

**Minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. See attached *sign in sheet* for attendees.
2. Henry Goodhue gave a brief program description of the Volunteers of America Massachusetts (VOAMA) grant proposal for transitional program for homeless veterans. The program will be a low threshold program which will include clinical support and substance abuse services. Two VASH case managers will work on site. The transitional program is men only; permanent housing units are for men and women. Length of sobriety prior to entry – 2 weeks minimum. Participants will be drug tested. Positive tests will result in warning, 3 days out and dismissal.
3. There was a draft letter of support for the VOAMA proposal presented. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (9-0) to have Kelly send a letter on behalf of the continuum. Voting agencies: CASALS, Catholic Charities, Housing Corp of Arlington, Just a Start, Respond, Somerville Homeless Coalition, Town of Arlington, Wayside, City of Somerville.
4. Capt Cotter, Cheryl, and Samantha from the Somerville PD discussed the increase in homeless men and women sleeping in the Police Dept building. It began with a few but word got around and then there were homeless sleeping in the lobby, in the bathrooms and in the office hallways. There were 5 women and 8 men at one time. A meeting was held to discuss the issue and it was decided that support services would be offered through the Community Outreach Recovery Unit. Most of the occupants refused services and left the station. Some accepted services and were transported to hospitals or detoxes. Nancy K from St. Patricks noted that many of the women who get the X in the daily lottery found the station lobby to be a safe place. They felt welcomed and during the cold weather went there after spending a few hours at DD or outside. The hope was that the lobby would not be closed down for these women as they are unsafe sleeping outside and many will not go to the larger shelters.
5. Lisa Davidson spoke about the new APR system going into effect on April 1. There will be scores for data quality, missing/unknown answers. E-snaps no longer available for new HUD grants and the new system will not allow for manual entry of data. If the data looks wrong it must be corrected in HMIS and that data will go to Homeless Data. The APR will be completed by drawing the data from Homeless Data. FY 14-15 APRs are still in E-snaps.
6. Heidi gave a brief update on the Youth Count. She attended a conference in Worcester. The count will take place May 1-14. Anyone 24 years old or younger to be counted and survey questions will be recorded to gather data about the population so advocacy for services can be strategic. The count will extend to those living doubled up; living with family members who are not a parent. There is an effort being made to include youth in

the planning and implementation of the count. This is the 4th year that MA has done this. Most of the Somerville youth counted were in transitional housing programs. The current survey is still in draft form. Heidi distributed fact sheets and discussion questions from the Conference.

7. Mike Libby presented the Written Standards for Providing CoC Assistance and Written Intake Procedures for Providing CoC Assistance. These were distributed and a vote was taken to accept them as written. The vote was 9-0 to accept.
8. Kelly announced that there are upcoming HUD webinars on coordinated entry. Check your HUD emails.
9. Kelly also discussed the planning grants and the fact that the 2013 LOC (way to draw down the grant money from HUD) was locked. She is working with Cleonie to resolve. The City is also trying submit the 2014 invoice.
10. Heather Hernandez provided a summary of her two programs. See attached brochures.
11. Henry Goodhue volunteered to join the HMIS committee
12. Agency Updates: SHC has \$7000 in state ESG funds to spend by 3/31/17. Must have a court complaint and be below 30% AMI. (Mike Libby later sent an email about this). Respond has lots of new and gently used baby supplies so contact Respond if need these items.
13. For the April meeting, Respond to provide a summary of its programs; and Simtech to attend to explain its plan to rollout the FY 2014 planning grant.