

COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY Departments 1500 & 800
VINEYARD HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, FY 2011: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Client Services: The Access Program's core service is connecting the Island's lower-income residents with affordable insurance and helping them to retain this coverage. We provide public benefit health care program enrollment and retention services, information and referral and advocacy; referrals to primary care, specialty care and complementary care; helping clients to make appointments and manage medical debt; and facilitate access to services like specialty care, dental care, vision care and prescription medication assistance. We are also a community service for other public benefits including Food Stamps (SNAP), Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled & Children, and disability claims.

In FY2011 the Access Program obtained coverage for 2,143 Islanders under the age of 65 and 259 seniors. Staff also provided related health and human service assistance 5,819 times throughout the year.

The Access Program's discounted care programs continued to provide affordable services to the uninsured. These include the Specialty Network for the Uninsured (SNU), dental care coordination and the Prescription Medication Assistance Program (PMAP). The SNU is a regional program operated under the Cape and Vineyard Community Health Center Network. It has over 80 participating providers in 25+ specialties. The dental equivalent, called Cape Cod Dentists Care, helped over 100 Islanders in FY2011.

The David Kurth Memorial Fund provides emergency financial assistance to Islanders with medical-related expenses that they cannot afford, primarily prescription medication. ***In FY2011, we assisted over 150 uninsured or underinsured Islanders to get 182 prescription medications by providing \$8414 in financial assistance.*** The Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard continues its support for this program. Other contributions in FY2011 came from the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation; the United Methodist Church; and individuals and local businesses.

In FY2011 the Access Program began a 3-year project with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah called KIDSWIN with the goal of enrolling Native American children and their families into affordable insurance programs. Outreach is also ongoing in the form of public service announcements, distribution of fliers, brochures and cards throughout the community, school mailings, presenting to adult education classes, networking with health and human service agencies, and newspaper advertisements. Enrollment services are provided to clients of the Dukes County House of Corrections and the Community Corrections Program.

Vineyard Smiles provides school-based mobile dental services and dental education for children in Head Start and grades K-12; monthly dental hygiene clinics for seniors; and care facilitation for adults with unmet oral health needs. ***In SY 2011, 442 children received dental care including exams, cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants and fillings.*** Vineyard Smiles established an ongoing program of oral hygiene clinics for lower-income seniors in FY2011. Clinics are held once per month on average at senior centers and Island Elderly Housing. In FY2011 ***88 elderly and disabled patients received services.*** Patients had a variety of issues ranging from severe periodontal disease to broken teeth, cavities and lesions. These services are made possible by funding from the Town Boards of Health for health promotion services through the Vineyard Nursing Association.

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Local and Regional Initiatives: Access Program employees have been involved in a number of additional health care initiatives including:

- The Dukes County Health Council
- The MassHealth Training Forum
- The Specialty Network for the Uninsured
- The Oral Health Excellence Coalition
- Healthy Vida/Island Partnership for Health
- Elder Care Providers Work Group

Funding: The agreement between the County and Towns to share a portion of the program's budget continued in FY2011, with the County providing 30% of \$88,864 (\$26,659) and the six Island Towns providing 70% (\$62,205), or around one third of the total budget. The Island Towns further provided additional funds in order to ensure that the program was able to maintain its level of service to the Island community. This additional support, a total of \$59,914, was needed due to a reduction in grant funding.

In addition to the County and Island Towns, FY2011 funding sources included Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Health and Human Services via a grant to the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, United Way of Cape Cod and the Islands, and local funders including the Permanent Endowment Fund of Martha's Vineyard, Rotary Club, the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation local businesses and individual donors. The program's total budget for FY2011 was \$248,820.

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Board of Directors: Beth Donnelly MD, Eleanor Beth, Rex Jarrell, Janet Holladay, Leslie Leland, Marina Lent