

Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force

General Meeting

October 5, 2017

9:30 – 11:30am

Dennis Police Station

90 Bob Crowell Road

Dennis, MA 02660

In attendance:

Melanie Bach, Pine Oaks Village; Julie Brooks, Peaceful Place Organizers; Linda Colby, Yarmouth Senior Center; Alexandra Gerry, BCDHE; Kevin Grunwald, Harwich COA; Sherri McCullough, Brewster Health Department; Lori Miranda, Dennis Animal Control; Lynn Mulkeen, BCDHE; Deborah Scavotto, Smooth Moving for Seniors; Carrie Schoener, Dennis Health Department; Zackary Seabury, Bourne Health Department; Patricia Watson, BCDHS; Betina Michalowski, ESCCI; Donna Rex, CIEMSS/Barnstable FD; Chris DiNapoli, Hingham Fire Department; Glen Harrington, Mashpee BOH; Mary Drysdale, Best of Care; Erika Woods, BCDHE; Cynthia Oullette, MA Department of Fire Services

Welcome, Introductions

Updates and Upcoming Events:

- Harwich BIT has a tentative start date of October 25, group has 2 people signed up, need at least 6 people to continue.
- Yarmouth support group meets Wednesdays at 2pm for an hour and a half. For anyone interested in the group, it is recommended to call Linda Colby prior to attending first meeting.
- Clutterers' Anonymous meets Wednesdays at 9:30am in Harwich Community Center.
- 2nd Annual *My Choice Matters*: Parent Summit will be held Sunday, November 5, 2017 at the Cape Codder Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis from 11:00am-3:00pm. For more information and to register visit: www.mychoicematters.net
- Membership forms for CCHTF will be passed around -please fill out. Creating a membership list helps to show there is support and need for the task force.
- Public Outreach Group: planning to host a film screening for April 2018. Deb and Lori of the outreach group suggested the movie, Clutter. The trailer was viewed but a full viewing of the movie is necessary before making a final decision.

Presentation: Cynthia Ouellette – Coordinator, Fire Data and Public Education Unit, MA Department of Fire Services

Cynthia discussed the major causes of fires and how to prevent them. Three methods to preventing and reducing the number of fires include: changing the heat source; changing the fuel source and changing the behavior. Changing the behavior is the hardest method to address. However, through programs and events fire departments have been able to improve education and awareness; addressing those behavioral changes. Successful programs include: SAFE, student awareness of fire education and Senior SAFE. Both programs provide grants to local fire departments to teach either students or seniors about fire safety. And the Keep Warm, Keep Safe campaign to create awareness of home heating fires during the winter months. Cynthia also discussed the leading causes of fires: cooking and smoking. She provided tips on keeping safe from fires – working smoke detectors, sleeping with doors closed, keeping flashlights by the bed, having an escape plan and knowing that smoke inhalation is the reason most people die in fires.

MA Fire incident reports do not track hoarding because there is no federal code for it; inspectors are relied upon to report cluttering. The audience suggested supporting an effort to make a change in the federal code to begin recording hoarding in incident reports. It is estimated that 3 out of 39 fatal fires in Massachusetts this year were due to cluttering and hoarding. Chris DiNapoli from Hingham Fire mentioned that the town of Hingham includes descriptions of houses of known hoarding cases on the hazardous buildings list. This proves to be helpful in the chance of a fire. And the town of Framingham posts Clutter Image Rating Scales in fire trucks. Someone in the audience suggested creating a fire safety sheet that could be given to clients with hoarding disorder to reduce risk of fire and increase safety.

Discussion of Active Cases

Adjourn