



Town of Tisbury

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Town of Oak Bluffs

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September 12, 2018

TO: Martha's Vineyard Community Services
Vineyard Health Care Access
Center for Living
Healthy Aging Task Force
Dukes County Human Service Department
Substance Abuse Prevention Program

FROM: Boards of Selectmen of the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury

RE: Request for Consideration of Municipal Government Funding

As the number of private human service agencies seeking funding from local municipal governments here on the island continues to increase in both number and amounts requested, the Boards of Selectmen of the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury request that the Island's human services providing agencies meet to review and plan around some of the critical issues facing the delivery of human services for Island residents in an effort to promote efficiency.

Currently, our two towns combine to fund over \$578,000 and growing in direct subsidies to private human services agencies in its annual budget and articles. This total is nearly \$1,500,000 island-wide. To assist the towns in helping to meet our human service needs in the most efficient manner possible and to protect against a dangerous future of competition among the groups for limited funding, we request the agencies to meet to discuss some of the inefficiencies which may be evolving as part of our model. With some shared administrative services and oversight, more conservative budgeting techniques, stricter cost controls and some private fund-raising, we are confident that together we can work to provide an adequate municipal subsidy to meet funding gaps to provide critical human services for our Island residents. However, without a concerted effort on all our parts, our current model is currently on its way toward failure.

The Boards are hopeful that in the several months prior to our budgeting process for fiscal year 2020, our human service providers can meet to review these issues and help us in

developing a more sustainable model for meeting these needs. We look forward very much to discussing your progress and initiatives as we contemplate allocating funds in our very tight budget for the coming year. We all share a common purpose in working together to meet the needs of all our Island residents, and we thank you for your efforts and look forward to your continued leadership as we best evolve our system to fund and to provide human services.

Sincerely,



Gail M. Barmakian, Chair
For The Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen



Tristan Israel, Chair
For The Tisbury Board of Selectmen