

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
JANUARY 2, 2013**

APPROVED Journal of Proceedings – January 2, 2013

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: I'll call the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

We'll have a moment of silence to honor our troops who have died in service to our country and all those serving our country in the Armed Forces.

(Moment of silence.)

Let's stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

The Clerk will call the roll.

Roll Call (93.42%): Richard Anderson (9.15% - Bourne), Cheryl Andrews (1.36% - Provincetown), Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Leo Cakounes (5.67% - Harwich), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% Orleans), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Anthony Scalse (4.55% - Brewster), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth).

Absent (6.58%): John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis).

Clerk OCONNELL: Madame Speaker, we have a quorum present with 93.42 percent of the Delegate's present and 6.58 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Thank you.

We will now proceed with the election of a Speaker for the next term.

Election of Speaker

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: Madam Chairman, I nominate Ronald Bergstrom.

Ms. KING: Second.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Are there any other nominations? Then we can have a unanimous -- do we need a roll call?

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Let's see if we have a unanimous vote; all those in favor say "aye". Opposed?

(Motion carried.)

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Ron, congratulations. I will trade places.

Election of Deputy Speaker

Speaker BERGSTROM: We will now proceed with the election, the election of a Deputy

Speaker. Do I have any nominations for Deputy Speaker?

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I'll nominate Teresa Martin.

Ms. KING: I'll second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. Do we have any other nominations?

Okay. All those in favor, say "aye". Opposed?

Ms. ANDREWS: I'm going to abstain, Ron.

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Congratulations. We will now --

Election of the Clerk

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Now we will move on to the election of a Clerk. Do we have nominations for Clerk?

Ms. KING: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to nominate Janice O'Connell.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Do I have a second?

Mr. SCALESE: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Seconded. Do we have any other nominations? Hearing none. All those in favor of Janice O'Connell as our Clerk for this session, say "aye". Opposed? Okay. Congratulations.

Okay. Before we go on any further, you'll notice a couple of new faces here.

One is Ned Hitchcock, who's our representative now from Wellfleet.

And from Yarmouth, we have Suzanne McAuliffe at the other end here, so welcome aboard.

Okay. I'll now need a motion to approve the Calendar of Business.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: So moved.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Moved and seconded. Are there any additions or corrections to the calendar? Hearing none. All those in favor, say "aye". Opposed?

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: You should have received a copy of the Journal of December 19, 2012. Are there any additions or corrections to the Journal?

Hearing none. All those in favor of Approval of the Journal say "aye". Opposed?

Ms. ANDREWS: I'll abstain.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Abstain.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

(Motion carried.)

Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

Speaker BERGSTROM: We now come to Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners. I see two of the Commissioners here. Welcome. Happy New Year.

Commissioner FLYNN: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Welcome to our new session.

Commissioner FLYNN: Thank you, very much, and Happy New Year to each of you. And congratulations to all those who were reelected and to those who were elected. That's great. So we're off to a new session.

We did meet today; the Commissioners met today. Sheila is out of the country. She's

attending a family wedding, and she'll be back next week.

So, we have begun the budget discussions and the budget hearings so we began that this morning at 9 o'clock. We met with the Facilities Director of Facilities Planning. As you know, we have a new Facilities Acting Director who is Steve Tebow -- not a hard name to remember if you're a football fan.

And then you also might want to know that John Morse, who is our IT Director, has resigned and he's moved on to a position with a consulting company. He is going to be working with a company as a consultant. So we'll be looking for an IT director very soon.

And, let's see, I was very pleased to have Leo join us this morning in our budget discussions. Truly, I sincerely say that. He offered a lot of very good comments and that's why last time we did the budget, I did make the offer to anyone of you who wants to participate and many of you did last year without budget discussions, and I know that's difficult because we're on Wednesday and you meet on Wednesday, and some of you work during the day and it's hard to do. But we find it very interesting to hear comments from you because you do review that with department heads.

At the end of the day today, we had a report from Paul Niedzwiecki and Andrew Gottlieb, and we had asked them -- well, they use the term "direct" -- we directed them to give us an end-of-the-year report on where we are with wastewater and what are we, as a County, going to be offering to the towns come January 1.

So as of December 31, the tools that Paul Niedzwiecki's has been talking about, the MVP, the Multi-variant Planner, were loaded on the website and are now available.

And the other tools that they have are also on the website now so you can take advantage of those. But they gave us a very thorough final report for the year with a lot of recommendations as to how we can go forward, particularly in the area of funding.

And we heard this today, but it was on the agenda as a report, so we put it back on the agenda for next week in order to take a vote on it, and also to set up two public forums to obtain public comment on the recommendations of this report.

So we expect that we would have those public forums, maybe one towards the end of January and another one sometime before the middle of February.

So I would encourage you if you have time on your agenda at your next meeting that you might invite them to come and give you the presentation. It's really, really good and it kind of lays out for us as a County government, which includes you, as to how we are really going to respond in the future over the next few years where the funding may come from and what the possibilities are. So, anyway, it's a very good report. So I'm not going to give it to you today.

And that's -- Bill, did you want to say something?

Commissioner DOHERTY: I know that humility prevented you from announcing that you are continuing as our Chair for the next year but you should know that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Congratulations.

Commissioner FLYNN: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have any questions for the Commissioners from the Assembly? Yes, Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: I was at the meeting and I do know you guys discussed the Open Meeting Law violation. I think maybe you might want to touch upon that to update everybody here because I'm sure they're all just chomping at the bit to find out.

Commissioner FLYNN: I thought maybe you would, Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: If you want me to I will?

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes, why don't you.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Well, again, at the meeting, it was agended that the Commissioners were going to talk about the Ordinance 12-09 in regarding to the -- strictly and only trying to keep the discussion to the Open Meeting Law complaints. I understand there were two complaints filed --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo, can I interrupt you?

Mr. CAKOUNES: Sure.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Just because I decided I'd start out the season being a stickler for protocol.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Yep.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And since this is Communications from the Board of County Commissioners --

Mr. CAKOUNES: Can you please do it then?

Commissioner FLYNN: I can do it.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Thank you.

Commissioner FLYNN: We had on our agenda today the topic of the complaints that were filed against the County Commissioners regarding the Open Meeting Law.

Under the Open Meeting Law, any public body has 14 days to take any remedial action, and today was the 14th day. So we discussed the complaints and they were found to be valid; that we did not appropriately notice on our agenda a discussion or a vote on Ordinance 12-09. Is that the correct number?

Commissioner DOHERTY: Yes.

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, it was 06 originally, but it ended up at 12-09, I think. And I explained, which any of you who read in the Cape Cod Times probably have already heard the whole long story of how it happened, and unless you really want to hear it, I'll just move on.

It was signed. It was discussed during the meeting for which Bill and I were present, and then Bill had to leave. He had a Compact meeting, so we adjourned the meeting. And then Sheila came after the meeting had adjourned. And then we realized that the letter was not the letter that we intended. So we asked Mark to rewrite it. It was a letter of approval, and we had asked him to write a letter of disapproval.

So, one part of all of this is we have followed -- at least I have in the four years I've been there, many of the practices that Commissioners prior to us have followed, which is there have not been votes on ordinances. They've been part of the summary of actions, and they're simply voted as one item of many. And they've never been actually singled out and put on the agenda. We pretty much followed that.

But in the interim, the Open Meeting Law changed, and those practices that we had been following all those years that the previous Commissioners had really aren't as open and consistent as they should be.

So, we are taking remedial action and we are voting on that next week at our regular meeting. We are going to vote the protocols for how we handle ordinances. And basically what that includes is there will be an agenda item, and they will be specifically stated on the agenda so it's clear what it is that we are discussing. And they will be up for a discussion and a vote whether it's an approval or disapproval. It won't be just a matter of a signature. And that's basically the thrust of what the protocol will be.

And the Open Meeting Law allows a public body to take remedial action in that 14 day period. So we voted to take remedial action today, and then because the draft was not part of the agenda, we are going to take that up next Monday, vote the draft protocol -- I mean next

Wednesday -- vote the draft protocol and make it permanent, and you'll receive a copy of that protocol.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Thank you, very much for that. Anybody else that would like to talk to the Commissioners?

Yes, Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: First, Mary Pat, thank you for your update about the Open Meeting Law.

As someone who has dealt with it and most of us are certainly trying to keep up with all of it. Your explanation that you just gave gives me more confidence than I've had in the last two years that you folks are going to make some changes so that we really stay as transparent as possible.

I think it serves all of us, and I really think it serves the County Commissioners to be more that way. Even under fire, which you certainly have been and we have been at times, but when you do that, it engenders trust; and if we don't have trust, then I think we have nothing.

So I really appreciate your comments today, and I look forward to not having to have discussed too much more of this. So, anyway, thank you.

Commissioner FLYNN: Well –

Ms. ANDREWS: Yeah, go ahead.

Commissioner FLYNN: I just wanted to thank you for that. I appreciate that.

Ms. ANDREWS: I actually just have a couple quick questions. One, you mentioned the end-of-the-year report from Andy Gottlieb and Paul Niedzwiecki, is that available online?

Commissioner FLYNN: It will be tonight. It will be posted on the website.

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. Super.

Commissioner FLYNN: But I have a hard copy here.

Ms. ANDREWS: Second question, I raised this -- I think it was last year -- the Town Services Report; will you folks be generating one in January? I mean I have to write my report for our town report, and I just didn't know if it was available yet.

Commissioner DOHERTY: There have been two different reports in the past. One has been the one that makes up the so-called Annual Report, the booklet.

The Town Services Report that you're talking about is the one that we used to go -- that we went around to communicate to the people. I think we asked for that, but I'm not sure whether or not it's in production.

Commissioner FLYNN: No. That's a calendar year, if I'm not mistaken, report rather than a fiscal year report.

Ms. ANDREWS: Right. That's right.

Commissioner FLYNN: And because as I recall, we usually start meeting with the towns sometime in the spring normally. So I'll have to inquire, and I will do that. So –

Ms. ANDREWS: Well -- sorry; I didn't mean to interrupt.

Commissioner FLYNN: No.

Ms. ANDREWS: Some of us -- I guess it depends on each town in terms of when their Town Meeting is, but for our Town, our Town Meeting's in April, so the Annual Report goes to print, and they will be looking for reports from all of us. And generally the deadline they give us is about the third week in January.

Now I can certainly write a report as a Delegate. But there's not really a space in that report that talks, I mean, you have the Cape Cod Commissioner that could write one, but if there was anything in there that you wanted me to put in the report or anything you want me to send

in, let me know. Because last year, for me, personally, it was very helpful to have that because it breaks it out town by town.

Commissioner FLYNN: Uh-huh.

Ms. ANDREWS: And I think we're all agreeing that we want to have County government more relevant in people's lives and that's one of the first ways you do it is to really let them see what's going on.

Commissioner FLYNN: Right. I'll inquire about that tomorrow and let you know.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Anything else?

Ms. ANDREWS: Yes. The last question I have; I was actually reading the Charter this week and saw something. I don't mean to put you on the spot, but I'm new, and I know you kind of are too, so maybe this -- I don't know historically whether you've done this, but the Charter actually says that at the first regular -- "Annually, at the first regular business meeting of the Assembly, the Board of Regional Commissioners shall in person or in writing submit to the Assembly a report on the state of the Cape Cod Regional Government including an indication of such plans and proposals for changes in Cape Cod Regional Government programs and services as the Commissioners intend to propose during the ensuing year."

And I know -- I saw you on TV last night, so I know you've been talking about your goals setting.

Commissioner FLYNN: That's right.

Ms. ANDREWS: So my question is are we going to get that report? Is that something you've talked about doing?

Commissioner DOHERTY: I think its part of the budget process.

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, I've done a read of the Charter through about three times in the last month from beginning to end, both for the Assembly and the Commissioners just so I really understand it, and I can recall reading exactly that, and I thought that is something we have not done at all since I've been a Commissioner but we should.

And I'll take that up with Mark and see what is -- usually we are -- when the Charters mix certain requirements, sometimes they are absolute requirements, like, today, we were hoping to postpone our reorganization to next week when we have a full board of Commissioners present, but we learned from counsel that the re-org is the requirement in the Charter and we had to reorganize today.

So I will find out if that is an absolute requirement that needs to be done on that date. And, if so, then we'll have to take some action to make that happen. It won't happen, obviously, today.

But I saw that and I thought that's a really good thing to do. And I know sometimes Mark does that at the end of the fiscal year as opposed to the beginning and the middle of a fiscal year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The question is, and Cheryl's got one on me, because I didn't notice that. Of course, I was on the Charter Commission along with several of us, but the question then is if you are going to submit a proposal as to what you're going to do over the next year, you don't know until you're actually sworn in who the Commissioners -- in other words, you don't really sit as a Commissioner. It could be two other people in the place of you and Sheila. So there wouldn't be any time to do that, so I think that that's an imperfection that we're going to have to deal with.

Commissioner FLYNN: That's true. In the middle of a fiscal year doesn't make any sense.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The other thing I'd like to mention to the Delegates and to the

Commissioners, but also is that in this regular agenda item of the Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners is pretty much what it states. They're going to tell us what they're doing. We may ask some questions on County business.

But the thing we have to avoid and this has been a problem in the past, not so much in this last session but in previous sessions, is you have to avoid getting into a debate over issues with the Commissioners.

In other words, they can give us -- say the Wastewater Report is out, but if we start criticizing the report or saying we would have done something else, that's really an agenda item.

The rules have changed, as you know, within the last two years so you have to be careful that we don't bring up anything that's not particularly on the agenda. So that's something we have to look at. Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Well, with that then, I'm pleased to say that my comments will not be up for debate but they're just up directly to the County Commissioners.

Going back to the Charter, it does specifically state, "That any Ordinance, Resolution, or vote of the Assembly be enacted on by the Commissioners." And it gives them a number of days to do that. And it says, "After those days have gone by, it shall be deemed in effect."

So with that said, there are a couple of outstanding Resolutions that I would like to know when the Commissioners are going to act on them, specifically, Resolution 12-06, and I believe it's 12-07.

So I would hope that you would look at those and act on them because they are now, as per our Charter, in effect. Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Is there anything else? Yes, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Commissioner, I received a report last year about the feasibility study about regional dispatch. Do you know where that stands? Is that something the County's taking a serious look at?

My town is planning on meeting with the Sheriff's Office tomorrow to discuss that, and I'd like to be able to update them on where the County stands.

Commissioner FLYNN: The County is very supportive to the plan that has been put together by the Regional Emergency Planning Group, headed by Sean O'Brien. And he has made presentations around the Cape.

I can only speak for Falmouth because he made the presentation there to the Board of Selectmen. And the request was that each of the Selectmen in the towns if they are willing to write a letter of attestation supporting the proposal to Department of Public Safety and Public Health for the funding to create this 911 dispatch center on the Cape.

And I know I think about eight towns now have responded very positively to that. So that project is moving forward. They are planning to apply for the funding for 911 dispatch.

The Sheriff has been working with them all along. He's been attending the meetings. He continues to attend the meetings. I don't know if he's going to be there at your meeting tomorrow night, but he was there and made his presentation to the Falmouth Selectmen as well as the 911 group and the Chiefs -- the Police Chiefs who are part of that.

The big issue was getting the police departments on board because fire usually was supportive to a 911 dispatch but police chiefs didn't want any part of it.

Now, the police chiefs on the Cape, to my understanding, that all of the police chiefs are in support of a 911 dispatch, which is very unusual.

So now the Sheriff has determined that he wants to go on his own, that he does not want

to support what the County is doing. He wants to file his own proposal and extend the services that he has now, expand the services.

I believe he even wants to have a new building because the one he has now wouldn't be large enough, and so I think he's going his own direction.

But the fire chiefs and the police chiefs on the Cape and the County Commissioners and the Emergency Planning Group are moving forward to have a 911 Regional Dispatch Center.

Some of the -- well, you'll find out when they come and talk to you, but most of the reasons that the police and fire chiefs give is that they want some level of control over how this works because they know the local issues; they understand them very well. When problems occur at the local level, they're in an excellent position to be able to deal with them, and they don't believe that the Sheriff -- well, they would not have any control over the 911 dispatch if it went to the Sheriff. He would have total control.

The other concern they have is that his funding comes through the state, and sometimes that's not always guaranteed. You know in times past where the Sheriff has not gotten the money he needs to run his operation, and he has to go back in the spring for supplemental funding from the Governor, and that gets into the politics of things.

If this were to take place at the local level at the County, there would be a Governance Committee that would be made up of probably a County Commissioner, some police chiefs, some fire chiefs on the Cape and they would actually provide the oversight of the operation of the center.

Secondly, the funding would come through a funding formula that would come from the towns. Because over time, they believe that the cost to the towns would be considerably reduced by having a 911 dispatch for the whole County, maybe not initially but particularly in terms of the cost of equipment.

If every single town, police and fire, has to buy all their individual equipment; they have to maintain it; they have to replace it; they have to repair it and all of that. If it were all in one place, then that would provide rather significant savings but it won't happen for a couple of years. But there would be some assessments made to the towns, and the towns seeing from at least the eight towns, who for Selectmen who have signed on, seem very willing and understanding to pursue that with the 911 dispatch.

So that's where it stands. So the Sheriff is moving on his path and the Emergency Planning Group or the police and fire, County-wide, is moving on their part.

Mr. KILLION: So there currently isn't a timetable or a budget in place?

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, there is a timetable in terms of applying for the grant, and I think that's March. It has to be into the state by -- is it March? I would think its March, but don't -- I know it's very early in the spring. That's the timetable.

Now, when it will happen, it will be a significant transition time in terms of making this happens. It doesn't happen all at once. It will probably take five years over the long haul to make it happen, both in police and fire.

You know, I'm really kind of speaking from third-hand from what I've heard several times, and I've been at some of the meetings. The Cape Cod Delegation, Senator Wolf, the state Representatives; they are very supportive to this and they're very willing to support any need for legislation to enable this to happen at the County level.

They went out and visited a 911 dispatch center in, I think, Onondaga County in Upstate New York. It's near Syracuse. And the Sheriff went up with them, and, I don't know, there were five or six chiefs, police, fire, Sheriff, Sean O'Brien and others, and they were just overwhelmed by how efficient and effective this system was, and how they were just able to

deal with the calls, with the equipment that they had getting the responses out.

And they couldn't have been more pleased with how this operated so effectively in that County.

Now, obviously, that County has, unlike our County, they have public safety departments that report to County management and we don't. And police and fire would never report to us. They would always retain their municipal status, but that doesn't mean that they can't function effectively in a 911 dispatch.

Mr. KILLION: So, to just back up, you are planning on applying for the grant--

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes.

Mr. KILLION: -- sometime early this year?

Commissioner FLYNN: Oh, yes. The County is -- yes; it's going to apply for the grant.

Mr. KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner FLYNN: You're welcome.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Pat, is that grant to set up the system but is it an ongoing funding source for the system?

Commissioner FLYNN: Yeah, I don't --

Speaker BERGSTROM: You don't know.

Commissioner FLYNN: I don't know the details. The grant is to design and build it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Right. So, I'm just looking at from an ongoing basis if the Sheriff is anticipating that his operating of this system will be part of his budget which is approved by the state; is that right? Is the Sheriff's budget approved --

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, he will have to have money for construction.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Right.

Commissioner FLYNN: Either adding onto the building he has, or he has some other area on the Base that might be more useful to him if he built new.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yeah.

Commissioner FLYNN: You know, the towns of Hingham, Hull, Norwell, and Hanover -- Hanover, Hull, Hingham, Norwell -- three H's and another one, which I think is Norwell. They did a regional dispatch center there about two years ago.

We went to the Regionalization Conference at Holy Cross College. We've been going for the last three years now. And I went to the presentation on that 911 dispatch center, not this past year but the year before, and the Town Manager from Norwell was the lead on the project. And he spoke on how they were able to put this together, and they got 6 million in funding from public safety. They built this whole 911 dispatch center that services all the four towns.

It's large enough if other towns on the South Shore want to join. There's space in the system to allow others to come in.

The dispatchers that each of the towns had, as it worked out, they built a new building, I don't remember where it is, but the staffing for that -- those who were working in those towns because they're smaller and they don't have as many dispatchers as larger towns do, they were able to fill the positions in the dispatch center, so people didn't lose their jobs.

But there was the consolidation of the dispatch and its --

Speaker BERGSTROM: I'm just looking -- I'm just trying to determine from a budgetary standpoint the operating expenses of this dispatch center if you -- if the County was to get the grant. It would be part of the County budget, and we would do the assessing--

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: -- the operating expenses. Whereas if the Sheriff was to

operate it and his budget comes directly from the state, which is approved by the Legislature.
Commissioner FLYNN: Yes, but he charges the towns for his service, as you well know.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Commissioner FLYNN: For every ambulance run, there is a fee, and I'm trying to remember what was that I recently saw in the town budget for that. Towns have to pay for that service. It's not totally -- it's not really paid for by the State. The operation may be -- well, I don't want to get into it too detailed but look in your town budget.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Marcia has a question.

Ms. KING: No, no. I was just going to say I think the grant is one of the Innovation Grants for the Commonwealth, which is similar to e-permitting, as I believe that this is. You don't think it is?

Commissioner FLYNN: No.

Ms. KING: Oh, okay.

Commissioner FLYNN: I think it's strictly a public safety grant. And they do it -- this is where the four towns on the South Shore got their money from public safety.

It's a combination of Department of Public Safety and Public Health, and some of that has to do with federal law really have control over the funding for dispatch services like this.

But there's a lot of "I support" for the County to do this because it helps to consolidate the services here. And it could be built in such a way that there's room for others to join. Let's say maybe the Vineyard or Nantucket might wish to join this. I think they're part of the Sheriff right now.

But then there are other towns, maybe Marion, Mattapoisett, some of the smaller towns. There would be space for other towns because you've heard the Governor say that we have, what, 261 dispatch centers in the state, something like that, and he's looking to have three or four. And this could be a regional dispatch center for this area for the whole lower part of the state and all the way over to Fall River or whatever. And it's just so costly to operate these centers.

That's as much as I can recall from all the discussions that I've had with the group.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I'd just suggest that if you have any information that would be pertinent to this, you know, as far as the application and what the details -- you could give us a copy. I'll have the Clerk send you a request for any information that you have.

Commissioner FLYNN: How about if you had Sean O'Brien come and meet with you and he can present the whole thing?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Actually, we're going to do that but what they'll ask for is that we have something in front of us beforehand so we don't have to hit him too hard with questions if they're already available.

Commissioner FLYNN: We'll ask them to forward to you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Oh, it is.

Commissioner DOHERTY: Okay. We could have Sean do that.

Commissioner FLYNN: Yeah, we can have him provide you with the information in advance of his coming and meeting with you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I appreciate that.

Commissioner FLYNN: And I hope I didn't say anything incorrectly.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Are there any other questions for the County Commissioners?

Well, thank you, very much.

Commissioner FLYNN: You're welcome.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And we'll start off the New Year in the spirit of cooperation and going forward.

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes, we are. Hooray!

Speaker BERGSTROM: When are we going to see your colleague? Is she going to be here –

Commissioner FLYNN: She'll be here next week.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Next week, okay.

Commissioner DOHERTY: We'll tell her you missed her.

Speaker BERGSTROM: You can tell her that, Bill.

We now move to the presentation of Beth Albert, who's the Director of Health and Human Services on emerging trends and issues for the County.

I think she has a PowerPoint for us.

Communications from HHS Director Beth Albert

Ms. BETH ALBERT: I do and I set it up earlier.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And there it is.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: All right. It's still here. I was a little worried.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Now you're in business.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Thank you. Well, first of all, thank you for allowing me time on the agenda today to speak, and I'm here with Christine Stein. Christine is the Senior Project Manager for the Department of Human Services.

And we merged two presentations together, and one I'm presenting to you today is the Barnstable County Human Services Emerging Trends, and this is based -- that information we got from our Health and Human Service Advisory Council.

In your packets, you were given some information about this presentation and you're now getting some handouts for the data piece

Ms. BETH ALBERT: So, for those of you that are new, I just thought I'd do a quick recap of the mission of the Department of Human Services. We have a two-prong mission to plan, develop, and implement programs, which enhance the overall delivery of Human Services in the County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts to improve coordination of services.

Our primary role, we did some strategic planning last year, and we're focused in four areas.

Behavioral health; we are the convening agency for the regional network to address homelessness.

Our other area is Health Promotion and Aging and Disability. Our primary role is that we connect, help organize, and disseminate information to human service organizations, as well as collect, analyze, insure data on public health indicators and socio economic data to towns, human service organizations, and to the general public and residents of the County.

And this just is our strategic framework with the four primary focus areas. As you could imagine, Health and Human Services is very broad. We're a department of three, so we really had to do some strategic planning to hone in on four areas that we felt building on work that we had been doing -- four areas that we could be more honed in on and be more focused.

So for those of you who don't know, we have a Health and Human Service Advisory Council. This is a Council made up of 27 different networks, organizations, and consortium representing a broad array of health and human services. It was created by the County in 2003.

And the major and specific responsibility is to assist the Department in prioritizing issues for action by County government.

And in your packet and also on the slides, you'll see here's a chart of the 27 different seats that we have on the Health and Human Service Advisory Council. It's very, very broad.

We have two members of our Advisory Council here today; Heidi Nelson, who represents the Community Health Network -- the Network of Community Health Centers, and the Human Rights Commission. And we are thankful that they're here supporting us.

But you can see it's a very broad range of Health and Human Service organizations anywhere from the Cape Cod Hunger Network, which is all the food pantries, to, like I said, the Community Health Center Network, which are all the Community Health Centers.

The Councils on Aging serving together, those are all of the town Councils on Aging working together as a group now, and we have a seat for them on the Advisory Council, whereas we used to have regional seats for the Councils on Aging.

So what I'm going to present to you today was -- is in the fall of 2011 and early 2012, the Advisory Council undertook a strategic review of its purpose, function, and structure. And one of the primary purposes of the Advisory Council is to inform local government/County government about health and human services needs in the County.

So, in order to meet this responsibility, a Government Liaison Committee was formed. And in August of this year, we developed and issued a questionnaire to all 27 of our Advisory Counsel Representatives soliciting feedback on emerging trends, needs, and policies primarily with the purpose of coming to the County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates and other local elected officials to give them the state of human services in the County.

This isn't something that we have done on a regular basis. I know I've been before you, this body, before to talk about specific issues, but this, I think, is the first time I've been before you talking about just what the issues are in the County.

So we had really good participation. We had 19 of the 27 groups respond to the questionnaire or provided verbal feedback.

So what I'm just going to go over with you quickly, you do have a compilation of all the responses in your packet. But I just want to pull out some common themes that will give you an idea of the things that the Health and Human Service Advisory County Representatives identified as emerging trends.

So the common themes were the majority of the respondents reported an increase in demand for services while funding for programs remained stable or decreased. So people, the maturity, an increase in demand for services, not surprising given the economy.

In addition to an increase in demand for services, it was also reported that greater amounts of assistance are being requested and there was a greater reliance over long periods of time.

The lack of affordable housing and barriers to accessing mental health services as well as transportation were continued to be identified as serious issues for the people being served by Health and Human Service agencies in the County.

Another common theme is that representatives on the Advisory Council reported an increase in client's presenting with very complex behavioral health issues. And when I say "behavioral health," I'm talking about mental health and substance abuse.

And this trend was reported by several organizations including Elder Services, the Wampanoags, our Cheraw, the Councils on Aging, and Falmouth Service Center. So you're talking about a lot of different demographic groups being served by these service providers all reporting the same type of issues, these complex behavioral health issues.

It's also reported more people using the community health centers. Forty thousand people are about 1/5 of the year-round permanent population on the Cape use one of the four community health centers that we have.

Demographics are impacting service delivery as more Baby Boomers and older adults are seeking services. It was reported by several groups that technology and information overload are barriers to adults, older adults accessing services. And this is something that we're going to be taking a closer look at.

And one of the other things noted regarding the demographics is the shift in emphasis by the federal and state governments from shifting focus from institutional care to community-based long-term care options.

One of the groups that was not mentioned on my slides but that was noted particular was brought up by Falmouth Human Services is their concern about young adults 18 to 26. They reported that they see them as being at high risk for homelessness and behavioral health issues. And that actually is something the department is looking at more closely.

Christine is actually in the process -- in the midst of doing a County-wide Behavioral Health Landscape looking at behavioral health landscape. And at some point in the next six months.

Three to six, we'd like to come back and share the results of that Behavioral Health Landscape Project with you.

We also asked Advisory Council members to report on some funding -- funding changes that they've seen over the previous 12 to 24 months, including impacts the funding has on their staffing and program.

In general, the majority of Advisory Council representatives, and, again, these aren't just 27 organizations; they're representing lots of health and human service organizations across the Cape. They reported level or slight decreases in federal and state funding and charitable giving.

Town support varied. We had some people reporting a decrease in town funding, others receiving an increase -- other programs receiving an increase in some of the town funding for human service programs.

One trend reported by the Hunger Network, which is the network of food pantries, is that they saw private foundations were giving larger percentages of their funds to basic services, such as food, which led then to a decrease in philanthropy for other areas such as the arts or the environment. So that was something that they identified as seeing that there was conscious decisions being made by fundraiser -- or charitable foundations to give to basic human services.

So almost all of the respondents reported that their funding comes from a variety of sources, so our human service organizations on the Cape receive federal, state, local, private foundation, charitable giving, and also raise money through fundraising.

And one of the things I noted in looking through all of the responses was that there seems to be tremendous resiliency and creativity among the human service providers, and that they really strive to be flexible in filling gaps in funding. And so there were quite a few who reported on fundraising efforts that they undertook to fill gaps.

Some bright spots; the Community Health Centers received an influx of federal dollars for infrastructure and to expand their capacity. So within the past 12 to 24 months, the Community Health Center in Mashpee expanded; Duffy moved into a new location; Harbor Health, which is formerly the Mid and Upper Cape is in the process of expanding and moving to a new site. And these expansions will allow for increase capacity for medical, behavioral health, and dental care.

And as you can see by one of my previous slides, a fifth of the population is accessing

their medical services through Community Health Centers.

The Indian Health Center and Services are expanding.

Another bright spot was that three Cape organizations received some Attorney General funding for foreclosure prevention.

And it was notable, too, that Council Churches has a seat in our Advisory Council, and they noted for the first time in years that they were operating from a substantial deficit as more and more churches were turning to them for housing assistance.

I'm going to turn it over to Christine who's going to present on the socioeconomic data, and then we can take questions and comments. Thank you.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: So the data that I'd like to share with you today is a small component of a White Paper that we're currently preparing on the socioeconomic well-being of Cape Cod residents.

So all of the data that I share with you today is specific to people who live here most of the times. It's not covering people who live here part of the time, so to sort of using the Census definition for that.

Also the data I'd like to share with you today, it reinforces what Beth was just saying, that changes in how our population is distributed and the economic well-being of our population is associated with some of the changes in demand that we feel our Health and Human Service organizations are seeing. So I'll go through this for you.

So I'm going to start out with some population data. Some of it is going to be nothing new to you, but I think it always helps, at least for me, to start with the basics and rebuild from there.

So we had a very substantial increase in the population of the County from 1970 to 2000, and a lot of the projections, even projections that our department did, indicated that population growth would continue and it didn't. And we saw the decline in population from 2000 to 2010. And using the American Community Survey from the U.S. Census, we're still seeing a little bit of a drop off even as we go into 2011.

So, next, I'd like to share with you specifically where those changes are occurring. Again, I don't think this is new news for you. But the major -- there are two areas -- two age groups where there's a major drop in the population.

The first is under 15. We lost nearly 8,000 people under the age of 15 between 2000 and 2010, which is nearly a 21 percent change.

Massachusetts also lost young people in that age group but not nearly to the degree that we did.

Fifteen to 24, there was a slight increase in that age group. But where we see the other decrease is, it would make sense, it's an age group of the parents of the children and youth that have left. So we saw a drop of nearly 15,000 people age 25 to 44, which is nearly a 27 percent change in that population.

Forty-five to 54, up a little bit, and then you continue to see the substantial increase in the number of older adults in the County.

Again, this change is not nearly as great as had been anticipated but it is still present.

So, 55 to 64, which I think are called the Baby Boomers still; we saw an increase of 10,000 people, nearly a 40 percent change. Massachusetts did too. So, the Cape is not so similar that way.

Same goes for the population 65 and over. We had a 5 percent increase in that population, and Massachusetts likewise. Again, you know, we had an increase. It wasn't nearly as big as we had anticipated.

And for the first time, there was actually a decrease in one age group and that was the 75 to 84 age group.

And this is a figure just to show you that some numbers relevant to the 55 and over and 60 and over, 65 and over, 75 and over, and also to indicate what proportion of the population they represent.

Obviously, a much larger percent of our population is 55 and over than other counties in Massachusetts, and, in fact, other counties throughout New England.

There was a slight change in race and ethnicity population. The change 2000 to 2010, there was a decline of over 9,000 people who reported their races to be White alone. Slight increase in people who reported their race to be Black or African-American. And that nearly a 3,000 increase in people reporting that their race -- that they had another race or two or more races. So, that would include Native American, Asian American, and people reporting two or more races.

And we also had an increase in people reporting as Hispanic/Latino. There's still some discussion about that whether that's a real increase in numbers or that more Brazilian people are starting to report as Hispanic/Latino, which is, indeed, a change in the U.S. Census, that Brazilian people can, indeed, report as Hispanic or Latino. It's probably some mixture of both but we're really not quite sure.

Just another note in terms of seeing a slight change in diversity; comparing Barnstable County schools, looking at all the public schools in Barnstable County, we had 11.5 percent minority population in those schools in '06-'07 school year, and it was up to nearly 15 percent in the '11-'12 school year, and we don't have '12-'13 data yet.

So now looking at the Economic well-being. So high cost of living is something that we've always known about, just some data that helps support that.

Using the Center for Housing and Policy: Paycheck to Paycheck Report. Of 167 U.S. Metropolitan Area Markets for the first quarter of 2012, the Town of Barnstable ranked number 22 for the highest for median home price, yet, was the third least affordable on an index that looks at the occupations of people in those Metropolitan areas and compares it to the cost of home ownership. So, we're not a very affordable place to live.

24th highest for median rental costs. The median rental cost was over \$1,200 for a two-bedroom apartment. That led to the Town of Barnstable ranking 19th least affordable.

Now I could only report on the Town of Barnstable here because that's all that was in this report. The other Massachusetts markets in the report were Boston, Cambridge, Pittsfield, Springfield and Worcester, but the Town of Barnstable at about 45,000 members of our population. So I did want to include it.

That's just a chart that I took from that report. At hand, it's demonstrating the annual income needed to afford a median-priced home, and then looking at incomes of the regular workers in the same home ownership market.

So that's one source. Another source we track is the Crittenton Women's Union, which is in Boston, and they provide on their website an Economic Independence Calculator. And I went down and I looked through all the towns on the Cape looking at 2 adult household, 1 preschool child, and 1 school-age child. You can put in any combination that you want. I just did it for a four-person household.

For all Cape towns for 2010, it indicated a household income of 64,490 would be needed, and that would require both adults in that household to work full-time year-round with an hourly wage of \$15.27. And what we know about the seasonality employment here, that that's a tall order for a lot of people.

And here's some Census data on Household Incomes. Here, I'm comparing Barnstable County to Massachusetts. So we are significantly lower in terms of Median Household Income, Mean Household Earnings for people who are employed. I think it's about 91,000 members of our population are in the wage market are earning.

Median Earnings for a Male Working Full-time is lower than the Massachusetts. For Women, it's about the same.

So looking at, to tie this up, looking at some Poverty data; I just wanted to share with you first what the Gross Yearly Income is by family size by 100 percent of poverty and 200 percent of poverty.

So you can see we're not looking at particular large household incomes. And then to share with you the proportion of our population over five years -- six years looking at the -- first of all, the number of people estimate and the number of individuals in poverty in Barnstable County. It's gone from an estimate of 11,000 -- just over 11,000 in 2006, hitting a high of almost doubling at nearly 24,000 people in 2010, and the estimate for 2011 is its come down a bit. But that's a significant change.

And then looking in terms of percentages for what percentage of our population that represents. Again, we're looking at 2006; it was about 5 percent of our population; 2010 it was 11.3 percent; 2011 it started to come down again.

What we find to be pretty staggering is the children and youth. When you look at 3.4 percent being in poverty in 2006, and that climbed to nearly 18 percent in 2010. And, again, it's coming down a little in 2011.

And then another -- oh, I just want to go back to this for a second to also remark that our County, the Barnstable County, the change for poverty level from 2006 to 2010 was the highest of any County. The changes for other counties were much less significant, so it was almost from 2006 to 2010 that watching Barnstable County catch up, and, in fact, overtake a number of other counties.

And then this is looking at 200 percent of poverty. I share this with you because this is a statistic we use a lot when food pantries are applying for grants and trying to estimate. It's very hard for a lot of these smaller food pantries to actually count the number of individuals they serve. They count a lot of the amount of food they provide but not the individuals they serve.

So we use this as an estimate of the number of people in Barnstable County that would be eligible to receive food from the food pantries, and it's over 50,000 people, about 25 percent of the population.

And, last, just to share the County Unemployment Rate; again, looking 2006, this goes up to 2012, I follow the -- the Cape Cod Commission does their comparison in a very similar way, so looking at winter unemployment and looking at summer unemployment.

So, as it would be obvious, our summer unemployment is much lower, but you can also see that on winter unemployment in 2010 hit almost 14 percent, and we have some towns, particularly the outer-Cape towns where Provincetown in 2010 I think it approached 40 percent in January.

So I think hopefully through these set of slides I've helped support on some of the key facts that Beth has received from the Health and Human Service Advisory Council. It sort of supports why we have seen some of the changes and needs for Health and Human Services.

So the White Paper that I'll be finishing this month will have more data in it, but this was just to give you a sum.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Are there any questions for our guest? Yes, Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: First of all, thank you, very much for doing this, taking those in

depth studies and brining them down to a couple of pages so that even a dumb farmer could understand them. Thank you. I know it was a lot of time and its good information.

In regards to the population change by race and ethn -- I got that one wrong -- how is the reporting, I guess this is from the U.S. Census is where you're getting these figures from.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Yep.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Do you feel that the reporting was correct and a lot of people just didn't fill out their paperwork either. Do you hold a lot to that particular chart? Or do you take into effect maybe; I don't know what I want to call it, a correction factor of people who aren't reporting especially in the lower income brackets?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: So I think that, first of all, in terms of comparing year to year, we can make an assumption that about the same proportion of people failed to report in the Census as any other year. I think it's helpful when you're looking year to year, so looking year to year changes.

In any particular year, yes, there are going to be people who are not here legally who, although the Census encourages them to report, don't. So in terms of exactly what proportion of the population that is, we don't know.

And there have been other attempts by our department in the past to try to estimate that, particularly for the Brazilian people who live here, and it is just -- it's so difficult. It would probably create more misinformation than good information.

But I think it would be very much worth me putting a footnote on when we do this White Paper –

Mr. CAKOUNES: Right.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: -- to indicate that that is an issue.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: On the economic side of it, the Poverty chart, I think its number 2; it looks like its down or you projected it to be down again. This is U.S. Census survey –

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Yes.

Mr. CAKOUNES: -- on 2011. Is any of that attributed to the some of the people leaving the Cape do you think? Or is that, again, something that needs to be judged for what it is?

Obviously, I don't think the economy has gotten better that a substantial amount of people in 2010 to 2011 are doing better. I'm not sure we can put a footnote in for that too.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: I think I should investigate that a little bit more. I mean we had a very slight change in population, estimated population in 2010 to 2011. So I'm not sure that, in and of itself, would explain the beginning to see a decrease.

I think 2010 was just a really bad year. That's what we heard. There was another study I did in 2010 looking at the increase in suicide deaths in Falmouth, and we did a complete 360 looking at the factors that might have contributed to that. And I heard time and time again from people who I interviewed including Health and Human Service providers that 2010 was just a particularly desperate year.

And I can't, at this point, in narrative explain why it's starting to come back down a little bit, but, again, from the qualitative information I have, it doesn't seem quite as desperate.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Just one more question, if I may, Mr. Speaker. I think over -- maybe I'm dating myself now; it might have been 10 years ago, but the County used to do a Human Conditions Report, I believe.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Uh-huh.

Mr. CAKOUNES: It had some kind of a name like that.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Right.

Mr. CAKOUNES: And I think at that time, we used to do them almost either a yearly basis or every two-year basis and then we just suddenly stopped.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Right.

Mr. CAKOUNES: It might be something that we may want to consider doing on a five-year basis so we can use some of this data as planning, especially when we have available to us the U.S. Census Report and using that and doing it five years from now maybe with our own data or something. But I find it very helpful. Thank you.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Teresa.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I just have one question. I know you mentioned a couple of times the 20 percent of the year-round population is the primary care, the Health Centers. I was wondering why that's significant and what it might be pointing to. You mentioned it a couple times, and I was like, hmmm.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Yeah. Well, that is a high percentage of people using Community Health Centers, so that's in and of itself -- huh?

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I mean, is it an economic question?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Why don't we get --

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: It approximates the population that's under 200 percent of poverty. So, I'd have to turn to Heidi, but my understanding is the Health Centers predominately serve lower income people.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Why don't we get Dr. Andrews view on this.

Ms. ANDREWS: Thank you. As Dental Director for a Community Health Center -- at least this year right now. I certainly learned a lot about how the interplay is between income, insurance, and the Community Health Centers. Fundamentally, the big change has been the state insurance plans.

And then the second thing you need to know is that in a rather backwards way, the State, two or three years ago, was encouraging all of us in private practice medically, dentally, all the different health fields you think about to take State-funded health insurances aboard and then all of a sudden they said, "No." This was, what, two years ago? We're all talking about 2010.

The State Budget was a disaster, so what did they do? They started cutting different services that were provided particular for adults and saying to people in private practice, "You can't take adults but they can go to a Community Health Center."

So, bottom line is, that Community Health Centers by virtue of law and also the federal grant process are capable of providing services and they are -- that they can't get elsewhere and they are overwhelmed, absolutely overwhelmed.

So what you should be seeing, and I think you are, is that the footprints and just the number of people walking in the door of the clinics, the medical facilities we have, these Community Health Centers on the Cape right now is it's just going through the roof. And it's not done. Folks are having to wait an awful long time to get an appointment.

So I'm just going to speak to that one because I know about it. It's a huge growth in the health care industry right now.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Teresa, do you have anything else?

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I don't.

Speaker BERGSTROM: While we're on this --

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: I do.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yep. Go ahead.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: I don't want to spend too much time on the healthcare question, but did you do any comparison as to how much access there is through emergency rooms and neighborhood health centers in Massachusetts as compared to other places?

For example, I know that in Texas people don't have insurance. They don't have neighborhood clinics, and people there -- it's like a third world country; they die of tooth infections. So I'm wondering if you have any comparisons?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: I don't have it reported out right now but I can look -- I do look at emergency room data, and I look at the kinds of conditions or health issues that people are going to the emergency room for. And that's where we consider starting to pick up where the Cape differs from other counties in terms of why people are going to the emergency room.

Of the top of my head, I cannot recall whether our use of -- our emergency room usage rate is different compared with other counties or compared with Massachusetts as a whole.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: But your work doesn't do any comparison to other states; is that right?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: I certainly could do comparisons -- yeah.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: Yeah. I find this fascinating. I really appreciate your doing this kind of research for us because I think it really enlightens our discussions about what we're trying to accomplish in County. So, thank you.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: You know, while we're on the health care discussion, in my observation that and I don't know if you take these statistics but there's a high percentage of the population of Cape Cod are self-employed. They're either contractors; they're fishermen, they have small businesses, retail businesses, and as a result, they don't always have access to an employer-supplied healthcare.

So I noticed in your statistics you had the income necessary for a family of let's say four at 60-some odd thousand dollars. How do you factor in the cost of health care? If they were to buy it out-of-pocket, I assume it would cost them like 15-\$18,000 or something. How do you factor that in when you look at what's necessary to do that?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Well, with the change -- well, with the healthcare reform in Massachusetts, self-employed people can get health insurance for a little less than before. I don't have Barnstable County's specific data on health insurance. I did, in fact, request that from the Division of Health Care, Finance, and Policy, and they couldn't give it to me by County, but I could try again.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: But I think, definitely, qualitatively, that's a major issue.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The other question I have is as the deal, not with these, but with statistics in general, it's tough to get a handle on it because so many things could be related to other things.

For instance, the cost of housing on the Cape is high.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Definitely.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And there's a demographic change -- you say a slight demographic change.

Well, if you look at the example of Provincetown, for instance, a big demographic change over 10 years because year-round residents were supplanted by people who could out-bid them for housing, and those people did not naturally live there, so what happens is you're left with a situation where a family which would normally have access to housing, in other words, who could afford housing in a normal situation, cannot afford it on the Cape, so they go

somewhere else. So you're left with the larger percentage of population who can afford housing; do you know what I'm saying? Because there's slight statistical variations due to different kind of –

So, do you, I mean, did you take into account -- I know it's tough, but the shifting population from year round to seasonal simply due to the fact because of the financial –

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: One that's not in here but will be in the White Paper that we're doing is a look at housing units and certainly looking town by town at the portion of housing -- the change in the portion of housing units that have become season use as opposed to year-round resident use.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And one question while I'm on a roll here is there's a lot of people who are living in assisted living and nursing homes and so on and situations like that; have you seen an increase in that population at all or is that not taken into account?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: That is in the U.S. Census is reported as the institutional population, population at institutions, and I don't believe there was a huge change in that because people are moving in as other people are moving out, so it's a little bit more dependent on the number of –

Mr. ANDERSON: They're dying.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: -- it's a little bit more dependent on the number of beds or rooms that are available.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. Yes, Deborah.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: Just one more question; this White Page is going to be published where?

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: It's something that we're finishing up in January. We're taking it to our Health and Human Service Advisory Council to have them review it with us before we publish it, but it will be available on our website.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: On your website. Good.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: Yep.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: Good.

Ms. CHRISTINE STEIN: And will have a lot more indicators in it than what I shared with you today.

Ms. MC CUTCHEON: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Pat.

Mr. PRINCI: I just have a quick question regarding the Cape and Islands Regional Network to address homelessness.

As you know, homelessness is a County-wide problem, but it happens to just exist mostly in Hyannis due to the fact that all of the social service agencies are in Hyannis.

And I'm just wondering what you're hearing from other towns as you work with this Council as far as what their views are on the homeless situation.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: So, on the Regional Network to address homelessness, we do have representatives on the Executive Committee and the Policy Board from Homeless Prevention Council, which is the agency that serves the lower outer-Cape, and they're reporting increased demand for their services, increased numbers, so they're seeing -- they have -- it's not just Hyannis. The numbers are in Hyannis.

There's been a lot of work in Hyannis to coordinate services, especially for people who are chronically homeless, but the problem exists throughout the Cape. I can't give you specific numbers on what the Lower/Outer-Cape is seeing, but Chris Austin from Homeless Prevention Council routinely talks about capacity issues and the work that they do on the Lower/Outer-

Cape.

So we also have on our Policy Board representatives from Falmouth Human Services and Falmouth Service Center. Again, I can't give you numbers, but they are seeing homeless in their area as well.

So it is a more visible problem in Hyannis and there are greater numbers, but it's also an issue in other towns.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Do I have a question over here? Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. Just a comment. When you do your White Paper, I don't know if you do any sort of executive summary because I think that this information is really crucial, not only from municipal budgets, school budgets, information for residents and towns to have a foundation. And if you have a very heavy, meaty, weighted report, people aren't likely to get into it.

And your presentation was excellent and very thorough, but an executive summary of some sort might be something that will be very useful for the Delegates to pass on to interested parties and also would capture someone then maybe to dive into your report. Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And, Julia, did you have a question?

Ms. TAYLOR: I just wanted to say that Beth came over to Falmouth a couple of weeks ago just before Christmas and we were on TV and talked about the new program that the Department has started about websites and new places for people to find information in specific areas.

So I wanted her to just at least summarize it for you and also for the TV.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Okay. Thank you. I wasn't going to get into it, but I was very fortunate to be on Julia's first show, so we did talk about a new online directory that the Department just released. We launched them in November.

You can get to them through our website, but they also can be found at Found.BCHumanServices.net. And these are three very user-friendly -- a compilation of local data around particular areas.

One is Aging and Disability; they coincide with our strategic focus areas. One is around Aging and Disability; one is around Happy, Healthy Eating, which was a project of our Health and Human Service Advisory Council, and the other is an update to an energy assistance directory that we did a few years ago with a group.

In addition, we're working on a housing directory as one of the regional network to address homelessness. One of our objectives was to produce a compilation of housing resources. That is in the works. We hope to launch that by February.

And our last piece, our last directory is going to be around mental health. We're still looking at some different options for that.

If you haven't been to the Department's website, I would urge you to take a minute just to go check it out. We have worked very hard on really updating and enhancing our website, and we'll be adding, with Christine's work, more and more things along the lines of White Papers and Executive Summaries. We really want to make this data accessible to people as well as the directories.

So, thank you, Julia.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Anybody else? Well, thank you, very much.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Can I just make one more comment?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Sure.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: The Health and Human Service Advisory Council really has taken this charge as far as communicating more effectively, more frequently with you and the

County Commissioners. So we hope to come back, again, and do these periodic updates.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Please do.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

Ms. BETH ALBERT: Thank you, very much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We now go to Communications from Public Officials.
Do we have any Public Officials?

Communications from Members of the Public

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. I have a member of the public who wishes to speak.
You have to identify yourself.

Ms. ELENITA MUÑIZ: Yes. I'm Elenita Muñiz; I'm the Coordinator for the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, and I just wanted to come by and give each of the Delegates to the Assembly copies of our new brochure, which was published in November.

I would have been here last month, but I was really sick and I didn't think you'd want the germs along with the brochure.

We've had it translated into Spanish and Portuguese. I'm working on getting the bugs out of that and will be out for bid. We hope to have it printed in those two languages by March and have that out as well.

It's being distributed within the towns by Commissioners and by our town representatives. So I just have copies for all of you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Yes, Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I just want to make a comment that I'm really thrilled that Elenita is the new person for the Human Rights Commission because I've known her for 30-plus years. She worked –

Speaker BERGSTROM: Since you were both just little children.

(Laughter.)

Ms. TAYLOR: -- practically children. She had an administrative position at Falmouth Academy for many years and, of course, was a great activist on the Lower Cape in all sorts of human rights areas.

So this is going to be a wonderful thing for the County that she's now on board.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Well, while we're distributing those, are there any other members of the public who wish to speak?

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. The Assembly will now convene. Do we have a report from the Clerk?

Report from the Clerk

Ms. O'CONNELL: Yes, we do. First, I want to apologize for not pointing out what is on the circular table up at the front of the room here. We received it at our last Assembly Meeting, and in all the hustle and bustle, I failed to point it out. But we did receive something from Mr. Beatty - very nice replica of the Constitution, etc. on parchment paper. So if anybody wants to take a look at it after the meeting if you didn't get a chance to do it last time, it's

upfront.

And I also want to point out -- some people have noticed -- when you're sitting behind your nameplate, it's difficult to see; you have new nameplates.

The white paper is gone, and we actually have real plastic nameplates.

Thank you for getting back to me with all your committee assignment priorities. I passed those along to the Speaker. Within the next couple of weeks --

Speaker BERGSTROM: I will communicate probably before the next meeting the committee assignments. Unfortunately, we're not going to have 15 members of the Finance Committee, so some people might be disappointed, but I'll do the best I can to adhere to everyone's wishes.

Clerk O'CONNELL: And, lastly, I will be updating the website. I started to a little bit, but now that we have a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, two new people, there will be some updates happening on the webpage, so just be a little patient and it will be done, I'm sure, within a week.

And that's it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Just for the information for the members of the Assembly, the Clerk received a request about a month ago for some communications that were sent to me by a constituent, not my -- a constituent from Chatham, but just somebody who has comments. I think some of you got it. It was on the wind turbines and so on.

Well, a Freedom of Information Act request was -- an official one was filed for that information. The information was very innocent. There was nothing in there. They just wanted to know, but I think everyone should be aware that, and I'm going to try to have someone come in and give us a little bit of an update on what the Freedom of Information Act requires, but any official or unofficial communications that you guys have with each other or with people from the outside is considered public information and a request could be made for that information.

So, at some point, we're going to have to all get an update on the Open Meeting Law, the Freedom of Information Act so that we all know where we stand on that.

So, Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: Question for you or rather for Janice. What's our status with having to take a little test for the Open Meeting Law and ethics? Isn't there supposed to be an update that we're supposed to be doing soon? Are we going to just hear from them by e-mail or?

Clerk O'CONNELL: We usually hear from them directly by e-mail.

Ms. TAYLOR: Okay.

Clerk O'CONNELL: We have to do that every two years.

Ms. TAYLOR: But nobody's gotten something that I've missed?

Speaker BERGSTROM: And also for the new Delegates, you should tell them when the deadline -- do you have the deadline for the financial disclosure that we have to do?

Ms. KING: That's not till May.

Speaker BERGSTROM: That's not till May but these guys don't know that.

Ms. KING: Yeah, that isn't till May.

Clerk O'CONNELL: The Statement of Financial Interest.

Ms. TAYLOR: I know that. That's May -- that's June but this is something -- that I know comes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. Is there any other business to be brought before the Assembly? Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: In regards to the lovely gifts that we received, the parchment paper

Bill of Rights, etcetera, I think it would be proper for us to maybe purchase an inexpensive plastic frame, something like that Cape Cod one that is up there on that wall, so we can actually hang those up.

And I don't know if you need funding or a motion to do that, Mr. Speaker, but I think it might be proper to do that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We have the sufficient funds to do that.

Okay. Did you want to give us, Leo -- I mean, do you have any more to say on your Commissioners meeting that you attended?

Mr. CAKOUNES: (Nodding.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: No, you're all set. Okay. Well, in that case, I need a motion.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Motion to Adjourn.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Seconded. All those in favor, say "aye". Opposed?

Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates