



# CAPE COD & ISLANDS COMMISSION

## Annual Report

### FY 2025

#### **Commissioners as of June 1, 2025**

Amy Peters, Vice Chair, Mashpee; Chinna Mapp, Secretary, Falmouth; Janell Burley Hofmann, Sandwich; Lynne Barbee, Chair, Mashpee; Port; Mary Waygan, Treasurer, Mashpee; Natalia Albino-Frois, Hyannis;; Sunny Daily, Nantucket.

#### **Commissioners who left/retired/moved as of 12/31/2024**

Mary Kate Gallagher, Yarmouth; Rachel Larson Devine, Nantucket

#### **Mission**

The mission of the Cape Cod & Islands Commission is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women across the Cape & Islands. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights and the full enjoyment of life for all women throughout their lives. The Commission works to expand education, resources and engagement of women and girls in the region.

The purpose of the Commission is to advance women toward full equity in all areas of life and promote rights and opportunities for all women. To help achieve this, the Commission will:

- Study, review and report on the status of women and girls in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties;
- Inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local governments and the media;
- Serve as a liaison between the Massachusetts Commission and Cape Cod & Islands Commission, and other government and community groups;
- Promote and facilitate collaboration among women's commissions and organizations;
- Consult with executive and legislative bodies on the effect of legislation and policies on women.

The Commission may hold hearings, conduct surveys, listening sessions or use other communication strategies to provide a voice and address the needs of women.

To facilitate our work, the CCICSW convened on a regular, generally monthly, basis and also in working groups: Legislative, Hearing More Voices, and Publicity.

#### **Advocacy**

The Cape Cod & Islands Commission was engaged in significant legislative advocacy for the 2025-2026 State legislative session, the 194th General Court. The following were our Priorities:

- **The I Am Bill - An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products.** The I AM bill would provide access to free menstrual products to all menstruating individuals in schools, shelters & prisons.
- **Common Start - An Act providing affordable and accessible high-quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth.** The Common Start legislative framework uses a combination of direct-to-provider operational funding and family financial assistance to reduce costs to families while compensating providers for the true cost of providing quality care.
- **Doula Services - An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services** Ensure that the Medicaid system administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall provide coverage of doula services to pregnant individuals and postpartum individuals
- **No Cost Sharing - An Act relative to preserving preventive services without cost sharing.** The provision would require insurance plans to cover critical preventive services like immunizations (including preventative HIV medicines), cancer screenings, and well-woman visits, including birth control, with no copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

Cape Cod & Islands sent two buses to Advocacy Day, which included commissioners and students. Commissioners also worked with allies on these issues, including the Coalition For Social Justice.

### **Programming**

The Regional Commission implemented the following programming in fiscal year 2025:

- **Hearing More Voices** - October 26, 2024. Held at We Can Center in Hyannis and hybrid, with translation into/from Portuguese. Panelists were Lisa Guyon, We Can; Susan Moran, State Senator; Katia Da Cunha, Latinx in Action; Dr. Kristen Harper, Reverend at Barnstable Unitarian Universalist; Annikki (Nikki) Galibois, South Shore Community Action Council. Over two dozen attendees represented multiple constituencies and towns. The event was hybrid on zoom and included bi-lingual interpreters in Portuguese.
- **Girls Listening Circle** - January 15, 2025. Held at the Mashpee Public Library. High School students from Mashpee, Falmouth and Sandwich schools attended. Event was organized and led by Intern Ayesha Shafi. The program included discussion of major issues of concern to girls, how to advocate for legislation at the State level, and possible follow up in each school. One result was an application for the internship program for the coming year.

In addition, our intern Ayesha Shafi and Cape Cod and Islands Commissioners Chinna Mapp and Amy Peters supported the GELI event on April 2, 2025 in Woods Hole, Cape Cod.

Commissioners Peters, Frois, Waygan and Mapp attended the International Women's Day Breakfast on March 11, 2025. They distributed information on the Commission, our Legislative Agenda and other programs, as well as recruitment. One result is a new applicant to our Regional Commission.

### **Goals for Next Year**

- A new intern for our programming with girls. For this, we will require additional grant funding. The applicant for the position (not yet signed on), will likely do another and more inclusive (other schools) Listening Circle, implement other state-wide programs (e.g., Menstrual equity efforts), follow up with the schools from this year, and engage in legislative work.

- Follow up with the participants from the Hearing More Voices event last year to continue to engage them in the work of the Commission, including more outreach to immigrant communities on the Cape and Islands.
- Renew our Cape Media account and engage Commissioners to create more publicity for recruitment and all our programs during the year.

*Report submitted by:  
Lynne Barbee, CCICSW Chair  
May 23, 2025*