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TOWN OF CHILMARK

CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

November 19, 2018

TOWN OFFICES:
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To: Martha's Vineyard Community Services
Vineyard Health Care Access
Center for Living
Healthy Aging Task Force
Up Island Council On Aging
Dukes County Human Services Department
Substance Abuse Prevention Program
First Stop
Counseling, Outreach and Referral for the Elderly (CORE)

CC: Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Chilmark Finance Advisory Committee
Timothy Carroll

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Chilmark Finance Advisory Committee. As you may recall, several years ago the committee advised you of our concerns regarding the growing number of independent or loosely-connected social service agencies on the Island and the concomitant increase in annual budget assessment requests. We note that the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury select boards now share our concerns and have recently asked for much the same information and are calling for increased organizational transparency and efficiency.

Please note that the role of the Finance Advisory Committee is to provide our select board an assessment of both the value and the cost of proposed expenditures on behalf of the taxpayers, from an informed citizen's perspective. We highly value the work that our social services agencies do for the benefit of Chilmark and the Island as a whole. Maximizing efficiency and effectiveness is our goal, not merely minimizing budget expenditures.

We respectfully request that we be included in your response to the Oak Bluffs / Tisbury initiative, and to have this information forwarded to us well in advance of the formal municipal budget review process. Also, Don Leopold of our FinCom will be reaching out to you to see if he can be helpful as you prepare to meet with us.

Sincerely,

Rob Hannemann (FinCom chair)