

## Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group Minutes

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**May 17, 2016 - 2-3:30 PM at the Somerville Homeless Coalition**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Elder Homelessness discussion – what programs/services offered; trends within the community; How can we work more effectively together to service elders who are homeless/at risk of becoming homeless.

Norah Al-Wetaid from the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Protective Services reported on Somerville services . They offer a harm reduction call-in service. In 2015 there were 420 reports of housing problems and 48 evictions

Lourie August from the Arlington Council on Aging reported on trends of increasing housing problems. In 1999 there were no homeless or housing crisis calls. Today there are many, resulting from dramatically rising rents and condo conversions leading to evictions and loss of affordable rental housing. Section 8's are often unusable in Arlington because rents exceed the FMR. Six (6) month wait list for Housing Authority senior housing.

Christopher Kowaleski from the Somerville Council on Aging noted that Somerville Housing Authority has a 0-6 month wait for emergency housing, and otherwise it is 1-2 years. In the past 2 years there have been 10 cases of homelessness. Tracking is difficult because the population does not generally use cell phones. Mental health is often a factor.

CoC voted to create a committee on Elderly Housing. Laura Wiener, Chris Kowaleski, Norah Al-Wetaid, Shannon Bennett (SHA), Lisa Davidson. Laura has agreed to serve as chair of the committee. Suggested committee to determine how often to meet (quarterly?), with the minimum being at least once a year.

3. Coordinated Entry Form – Kelly distributed a sample form for editing. Members will get mark-ups back to Kelly. This is to be used by all agencies as a common intake form that all can access.
4. Grant Inventory Worksheet – due May 26<sup>th</sup> (SHC, HCA, HH, Wayside, Catholic Charities, Just a Start, Baycove/CASPAR) Kelly distributed spreadsheet to agencies to fill in. HUD's timeline for FY16 Competition is moving along quickly – NOFA will be coming out much earlier this year
5. Reallocation—Kelly shared the May 16, 2016 SNAPS FY15 CoC Program Competition Recap. Kathryn McHugh joined by phone for this topic. The SNAPS article noted research indicates that permanent housing strategies such as permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing are more cost effective and achieve the same or better outcomes than other types of homeless assistance. It emphasized that CoCs need to more efficiently prioritize Program resources. It also noted that competition in Tier 2 was created to encourage reallocation to either permanent housing, HMIS, or coordinated entry and to encourage a housing first model. Factors that influenced a CoC's score was

improving the performance of a CoC in areas such as reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness and improving permanent housing outcomes. Other priorities included engaging partners such as Public Housing Authorities, Domestic Violence and youth serving organizations, a high level of data coverage and quality. Projects committed to a housing first model are more likely to receive funding than those that don't. Lastly, one of the most important factors in the score was whether a CoC reallocated projects. Transitional housing (except those serving youth) and supportive service only projects (except coordinated entry) received fewer points than other project types.

HUD's goals as laid out in SNAPS article:

1. Increase the focus on data and performance
2. Increase the capacity of coordinated entry systems to prioritize people who most needed assistance
3. Allocate resources to the types of projects that were most likely to reduce homelessness
4. Encourage CoCs to more actively manage and oversee the projects in their geographic areas to ensure that they are effective and efficient
5. Ensure that homelessness programs are using housing first approaches to serve people who most need assistance and are doing so using client-driven approaches.

Kelly shared the amount of funding that the CoC has lost as a result:

2013 competition CASPAR's Phoenix Center (\$83,052), Employment (\$116,630) and Phoenix Expansion (\$39,883) for a total of \$239,565

2015 competition SHC's Passages (\$198,316) and Passages Expansion (\$40,773) for a total of \$239,089.

Overall total of \$478,654 lost to our CoC that we cannot get back to serve the homeless needs of our community.

Kelly and Kathryn strongly urged again to reallocate, as thus far, agencies have been unwilling to and the language from HUD has been clear on the need to. We have at this point one SSO left (Street Outreach) and 3 transitional programs with funding at risk.

6. Co-Chairs for July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 – 2 new co-chairs needed for July 1. Kelly shared a list of past chairs (below). Will finalize at June meeting.

July 2009-June 2012 – Kelly Donato (City of Somerville) and Gordie Calkins (Heading Home)

July 2012-June 2013- Mike Libby (SHC) and Joanna Ain (HCA)

July 2013-June 2014 – Odessa Deffanbaugh (Caspar) and Antwan Steed (Wayside)

July 2014-June 2015 – Antwan Steed (Wayside) and Mike Libby (SHC)

July 2015-June 2016 – Kelly Donato (City of Somerville) and Laura Wiener)

## 7. Other Updates

- Homeless Youth Count ended May 15, will be sharing information with providers once all surveys collected.
- Somerville Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance Revisions were adopted.

Highlights include:

- a) A ramp up to the provision of units, including fractional payments for 6 and 7 units
  - b) An increase in the required affordable units, from 12.5% generally to 17.5% for 8-17 units and 20% for 18 plus units
  - c) A new 3<sup>rd</sup> tier for affordability for both rental (81-110%) and homeownership (111-140%); the Housing staff will be setting rents for the 3<sup>rd</sup> rental tier
  - d) Affordable rents now are to include parking and other amenities
  - e) A schedule for how to allocate affordable units to the different tiers
  - f) New language on preference and a removal of the SHA priority for rentals
  - g) Updates to the bonus provision
  - h) Review of the revisions prior to June 30, 2018
- Winn Management collected 3,400 applications for Somerville Community Corp's Union Sq. Apartments
  - Save our Homes Walk Sunday May 22nd