HOMELESS PREVENTION Case Manager/Coordinator and Associate Commissioner

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Homeless Prevention Services

In FY19, the Associate Commissioner for Homeless Prevention served as the volunteer 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 updated on resources, policies and programs for residents who were homeless or had housing insecurity.

The Associate Commissioner was also contracted with funding from the County and United Way to serve as the Homeless Prevention Case Manager/Collaborator and develop and fundraise for a new congregate housing program for low income individuals called Harbor Homes. Shecollaborated with the Houses of Grace night shelter and the daytime Warming Center to service chronically homeless adults. This included completing ViSPDAT screenings on eligible adults so that they could be entered on a waitlist for permanent supportive housing slots or Section 8 vouchers. In addition, she maintained collaborative relationships with MVCS, MV Hospital, Health Care Access, Council on Aging, IHT, Boards of Health, and Dukes County regional Housing Authority to strengthen services to homeless individuals. She was the County representative on the Health Council which met monthly.

In FY19, the part-time Housing Case Manager/Coordinator provided a range of homeless prevention services to Island residents. These included centralized intake, screening of residents with a housing crisis and resource and referral to community agencies. She met 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)

She was successful in placing a chronically homeless resident in a housing program in Hyannis as well as enrolling several residents on the state CHAMP online public housing waitlist. She served on the MV Hospital committee that was developing the Community Needs Assessment, an advisory committee at MVCS implementing the Homeless Youth grant and was a presenter at the Housing Forum for Healthy Aging. The housing coordinator also oversaw the annual Point in Time count of homeless and submitted the annual report to the Cape and Islands Regional Network.

In addition to this role, the County contracted with the Associate Commissioner for Homeless Prevention to write grants to supplement homeless prevention services and administer the emergency shelter program at local motels.