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**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Committee to Assess Homelessness in Hyannis**  
**Selectmen's Conference Room**

Tuesday April 5, 2016  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. BUSINESS**

**A. Roll Call:**

**Members present:** Chair of Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum, Deb Krau; Councilor James Crocker Jr.; Councilor Debra Dagwan **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief of Police, Paul MacDonald, Lt. J. Challies; Sgt. J. Ellis, Barnstable Police, Attorney Ruth Weil, Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells **ABSENT:** Councilor Frederick Chirigotis, Councilor James Tinsley;

Chair of the Committee Councilor Jennifer Cullum opened up the meeting at 5:35 with public comment.

Councilor Paul Hebert spoke about thanking the Committee for its help. He mentioned the correspondence he has had with other towns and cities, and we are not alone in our problem it is everywhere. He also mentioned that Highpoint facility has over 900 beds available, and service people from the Cape. He also mentioned that our very limited capacity of inpatient services for our mental health patients. He also wanted to mention the comments made at the last meeting with regards to the Social Services in Hyannis, the Council of Churches and other service providers, he wanted to mention the good work that all these service agencies do for the residents in Barnstable, and we need to keep in mind the discussions going forward that we are all here to help and solve the problem and we are all doing good work and we need to keep doing the good work. We are all here to reduce the human suffering but be gentle with everyone in the process. Deb Krau said she appreciated Councilor Hebert's comments, and said that the goal was to reach as many people as possible during the times when individuals are in the areas and being served food to change the value equation of the people so they feel comfortable in receiving other services, she did not make the comments as a derogatory remark in the good work these folks do, they do a lot of good, her idea was to get these individuals to accept more help from other agencies other than just receiving food.

Chair of the Committee asked Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells is defining the role of the Outreach Coordinator position, a couple of things he mentioned is very important, one being the memorandum of understanding with the social service agencies, he has worked with the police in putting together a grant proposal with the Lynden P. Lorusso Foundation who will match a \$50,000 allocation from the town, so a total of \$100,000 would be targeted this fiscal year of May and June, and also in FY17. It's not limited to that, but that is where the focus is now. He mentioned also that there are professional funds available in the Town Manager budget that can be repurposed to match the \$50,000.; if the Council was comfortable in proceeding in that way. He has also tried to further expand the functions and qualifications and responsibilities in the position and what type of coordinator we are going to get. He would like this person to function at a higher level than an outreach worker. This position would have direct contact with the police department and the social service agencies and the town manager's office. Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells explained that he did not know how it will be solicited so that there are no exclusions, so he will check this out with our procurement department, so he is working on this because it is a new grant.

Deb Krau mentioned that she believes we are in a catch twenty two, she hears from the document on how the social services are to come together and the social services are looking for the town to define success. She believes that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the position need to be

tightened and the definition of success has to be determined; the MOU is to provide the outreach services to get to the end result. The MOU does have some areas of measurement on what is happening, so both pieces can be tied together. Chair of the Committee asked how we can get the two together; does anyone know how we can do this, Deb Krau said a meeting she has on 4/6/2016 with the social services agencies will get feedback from the agencies on the MOU. The challenges she sees in the MOU are covering the 68 hours of outreach services, and providing the electronic communication vehicle since the town is not interested in taking on this role. Chair of the Committee asked about the web site and rolling it into the Coordinator position, Attorney Ruth Weil said that whoever is successful in the deliverable should be responsible for this. SGT. J. Ellis said the website will be the responsibility of the Coordinator and whoever is hired into that position.

Chair of the Committee had an idea about the agencies that currently provide meals for these individuals may want to also have a memorandum of understanding with regards to the safety of the people serving the food as well as the people receiving the food. NOAH Shelter had a sign on their door that said if you're not sober go to the Council of Churches or Faith Assembly Church; there are families that eat here as well, and we need to talk into consideration the safety of these families as a code of conduct. Councilor Debra Dagwan said that most do have a code of conduct she believes. Chair of the Committee said we should make sure that the code of conduct is carried throughout the other agencies as well so that everyone is on the same page and hears the same thing.

Councilor Crocker mentioned that the goal is to have everyone that needs services receive those services, that is goal number one; when he was reading the MOU on page 5 it states on the deliverables to include the website. He also does not want to see dropped from discussion in the other meetings is a seat at the table for Barnstable at the meal times with the new coordinator position, to have someone go through these places that feed individuals to see how the individuals are being assessed. We have a clear discussion from the Salvation Army who welcomed us into their facility; maybe we can assist in those areas if we know what is going on at the dinner table. Ms. Krau said it would be nice if some of the outreach workers were there to assist in the behavior issues as well. Sgt. J. Ellis said that these social service agencies would like the extra help if it was provided; there are often times that they are understaffed. Councilor James Crocker mentioned it is an opportunity to service a lot of these individuals if we are feeding them all at a certain time or place, this is an opportunity for us we need to take advantage of them when they present themselves.

Mark Ells asked how we engage Cape Cod Health Care and the judicial system, there may have been someone who was in this type scenario and when they are released they are released to the streets. He was asking if they need to be included in the discussion or the MOU. Deb Krau said that it really does not need to be in the MOU, but certainly we could ask the outreach coordinator or the outreach worker to be involved in this process when they are discharged from either of those facilities. Lt. J. Challies mentioned that if the Outreach Coordinator participates in the Community Crises Intervention Team (CCIT) they are involved with the process at the Emergency Room and from the jail, so they could connect with this team and do the follow up or assessment from there by facilitating a conversation or a point of contact. SGT. J. Ellis mentioned she is going to reach out to the jail and ask for the name of the individual that was just trained in this area of outreach.

Councilor Crocker asked if there was any way to have a message sent to the social service agencies that an individual is being released and they need services. Chief Paul MacDonald said the state notifies them when an individual is being released from a state prison, but the local jail does not. Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells asked why at the state level and not at the local level. Chief MacDonald said it is because of the severity of the crime committed. Chair of the Committee asked the committee members about the definition of success; Deb Krau is going to be meeting with some of the social service agencies tomorrow and has asked us as a committee what we think a measure of success is.

- No camping in the woods
- Pulling people out of the woods and off the streets
- How many contacts these outreach workers have made

Deb Krau mentioned the Main Street Initiative list that was started and how much that list has decreased over time is another type of measurement. Chair of the Committee said the Outreach Coordinator position is going to be the person who is responsible to close all these gaps we have and to tighten the communication between everyone. Councilor Crocker said that this person whoever it is in the future is getting the contacts together and making the connections and starting the conversations between all these agencies so they know who this person is and can share information accordingly.

Chief MacDonald mentioned that whoever is hired into this position has to be concerned about the individuals on the streets and in the woods. The individuals at the coffee houses are receiving services already. The individuals this outreach coordinator or case workers have to reach are the people that are causing the problems on Main Street, this is what we are receiving for complaints. Councilor Crocker said that the main concern is anyone in the woods and on the streets, this is level 1 after the level 1 is handled and identified then we deal with level 2 which is these individuals receiving services now that we have them out of the woods and off the streets.

Councilor James Crocker said our focus should be on those in the streets and in the woods period. Once this has been done and we have identified those individuals that need services, and we need everyone in the community involved, not just a few agencies here and there, all need to be involved in this. Chair of the Committee asked how the Main Street Initiative worked and why can't we do this now. Chief MacDonald said there was a list created of individuals identified as homeless and in need of services. There was a case worker attached to that person and an assessment was made and followed through, this was very successful and we were able to place people in homes or treatment facilities or worst case scenario jail, but the problem was cleaned up and we did not see it for a while, now it is back and we need to do this again. Deb Krau stated this worked because there was one agency that did the coordination of all the services needed for an individual, and that is why it worked. Senator O'Leary would receive reports on how the initiative was going, so there was a reporting mechanism in place.

Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells asked if this committee would like to see in the deliverables, some sort of report from the coordinator of resources needed to take care of the problem and how the groups interact with each other, at some point we will need that feedback and what we expect to receive back.

Chair of the Committee asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 9, and March 22, 2016. Councilor Debra Dagwan made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 9, 2016, this was seconded by Councilor James Crocker, all members present voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes of March 9, 2016.

Chair of the Committee asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 22, 2016, a motion was made by Councilor James Crocker Jr. to accept the meeting minutes of March 22, 2016 as written; this was seconded by Councilor Debra Dagwan, all members present voted in favor of accepting the meeting minutes of March 22, 2016.

Chair of the Committee asked for a motion to adjourn, Councilor James Crocker Jr. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Debra Dagwan, all members present voted in favor of adjournment at 6:30pm.

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2016 5:30pm

ADJOURN: 6:30pm

