



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
FOR NANTUCKET

THE NANTUCKET FUND™

## Advisory Committee Meeting - September 20, 2016 Summary and Conclusions

In past years, the following needs were identified as priorities: Affordable housing, mental health and substance abuse, year-round public transportation, and services for our youth and elders. Cultural diversity issues run through all of these identified priorities.

The Foundation reported that 2015 grants funded a housing study and outreach. All attending acknowledged that the **housing crisis** is still predominant, even though efforts are underway to address supply deficiencies. While grants from The Nantucket Fund™ will not solve the problem, CFN has convened small groups to discuss possible solutions. Most recently we sponsored a community forum to update the public about housing initiatives and we plan to continue convening to keep awareness high.

Another identified priority, **year-round transportation**, is actively being studied at the municipal level. The Board of Selectmen will hear preliminary results from their consultant on September 21st, Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Corporation will discuss this on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a vote by the Selectmen is anticipated by the end of October.

Small group discussion focused on **services for our youth, services for our elders, and mental health and substance abuse**. By exploring those areas more specifically (see the attached), we gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by our youth, our seniors, and those struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues. All attending agreed that these were still priority concerns.

One new theme this year was an over-arching concern about isolation – are we becoming increasingly isolated by language, age, poverty, mental illness, and substance abuse? As the population grows, are our community connections lost? Or can we work to re-establish those connections, and bridge the isolating forces (for example, by providing year-round bus service). Also identified were concerns about: Energy efficiency, future growth (the economic base, available resources, demographics), access to experts off-island, and the need for strong leadership in the community.

The Community Foundation thanks the members of the Advisory Committee for their service. We encourage you to reach out to the Foundation staff if you have any questions about the Foundation, the Nantucket Fund™, today's topics for discussion or about any other issues you might become aware of in the community.

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## **Description of specific areas of need:**

### **Youth Services**

- Pre-K Childcare (Birth to age 5)
  - Quantify current need
  - Universal Pre-School in the future
  - In-Home provider education
  - English Language Learners
- After-School Programs (all ages)
  - 2:00pm – 5:30pm
- Teens
  - They want a cool place to go with the freedom to structure their own time
  - Need exposure to civic responsibility, career options, and philanthropy
  - Safety through acclimation

### **Elder Services**

- Ability to age in place
- Retirement planning and education
- Wellness activities
- Encourage community involvement
- Home health care
- Coordination of services among providers
- Adult Day-Care
- Respite Care

### **Mental Health & Substance Abuse**

- Separate or Combined
  - Primarily co-occurring disorders
- Under-served at every level
- Education
  - Remove stigma (office on main street)
  - Research new treatment programs / alternative medicine
- Facilities
  - Pre- and post- treatment (out-patient)
  - In-patient
  - Half-way house
  - Sober house
  - NCH involvement
  - Support services for new arrivals
- Provider Alternatives
  - Psychopharmacology
  - Telemedicine

## **Mental Health & Substance Abuse (cont'd.)**

- Address whole person wellness (all age groups)
  - Stress
  - Isolation
  - Trauma
  - Addiction
  - Depression
  - Suicide
- Law Enforcement
  - No juvenile parole officer – on or off island
  - Off-island Parole Officer only 1 day per week
- Legal Services / Education

## **Universal for All Areas of Need (including Housing and Transportation):**

- Availability – need to know:
  - Services currently available
  - Criteria to access services available
  - Enough services to meet demand
  - Alternative options if services unavailable
- Accessibility – need to be able to:
  - Utilize services (how to sign up, how to go meetings, get on lists, etc.)
  - Have transportation to/from services
  - Overcome language barriers
  - Have access to alternative options if services unavailable
- Affordability – need to know:
  - Knowledge of options for all services