



Massachusetts Statewide Steering Committee on Hoarding



Mannillo HDN Local Initiative Grants FY22 Midyear Summary Report



Local and regional hoarding networks, collaboratives or teams bring together local partners to plan, sponsor trainings and community education events, discuss and strategize around cases, develop, coordinate and/or provide services including coaching, sorting, discarding and cleanups, and organize professional and/or peer led support groups.

With the support of the MA Statewide Steering Committee (SSCH), MassHousing awarded grant funding to over twenty different HDNs (formerly Hoarding Task Forces) during FY15-22. Lead agencies include county government, cities, towns, a CDC, and mental health and elder nonprofits. These lead agencies and their local partners often commit additional resources including professional staff time of social workers, case managers and outreach workers, office space, supplies and administrative support, and leverage additional service funding.

ClearPath would not have the impact in the region that it now has except that MassHousing supported this program from its inception. MassHousing has been the catalyst for our growth and our creativity as we promote wellness for those with clutter in our communities. We are grateful.

Lynn Faust, Executive Director, Metro CDC

FY2022 to date by the numbers:

- Local meetings convening regularly, attended by professionals from varied disciplines.
- 22 professional or peer led support groups, totaling 219 sessions and 157 participants.
- 13 public community education events, workshops or trainings held with 316 participants.
- 124 affected households identified; of 89 interventions, 37 positive outcomes to date.
- 56 households receiving 445 hours of clean up, sorting & discarding and/or coaching.

Testimonial from JP, a ClearPath group member:

" With the help of our group meetings and the excellent books that were used, I realized that meeting with other people who had the same issues as I did was enlightening and very therapeutic. I could not call myself a hoarder. Not many people knew of my burden. I described myself as a "closet hoarder".

I recently cleaned out a house in which I lived in for thirty-six years. Prior to me living there, my dear grandmother resided there. Also, for thirty- five years I was a teacher who bought a lot of things for my students which enabled me in my collecting. I am creative and was also into a lot of arts and crafts as well.

Friends encouraged me to just take the valuables out and have the junk man take the rest, but I couldn't do it. I had such an emotional attachment to everything. But going through "my stuff" brought back such wonderful memories. It was so reaffirming. I felt so proud of myself in my teaching career. I found and read lesson plans from college, recommendations from my professors and yearly reports from my principals. Memories of

Halloween costumes that I made with my mom-my creative ideas and her sewing skills. And so on. All in all, it was a long, but cleansing experience.

It took me over two years of working in their everyday sorting, donating, and throwing out stuff. I rented three full size dumpsters and made numerous trips to Gifts to Give and other charities and donation boxes. I knew the junk man by name. My friend was there to keep me going in the right direction and provide encouragement when needed. Needless to say, I called her "my boss". I solely cleaned out the house alone with her assistance and guidance.

The house sold on November 30, 2021."

*Local Hoarding Task Force work was championed in Massachusetts by **Lee A. Mannillo**, a founding member and chair of the Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force whose life was too short.*



Lee's skill, dedication and enthusiasm is missed by all who do this work in Massachusetts and beyond, but her inspiration lives on in the communities and the initiatives of all local HD networks, teams and collaboratives.