

Updated September '24

2024 Outer Cape Community Collaborative



An invitation to our municipal partners in Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro and Provincetown

Our communities and departments do phenomenal work, but we rarely have an opportunity to talk about it together!

Join us to celebrate successes, take stock of strengths and emerging challenges, and connect with colleagues from across the Outer Cape.

**FRI
JUN 14**

OC Community Collaborative Kick-Off

- ✔ Initiatives for collaboration: "Where are we stronger together?"
- ✔ Virtual, Zoom Meeting - 9a-10:30a

**WED
SEPT 11**

Program Inventory on the Outer Cape

- ✔ "What programs & services do we offer in our area?"
- ✔ Virtual, Zoom Meeting - 9a-10:30a

**WED
OCT 2**

Physical Assets on the Outer Cape

- ✔ "Which places do residents go most often in the community?"
- ✔ Virtual, Zoom Meeting - 9a-10:30a

**WED
OCT 23**

Group Resourcing Discussion

- ✔ Idea Swap: "Getting Information to Constituents"
- ✔ In-Person Meeting: Wellfleet Public Library - 9a-10:30a

FREE FOOD!

***Updated Meeting Format!**

DATE CHANGE!

**WED
NOV 20**

Regional Cross Pollination Exploration

- ✔ "The Utility (and Challenge) of Staying Connected Across Towns"
- ✔ Virtual, Zoom Meeting - 9a-10:30a

Contact your town health agent for more information. Register at tinyurl.com/ocmeetings24

All meetings are virtual except October 23rd which will have a hybrid option. Each meeting is designed for drop-in participation - so please join as often as your schedule allows!

Outer Cape Community Collaborative 2024 Meeting Series Summary Note

Submitted 11/22/24

Thank you for participating in this series. We are so proud of the work that our communities and departments do, and so grateful for your presence in these conversations - amid what we know to be very full days! One of the key take-aways from this effort is that our accompaniment of each other goes a long, long way towards refreshing our perspective, creativity, and resilience for greeting challenges on the Outer Cape.

This Summary Note is a compilation of the in-meeting notes and whiteboards generated over the course of the series. It is a useful source for us as we contemplate next steps from here, and we hope it may be for you, as well.

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Next Steps, as Health Agents: We're paying attention to trends that emerged about the importance of connecting people across the Outer Cape in ways that increase familiarity with community spaces and facilitate a sense of welcome. Specific next steps are availability-dependent, and we're actively assessing that now. We'll let you know what develops, and we invite you to do the same. Please stay in touch - we always welcome hearing from you!



What projects have been easier to manage because you pooled resources or streamlined efforts through collaboration?

COVID Flu Clinics

Ice Skating Event - all outer cape (Recreation)

International Women's Day (COA & Elementary School)

Crop Swap (Library, Health, shifted to Library, Soup Kitchen & Food Partners)

Halloween Events, Holiday Events (School, Recreation, Health, Library, COA)

Winter Wednesday program

Mattress Recycling Program

CLAMS (interlibrary loan program - sharing resources regionally)

Household Hazardous Waste

OC Wellness (Health programming welcome to ALL towns under the banner)

Childrens Community Garden (Recreation, Sustainable Cape, Library) longer term collaboration

Conservation Agents' Shorefront Managing Process (All 4 towns)

Immunization Initiatives (Schools, Health)

Climate Action Speaker Series (Ex. "Water Sources Part II)

Services for Immigrant Family Support -- so many departments within Eastham working together on this

Health Fair (specifically Nauset's)



What are the things that are difficult to accomplish on your own?





What actions / aspirations would benefit from a coalition of organizations working together?

Programming for STAFF-locally based

Share a document, and swap out logos

Health, Conservation / Climate is a great place to start these initiatives because these issues affect everyone - they transcend borders. "A bird doesn't know what town its in!"

So important to learn from our peers - issues are experienced individually but there are regional trends and patterns

See ideas: -- Report title: **Recommendations for Regionalization of Coastal Management in Outer Cape Cod Communities**

Housing

Working within school spaces

Shared vision > shared planning > advocacy

Emergency Preparedness. (This could mean **education, service provision, outreach,** knowing who may need emergency assistance)

Need a CASUAL space - step away from work, organic, natural

Regular Planning sessions! - brainstorming programs and making plans/etc

Conversations are already happening ... just need an OUTLET and OPPORTUNITY

Develop a **regional "sand bank"** ex. Provincetown has lots of sand but no place to store it - but other towns do have places to store (and less sand)

One Large Regional Health Fair, clinics, services

An App for scheduling

Timing of the Fair

Attendance

Driving to events is a challenge.

Vendor

Can the county put on the Health Fair??

"Shared Services" is less threatening than the term "regionalization"

Timing of event, afternoon, dinner, can be a challenge.

Communication

Public Education

Beach & Pond

COMMUNICATION

Mosquitos

Ticks

We cultivate community - we grow family

Food Pantry, Library, Food Resource Guide

Shellfish

What are the barriers or challenges to working between departments and working between towns?

Scheduling time and scheduling spaces

Goals vary, personalities clash, budget

Time commitmentsLack of communication response and acknowledgement

Time. We are working in the micro and don't have a lot of time for planning outside of our buildings

Questions about cost sharing/ budgets.
Distances between towns

In short, too little time, and too few staff. Like - collaborating would take work off of our plates but it seems overwhelming to get started with.

Working together without boundaries

Differences in budget, variation in goals

What are the barriers or challenges to working between departments and working between towns?

Scheduling meetings
even virtual

In regard to department to
department, time restraints. In
regard to town to town someone
taking the leader and
organizations constant meet ups
virtual or in person

Time. Urgency of immediate
issues often takes over time
management and detracts
from more holistic work and
planning

Time and cost

Resources, who pays.

Benefits of group
experience

Barriers not everyone has the
same vision
Time constraints
Budget constraints

That you are depending on
others to do their
responsibilities in a a shared
event- you may feel a loss of
control

What are the barriers or challenges to working between departments and working between towns?

personalities

not wanting to make space for a new way to do things

Getting departments and other towns to agree to collaboration.

Capacity (staff, time, money) and lack of shared ideation space/time

Time, "that's not our town"
Funding

How do you know when collaboration is worth the effort? In a word, it is... (you may submit more than one entry)

33 responses

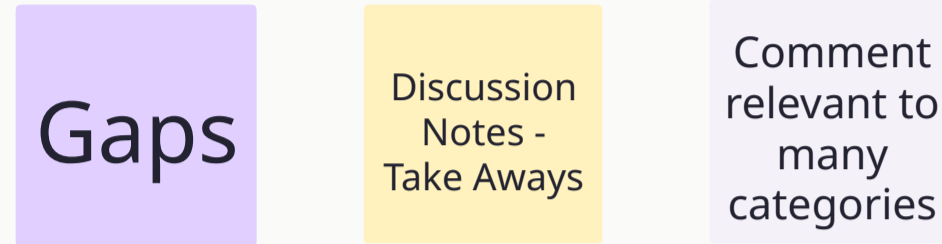


Whiteboard / Chat Notes from OCCC Meeting on 9.11.24 re. Programs / Gaps on the Cape

Question Prompts for Small Groups:

1. Take turns in your small group to briefly share name & town.
2. Is there anything that you tried in the past to fill this gap that was successful? What was it?
3. Take turns: What is the toughest nut to crack, in trying to address this gap at is moment in time?
4. What are some of the components of "bridging" this gap – actual elements that you might need?
Examples: expertise in...(be specific), someone who could...(be specific), help with reaching...(be specific)

STICKY NOTE COLOR KEY:



Aggregate Calendar

Develop an App to provide information across all the Towns of what is happening and

The App would include both municipal events as well as private event. Like music night at the Pearl. Shared events calendar to start, app as the goal is a good way to connect ppl and build stonger community ties

Truro uses a system called AlerTruro by RAVE

what about if we had a outer cape programming website to share info?

School club info is available on the NRHS Weekly Announcements!

Increasing outreach to reach the groups that we are missing

reaching those with disabilities visionally impaired and cognitive deficits

challenges reaching those who are social isolated and getting folks to buy in

Senior Support & Connection

Structured programs and unstructured events have different appeals but both have a place in cultivating community, addressing barriers and confronting soical isolation.

Art therapy Intergenerational

Increase digital literacy. How to make this work feasible?

Offering digital literacy program outer cape for seniors and utlize high school students

Library would be a good place to start for intergenerational meeting.

Intergenerational programming COA collaboration with schools

utilize nauset highschool students

Teen Support & Connection

Collaborate with the Schools in the district for programming for teens and youth

I'm concerned about realizing how deep the silos are around the regional schools

There is a working model for teen programming after school at the middle school...

Bring the Navigator back to the Highschool!

Especially when it comes to supporting our middle and high school kids, we HAVE to think as a region because the schools are regional! We need to partner - both by collaborating and sharing funding - to make these programs accessible and workable at the schools themselves.

Grief and trauma support, for teens and young adults

Check out Sharing Kindness! They gave grief groups for all ages (including teens) and they also work within the school systems (Hope Squad, school based grief groups, etc).

Health Services: Care Giving, Nursing, Mental Health

Transporta

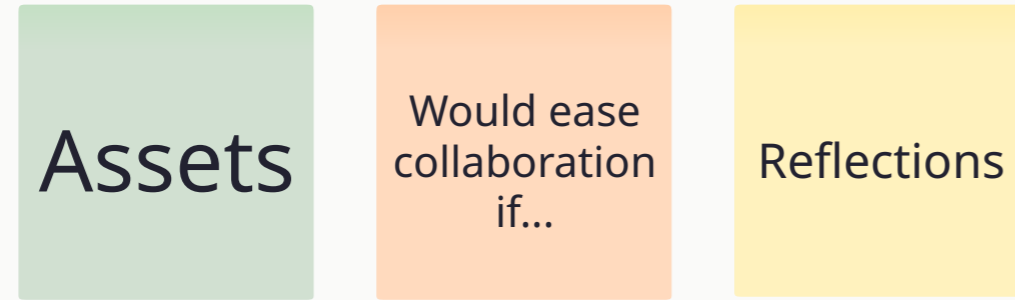
There is a working group now actively working on this gap - see Alex for details

Whiteboard / Chat Notes from OCCC Meeting on 10.2.24 re. Gathering Spaces on the Outer Cape

Discussion Prompts:

- Which assets in your town might be appropriate for shared OC collaboration / use?
- If applicable, what would ease collaboration around the use of physical spaces?

STICKY NOTE COLOR KEY:



Collaborating on producing an offering. **Teaming up to offer events**

Planning around what groups of residents are motivated to help organize — creating a critical mass for swim lessons, for example (groups of parents petitioning for what they needed at that time)

Collaborating across departments - can make it a bit easier. (Example: rec dept.s & sports leagues) Sometimes lack of space & transportation resource is what gets in the way. Some people prefer the ease of access of having an event in their backyard

How do we support each other from a staffing perspective?

Cost is a barrier. "If folks want to share in on the cost"

Need a mechanism to have access to each other as collaborators. May need an index behind this calendar for organizers — knowing who to call to book what / when / how.

ease of room booking

Shared Newsletters

location, parking

Share Resources when workable- mobile spaces, like vans!

Distance from the office, transportation

Shared "Outer Cape" calendar / index / app of what is available

Real need for list of spaces WITH accessibility/set up/pictures? -- bathrooms, doors, parking, elevators, #floors

Example: Recreation now has a van - now available to Wellfleet Elementary School. Would be great to expand this strategy to other groups /ages.

Rec and COA share use of passenger van (happening in Truro, Eastham)

Maybe an outer cape van not sure how that would work but that could be booked for different towns

Digital equity- VERY important point for the marketing/ outreach meeting!!!

Facebook has a lot of groups that list events and things to do in multiple towns

"All my relations" mitakuiaska

"Everybody - whether you are included/related or not- are welcome!" "the mishpoche" "The Everybody!"

(i.e. program speakers won't travel; we know there's a need but it's too SMALL for our population; I want to do this activity but we don't have (x resource)) — IDing the WHYS could help people see the pipeline for finding the RIGHT space/ collaborator

Staffing is difficult given housing constraints, and collaboration is one of ways we'll be able to keep & sustain a variety of offerings

Residents don't want to be the ones to travel - this is a real

Address Uncertainty. Where will I sit? Will there be restrooms? Where do I park, etc.

Create a shared culture of welcome

Why would we "need" to collaborate?

The more we collaborate (For all ages), the more connection we have / reinforce. There is a social / emotional benefit & resilience that is built through these shared ventures.

Special events / speakers are a draw for shared experiences. **What makes it easier: having a process / flow to take the extra planning steps.** Use familiar relationships to address unknowns for participants (ex. the COA bus is familiar).

Unfamiliar CAN be daunting - social, logistics, etc. Cultivate relationships as one way to make spaces accessible and welcoming

- List of REASONS to collab >> where to look to solve it?
1. need support (staffing wise) >> which agency has capacity to help?
 2. the speaker doesn't want to travel that far (Chris' example) >> where WILL they go?
 3. our agency doesn't have ____ >> what dept/town has ____?
 4. the population needs help traveling >> what dept/town has transportation?
 5. this current program isn't working because ____ >> who can help solve this issue?

Collaboration seems to happen more easily when it is problem-solving for an emerging need: relevant, useful, urgent

Provide info on flyers or sites that share "what to expect" with programming AND logistics of space.

Consider "sending with a buddy" for new initiatives / events....someone residents are connected with.

OCCC MEETING SERIES

IN-MEETING NOTES from Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Theme: Community Outreach - “Getting information to constituents in our community – What’s working for your town? Who aren’t we reaching?”

Results from the Survey are incorporated here, OR, included in the slides on page 6 of this if the question was not discussed in the meeting.

Question Prompt: Bring to mind the groups or networks in your town that have the highest levels of engagement. What do you think is contributing to that success?

Prez Hall in Wellfleet

- Location - centralized location
- Appeal to wide spectrum of people
- Easy to park - everyone knows where it is
- Beautiful

Wellfleet Library

- Walking distance from downtown
- Programming for all ages – activities / books / movies
- Parking!
- Open a wide range of hours / all seasons
- Have really thought about what people need throughout the year & work to meet those needs

Provincetown Library

- Structure
- Accessible
- Programming
- It’s the heartbeat of the community!

Truro Library

- All as above
- Piano!

Digital Space

- Municipal Entities have accounts
- Facebook is used in Provincetown – also Instagram, other apps
- Civic Alerts

Truro Community Kitchen - Provincetown Community Kitchen

- Volunteer Participation – this helps tap into a phenomenal diversity in the community. The people who are involved help gather lots of groups – getting the word out effectively and familiarly

Truro Climate Action Committee

- Lots of interest in the issue – topic is important to people
- Sponsors talks - events are well attended

Chapel in the Pines (Eastham)

COA

- Lunch on Thursdays
- Luncheons serve as a hub for getting the word out about other events

Elks Club in Eastham

- Great signage!
- Huge Parking Lot

Schools

- Helpful in getting the word out
- Spaghetti Dinners

Wellfleet Kitchen

- Americorp Volunteers
- Diversity of People

What's working right now?

- Americorp Volunteer Recruitment is amazing
- Food for Thought: Could they help with the intersection between public health & climate change?

What groups of people in your community are the hardest to reach? What have others learned (or tried / are trying) in an effort to bridge these gaps?

Children in Middle School

Adults

Young working people

Folks protective of their immigration status

- What is OCCS doing to bridge these gaps? I.e. **Community Ambassadors** - the value of the position is that there is already deep understanding and trust that the offering will be relevant / safe / worthwhile

People who are homebound or otherwise isolated and/or generationally analog

Medical Offices (Outer Cape Health Services) – there is a real constraint in reaching services when needed. Triage system challenging.

- This is such a consistent issue and is widespread.
- It is experienced nationally AND locally.
- Solutions to may require creating safety nets for people to call before they need their healthcare provider

40 and younger.

- Busy - we may be reaching them but they don't communicate back.
- Phone calls not a good way to reach - not answered / picked up.
- Not on Facebook. Don't read e-mail.
- "I have kids" – meaning, life is full! Providing childcare is not the complete picture.
- Note from Rec: reaching families with kids between ages of 4-12 in town via Rec e-mail blasts, back-pack mail/flyers (helps parents spread news via networks and word of mouth), Eastham banner, see kids in schools / afterschool each day. Tough to reach out to areas where we are not so involved (middleschool, other adults in the community) so trying to be present in as many ways as we can.

18-30 is the trickiest age bracket to reach.

- Younger Program Coordinator has been helpful – knows people, has programming that attracts this age bracket (ex. organized music with a group of musicians who are in the same age group)
- Open mic night has opened up the crowd
- Summer music effective - multigenerational

18-60

- Life is very full - working full time (or overtime), kids
- Getting the information to them about what they are entitled to or might need is difficult. Worried that message is not getting through (fuel assistance, for example)

“The hardest step is the first one out the door.”

- **Need the continued invitation, the friend to get one past their resistance / difficulty of the moment to connect with a network / assistance that could help**

Who are we reaching consistently?

- Consistently reach seniors. There are relationships to help engagement, habits, space to go that is exclusively theirs, they have time & are actively looking for engagement. Programs meet several interests, and have low barrier to engagement (free).
- **Community Support Liaison** (drop in hours at the Libraries) - helpful to have boots on the ground to help refer, connect, learn about eligibility, help applying
- We reach people who are knowing what they need and have agency / ability to get to the programming - emotionally, physically, materially.
- We reach people who have asked for help – and who are in a position where they need the assistance and there is a service / provider to provide it. It’s hard to ask for help when it is a generalized request – usually requires hitting a breaking point.

Big Picture Question: How are we cultivating community? How to communicate available events / services to the people who could benefit from them?

What ideas come to mind for streamlining outreach & communication efforts within the wider Outer-Cape community?

Begin with a shared Event calendar and aim for an app. Helpful to know where to start and what is available. *To figure out: how would update? ...get organizations to participate? May need paid staff to pull this off.*

Cultivating personal relationships. This is an important contributor between knowing about an event and GOING to the event. The importance of the first contact - beyond the flier - someone that connects the offering & participant. **By invitation by someone I trust.** Ex. People like Jean Claude (stationed in Yarmouth) - he connects people! Haitian population, Jamaican population, community garden activities etc etc. Helps people find housing, translates at the hospital... → follow up with Jean Claude to learn

Having a shared platform to share needs or upcoming events

Take-Aways

- It really matters to have someone whose job it is to make connections. The work of outreach and connecting outside of the usual avenues / silo is not something that any agency can add to their to-do list. *Example of the work load: packaging same info in many ways so that people hear it at least 3 times – more than one touch point. Personal follow-up via contacts that are familiar to people trying to reach.*
- I, personally, have to be more deliberate in follow-up with people I connect with. I or my staff can make the time to really create the connection with a referral before losing contact with participant – a “warm hand off.”
- There’s a big digital divide in this geographic region - so people come to the Library for internet access and digital tools, and we end up helping them with several areas of their life. This is an intimate engagement that is relevant / useful to the participant AND gives us insight about what programming they may need.

Whiteboard / Chat Notes from OCCC Meeting on 11.20.24 re. Outer Cape Cross Pollination

"The utility (and challenge) of staying connected across towns"

Discussion Prompts:

- What conditions would make staying-in-touch-across-the-Outer-Cape compelling enough for you (genuinely!) that you would look forward to participating?

STICKY NOTE COLOR KEY:

Trends

Things to figure out

Encouraging Conditions

More connection with **RURAL COLLEAGUES** makes it relevant to actual conditions on the ground

Rising Tide lifts all boats — staying connected and networked.

Soft skills and hard responsibilities -- collaboration is what it takes to manage this spectrum!

Working across departments / towns provides additional tools and approaches to address the situation at hand.

Demonstrates collaboration. This is possible with several supports, particularly when different groups are coming together (mix of Govt with NonProfit): invitation, convening support (someone to translate & reflect perspective of the whole), confidence that there is a stabilizing factor in the room / conversation. This is helpful because there are constraints on individual roles / positions — impartial third parties helpful

Continuing Relationships — makes it easier to show up when I know colleagues are there & counting on my accompaniment. Personal connection increases atmosphere of welcome, the feeling of support amid imperfection

Relationships / collaborations provides a counterpoint to the very scripted, specific responsibilities (like inspections, complaints) — gathering in community is not always showing up on a metric, but critical to working in relationship & connection with communities. Inspiration & perspective comes from colleagues helps make it possible to keep doing this work.

An event / situation that calls for & requires collaboration

Balance out emergency response with affirming / forward-looking events (like Winter

The event involves our colleagues - our presence endorses the effort / project — saying yes to relationships when you show up (both individual & by representing your entity)

A feel of support & resourcing rather than evaluative / punitive / oversight