

Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force

Thursday, December 15, 2016

9:30-11:30 AM

Dennis Town Offices

Stone Hearing Room

685 Route 134

South Dennis, MA 02660

In attendance: Erika Woods, BCDHE; Lois Carr, Bourne COA; Elton Cutler, Truro Council on Aging; Kevin Grunwald, Harwich COA; Andrea Lavenets, Provincetown COA; Laura Marin, Provincetown HD; Carol Bishop, LCSW; Sherri McCullough, Brewster HD; Lori Miranda, Dennis Animal Control; Lynn Mulkeen, BCDHE; Beth Russell, Servepro of Upper CC & I; Deborah Scavotto, Smooth Moving for Seniors; Carry Schoener, Dennis HD; Zackary Seabury, Orleans HD; Michael Smith, Medical Alarms USA-Lifeline; Sean O'Brien, BCDHE; Kaniqua Outlaw, BCDHE; Jennifer Gardner, IFAW; Rick Brigham, All Needs Met; Julie Brooks, Peaceful Place Professional Organizers; Kalliope Egloff, CC Cooperative Extension

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome, Introductions: Steering committee & members

Welcome, Introductions

Erika welcomed the group and acknowledged Carrie for assisting with the room change from the original location at Dennis Police Department. The committee has been renamed from Steering Committee to the Executive Committee. Kaniqua and Rick Brigham were introduced.

Projects and Grant Update

CCHTF is now a part of the county. The charter will be posted on the website. The open meeting law will be followed. The meeting announcement will need to be posted at the BCDHE commissioners and CCHTF website. All discussions are public, therefore no specific, identifying information will be discussed at meetings. CCHTF receives no direct funding from the county. We now have an official county account to manage funds. The Task Force will leverage grants and request fees for trainings to support lunches and save grant money for other needs – providing direct services is an important goal.

Presentation by Kalliope Egloff: Identification and issues associated with disposal of hazardous waste items

- Kalliope's background:
 - Chair of Mashpee Board of Health
 - President of BC Bee Keeper's Association
 - Leads Wet Fest to educate schools about aquifers
 - Program Hazmat Specialist
 - Works closely to help small businesses and commercial users safely dispose of harmful substances. She also assists with identification of unknown substances when needed.
 - Orchestrates 23-24 collections per year for the Cape.
 - She also has a hotline
- Kalliope discussed the educational and customer service perspective that she takes as an educator for the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension's Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Program.
 - Emphasis on preventative pollution control
 - The Hazardous Waste and Water Quality website www.loveyourlocalwater.org / www.loveyourlocalwater.com was introduced.
- Collection Highlights
 - Operates sharps collection with municipalities (12,000 pounds collected). Sharps collection is discrete, with no questions asked about origin. However, commercial sharps are not accepted.

- Sharps disposal is free for points of disposal and is low cost for towns. Each town has different collection sites.
- DPH has used our sharps collection model as a template for the rest of the state.
- 91 pounds of mercury have been collected from thermometers and other sources of origin.
- 45,000 pounds of pesticides have been collected.
- 5,700 gallons of gas have also been collected. One gallon can contaminate one million gallons of water.
- Disposal costs \$45 to start and is \$20 per gallon thereafter.
- There are off-Cape disposal locations open.
- 4,112 road flares have been collected as well.
- Funding for the collection brochures has been cut and direct mailing to all Cape addresses has been affected. New methods of spreading the word about collection services will need to be determined. However, the brochure will be available online.

Table Top: Tools and Strategies

Rick Brigham - Discussed the case of a family concerned with getting assistance for their mother in Hyannis. The older children are in their 20s and live outside of the house. Currently, the younger siblings (aged 9,12,14, and 15) still live in the home. There is concern for the younger siblings. The clutter is verging on squalor – it is present on all floors and is at a minimum 2 feet in depth. There are spots where animal feces have been found inside. The mother is overwhelmed and can get the house in order if she is getting ready for an organization. Rick emphasized, however, that she does not see the clutter as a problem herself. Potential points of leverage discussed included a referral for child protective services, and protection of animals. Carol stated that individuals work better “under the gun”. It was suggested that she attend a Buried in Treasures (BIT) training. Someone pointed out that attending a Clutterers Anonymous meeting may be more beneficial for the mother – attending a BIT at this point may not be beneficial. The “carrot on the stick” approach was also emphasized. There is a second offender’s drunk driver program that mandates attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. This worked for participants, even though it was mandated. It was suggested that something similar may work for someone like the mother in this case. Linda Colby stated the BIT is ongoing. Decision making ability should be addressed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the February 2nd, 2017. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday every other month.