

COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY
VINEYARD HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, FY 2018: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Client Services: The Access Program's core service is connecting the Island residents with Massachusetts' affordable health insurance programs, and helping them to retain this coverage. We provide health care program and insurance application, enrollment and retention services; information, referral and advocacy; referrals to medical providers; make doctor's appointments and help clients address medical debt; and we facilitate access to services like dental care, vision care and prescription medication assistance. The Senior Assistance Program provides application assistance, benefits counseling and program navigation for Island seniors and their families.

In FY2018, the Access Program provided application and enrollment assistance for 3,986 individuals of all ages for MassHealth and Health Connector affordable insurance programs; 372 seniors were assisted with Medicare, Medicare Part D and Prescription Advantage; the MassHealth Long Term Care and Frail Elder Waiver programs; and Disability. We provided health insurance, medical, dental, prescription and related referral assistance 6529 times.

The Access Program is one of 15 programs in the Commonwealth to be part of the Massachusetts Health Connector's **Navigator Program**. The Navigator program is an outreach, education and enrollment program for health insurance required by the federal Affordable Care Act. The Access Program's enrollment staff must participate in extensive training and pass an annual exam to maintain certified Navigator status.

The **David Kurth Memorial Fund** provides emergency financial assistance to Islanders with medical-related expenses that they cannot afford, primarily prescription medication. We also assist with medical transportation assistance for people under age 60 with medical appointments off-Island. ***In FY2018, we assisted uninsured or underinsured Islanders to get prescription medications and related assistance by providing \$5,038 in financial assistance.*** Contributions to the fund in FY2018 came from the Elizabeth and Peter Tower Foundation; the United Methodist Church; individual donors, and local businesses. This fund has provided over \$60,000 in financial assistance to help Islanders get needed medications and medical transportation since its inception.

Vineyard Smiles provides school-based mobile dental services and dental education for children in grades K-12; monthly dental hygiene clinics for seniors; and care facilitation for adults with unmet oral health needs. ***In FY 2018, 311 children received dental care including exams, cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants and fillings.*** Dental hygiene clinics for low-income adults were held once per month on average at senior centers and Island Elderly Housing. ***87 low income adults, including elderly and disabled patients, received services.*** These services are made possible by funding from the Town Boards of Health for health promotion services.

In FY2018 the County's Social Services department, submitted 226 applications for SNAP (food stamps), cash assistance, disability Fuel Assistance for 337 low income Islanders. The County continues providing these services as SNAP Community Partner, in collaboration with Community Action Committee of Cape & Islands and the South Shore Community Action Committee. VHCAP functions in a collaborative and supervisory role with this department.

Local and Regional Initiatives: Access Program employees have been involved in a number of additional health care initiatives including:

- The Dukes County Health Council
- Regional Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- The DCHC's Oral Health Work Group
- Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard
- Elder Care Providers Work Group

Funding: The County maintains a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the six Island Towns for the ongoing funding of the Access Program. This MOU describes the Access Program's governance structure; the County's role and services provided; Town obligations; Municipal Membership Assessments; and Indemnification and Insurance. Our total FY18 budget was \$463,064.

By having agreements in place with each town, the Access Program's funding is secured and not subject to service cuts if grant funding is reduced. When the program succeeds in obtaining grants, these will offset the Town funding in the following year. Town funding for FY18 was \$316,789.

Other FY18 funding sources totaling \$146,275 included Island Health Care via the US Health Services Resources Administration, the Massachusetts Health Connector Authority, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, and local funders including the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, local businesses and individual donors. The major new funding achievement in FY18 was the beginning of a contractual service agreement with Martha's Vineyard Hospital, effective June 1, 2018.

Program and Staff Information:

Telephone:	(508) 696-0020	Fax:	(508) 696-7352
E-Mail:	admin@mvhealthccareaccess.org	Website:	www.mvhealthcareaccess.org
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1298 West Tisbury, MA 02575		
Office Location:	114 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs		

Staff:

Director	Sarah Kuh	skuh@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Assistant Director	Mary Leddy	mleddy@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Health Access Specialist	Maria Mouzinho	mmouzinho@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Health Access Specialist	Vani Cortez	vcortez@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Administrative Assistant	Grace Guck/Ayisha Houtman	admin@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Vineyard Smiles Coordinator	Grace Guck	vineyardsmiles@mvhealthcareaccess.org
Vineyard Smiles Assistant	Debbie Simon	vineyardsmiles@mvhealthcareaccess.org

Advisory & Oversight Board: Eleanor Beth, Tad Crawford, Beth Donnelly, Karen Gear, Janet Holladay, Rex Jarrell, Herb Kiehn, Marina Lent, Kathy Perotta, Susan Sanford, Adam Wilson