

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR HOMELESS PREVENTION

Karen Tewhey homelessprevention@dukescounty.org
9 Airport Rd., Edgartown MA 02539
Phone: (508) 696-3840 Fax: (508) 696-3841
Physical Address: 9 Airport Rd., Edgartown, MA 02539
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 190, Edgartown, MA 02539

Homeless Prevention Services Provided by Associate Commissioner for Homeless Prevention

In FY18, the Associate Commissioner served as the County representative to the Cape and Islands Regional Network. She attended bimonthly meetings, networked with service providers on the Cape and kept the County Manager and the MV Network on Homeless Prevention updated on resources, policies and programs for homeless individuals. The Associate Commissioner chaired the MV Network for Homeless Prevention and oversaw the planning process for a new congregate housing program for homeless individuals called Harbor Homes. She collaborated with Houses of Grace night shelter and the daytime Warming Center to service chronically homeless adults. She established collaborative relationships with MVCS, MV Hospital, Health Care Access, Council on Aging, IHT, VHO, Boards of Health, Affordable Housing, and the police to strengthen services to homeless individuals.

In addition to this role, the County contracted with the Associate Commissioner for Homeless Prevention to write grants to supplement homeless prevention services. The County was awarded a Farm Neck Grant to fund discretionary needs for visitors at the Warming Center. This included monies for bus passes, cell phones, clothing, etc. She wrote grants to United Way and the Permanent Endowment to establish an emergency shelter program at local motels for reduced rates. This short term intervention was accessed by a dozen individuals during months that the night shelter was not operating as well as by two medically fragile adults and a pregnant woman who could not be accommodated at Houses of Grace.

Homeless Prevention Services Provided by HAC Housing Counselor

In FY18, a part-time Housing Counselor was funded through a United Way grant of \$25,000 and employed by Housing Assistance Corporation to provide services on Martha's Vineyard. The Housing Counselor was stationed at the Vineyard Housing Office (VHO) and provided a range of homeless prevention services to Island residents. These included centralized intake, case management, and screening of residents with a housing crisis and resource and referral to community agencies.

The following is a summary of the services and supports provided to Dukes County residents.

Meet individually with approximately 50 clients to assist them in filling out and filing applications for assistance, housing vouchers and subsidized housing including:

- Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Island Elderly Housing (IEH), Morgan Woods, Vineyard Housing Office



Facilitate homeless individual referrals to the Shelter in Hyannis
Maintain updated files on each client that includes contact information, services needed and requested, resource/referral information provided
Provide enhanced case management for chronically homeless adults
Screen clients for entry onto a waitlist for permanent supportive housing.
Oversee the annual Point in Time count of homeless and submit report to COC.

The Associate Commissioner worked closely and collaboratively with the HAC Counselor to ensure that the Housing Counselor was aware of all community resources that might be beneficial to her clients.

