 states and the District of Columbia between 2020 and 2022. California, Colorado, and Massachusetts had the largest absolute decreases. The largest percentage decrease was in New Mexico (64%), followed by Arkansas (51%) and Hawaii (37%).

Homelessness: Massachusetts Point in Time Count through 2022

15,507 (2022)

(2021)

17,975 (2020)

18,471 (2019)

20,068 (2018)

19,608 (2016)

21,237 (2014)

96% of homeless in Mass. stay in shelters

Who is Homeless on Cape Cod?

Individuals and families from all Cape towns Point-In-Time Count 2022-343

2021-323

2020-336 (rise in unsheltered)

2019-371

2018-358

2016-394

2014-375

2012-430

Duffy Health Center served:

3,060 (2021 UDS)

2,863 (2020 UDS, impact of COVID)

3,319 (2019 UDS)

2,608 (2010 UDS)

New facility (2011) and broader definition of homelessness

2022 data available approx. March 2023

Duffy Health Center Service area: Barnstable County

Our patients come from across Cape Cod

45% Barnstable

20% Yarmouth

10% Dennis

200 or fewer from almost every town

Less than 200 from off-Cape

Patient Demographics—2021

68% of patients have incomes under 100% federal poverty level
90% of patients have incomes under 200% federal poverty level
Almost 600 patients that are both on Medicare and Medicaid (disabled and poor)
83% homeless/housing unstable

Duffy Staff

93 headcount
Treat people with dignity and respect
Are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity
Understand that homelessness is caused by a combination of structural barriers *and* personal vulnerabilities
Meet the client at their place of need

Philosophy of Care

- Housing First
- Trauma
- Informed Care
- Harm Reduction
- Motivational Interviewing
- Duffy Staff
- 93 headcount
- Treat people with dignity and respect
- Are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity
- Understand that homelessness is caused by a combination of structural barriers and personal vulnerabilities
- Meet the client at their place of need

Chair of Committee thanked the presenters tonight and asked the Committee members if there were any questions, seeing none, Chair of Committee asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 13, 2022. Carlos Barboza made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 13, 2022, this was seconded by Representative Xiarhos. Roll Call vote taken

Cheryl Powell	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Rep Steven Xiarhos	yes
Kimberly Crocker-Crowther	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Liz Rabideau	abstain

Chair of Committee asked for a motion to adjourn:

Carlos Barboza made a motion to adjourn, Representative Xiarhos seconded, a Roll Call vote was taken

Cheryl Powell	yes
Carlos Barbosa	yes
Rep Steven Xiarhos	yes
Kimberly Crocker-Crowther	yes
Scott Fitzgerald	yes
Liz Rabideau	abstain

II. ADJOURN: 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: TBD