

## Community Health Center Of Cape Cod To Bring Services To Harborview Apartments

By ELIANNA SPITZER Feb 25, 2019

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Community Health Center of Cape Cod and Falmouth Housing Authority are working on a new project to increase access to health services for authority tenants and program participants.

The organizations are partnering with each other to create a small outreach clinic within the Harborview Apartments on Scranton Avenue, said Bobbi Richards, executive director of the Falmouth Housing Authority.

Community Health Center of Cape Cod will handle the construction of one exam room and a waiting space within a common area occupied by Meals on Wheels. The space is large enough to house both the clinic and Meals on Wheels, said Ms. Richards.

The clinic at Harborview will not be available to the wider public, but anyone participating in a housing authority program will be able to access it, said Ms. Richards.

Harborview is one of three federal public housing buildings in the FHA's portfolio. Ms. Richards said there are a "number of advantages" to having an onsite clinic.

Karen L. Gardner, chief executive officer of the Community Health Center of Cape Cod described a vision of the clinic that uses rotating programming to make different specialists accessible, but has one general practitioner assigned to it.

This will be Community Health Center of Cape Cod's first licensed clinic outside of a health care setting.

Community Health Center of Cape Cod operates a Falmouth office in Homeport, but there is a "huge value to being able to provide access to someone where they are," Ms. Gardner said.

Ms. Gardner said she is "super excited" about working with the Falmouth Housing Authority. She hopes the partnership and clinic can, "serve as a model going forward for other communities."

In addition to the clinic, Community Health Center of Cape Cod hopes to increase some of their onsite educational services, Ms. Gardner said. Community Health Center of Cape Cod already works with Falmouth Housing Authority participants through twice monthly chair yoga classes, said Ms. Gardner. They also offer nutritional advice.

Community Health Center of Cape Cod has already begun getting the necessary paperwork in order, Ms. Gardner said. She has filed paperwork with the Department of Public Health and plans to file for permits with the town. However, Ms. Gardner said she hopes to get the clinic operational in 60 days barring any unforeseen circumstances.