

**Minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. See attached *sign in sheet* for attendees.
2. A round of introductions was made.
3. **Point in Time Count scheduled for overnight of January 25, 2017** – Kelly provided the following updates:
 - Arlington has identified locations to canvas on the night of the count and will share those locations with the CoC (including rationale – example, known location for homeless people to stay). Julie Wayman (staff member from the Town of Arlington) will ride with a police officer.
 - No feedback yet from the group as to Somerville routes, except for a police officer to suggest a looking at the police station lobby on Washington St. Summarized the new locations suggested for the count: in front and behind the Central Library on Highland; Assembly Sq. pocket parks leading to Winter Hill Yacht Club and underneath the bridge underpass of McGrath and onto the park in Ten Hills, the Dunkin Donuts and Public Storage on Middlesex Ave, in front and behind the Mt. Vernon, the underpass between Assembly and Stop and Shop and Dilboy field and stadium. Lisa Davidson suggested adding Draw 7 Park. If there are other suggestions, please let Heidi or Kelly know as soon as possible.

At this point, a few other people joined the meeting, and a second round of introductions occurred and we recapped the prior two points.

- The observation tool was shared with CoC members (from HUD's website and used each year in the unsheltered count). See attached.
- Cambridge is not using the mobile PIT application. Noted that mobile app asks the same questions as the paper form, but has a geopoint for where the data was entered. Discussed though that often people enter data into the mobile application in the car as it is heading to the next location, so the geopoints are not always correct. Kelly recommended for this year, we not use the mobile application as it is too difficult for volunteers to cross back and forth between Cambridge and Somerville and have to remember to use it only in one community. The CoC voted to use the paper observation form. Susan suggested putting the name of the team member who was writing the information.
- Kelly and Heidi will try to enter locations into google maps after the count and share
- Discussed that we should begin planning for the next count in the summer, and trying to get more people who attend the meetings to be involved with the count.

4. **Statewide CoC Meeting 1/11/17** – Kelly provided update that TAC believes the CoC Registration process for the next NOFA will be coming out in February 2017. HUD will be releasing a coordinated entry notice in late January outlining the ‘shoulds and musts’ of a coordinated entry system and also including information on how to self-assess your CoC system. This is more formal than prior policy briefs, and has been in the works for a while. ICHH is trying to restart a statewide data sharing system that de-duplicates data and removes all identifiers. Will be convening a meeting in the near future and need members from each CoC to participate in the discussion and feedback. Shared the HIC Guidelines from the meeting, along with statewide PIT data from 2016 (attached).

5. **Metro Boston Homeless Summit 1/12/17** – Kelly provided update that Kelly Turley from the MA Coalition for the Homeless shared data and information on family homelessness (the decreasing numbers of families in hotels and motels may not be telling the full story of what is happening to all of the families and where they are going) and new bills for the next legislative session related to homelessness. Shared recommendations that municipal McKinney Vento liaisons should not have lots of other job assignments ideally, and would just focus on the homeless placements; have a higher number of dedicated set asides for homeless; rental arrearage funding; and participatory budgeting like Cambridge. The two students who started Y2Y also shared data – 150,000 homeless youth nationally of which 40% are LGBTQ. Average age served in Cambridge is 22 years old, served 83 people last year. Have a referral relationship with the Cambridge Police, Rosie’s Place, Bridge and Youth Harbors with set aside beds – referrals should go through those places ideally. The Cambridge veterans’ agent and Transition House also presented at the meeting. The next meeting will be open to the public and Kelly and Heidi will share the details when they come out. It sounds like the next several meetings will include a policy focus on what policy ideas we can explore in our communities to address homelessness.

6. **Presentation on homelessness in the schools to the local housing/welfare coalition by Sarah Slutterback 1/11/17** – Heidi provided an update. Access includes not just most recent school but also after school extracurricular activities. A right to privacy as well, so it is not necessary that everyone know a family is homeless; only key administrators. See Sarah’s power point in the next email.

Somerville McKinney Vento Liaison – Regina Bertholdo

Arlington McKinney Vento Liaison – Cindy Curren

Noted though in light of Kelly Turley’s recommendation above that that both liaisons are juggling several other duties.

5. Review of Committees

We discussed what we want the committees to do and solicited volunteers for each committee. The names starred (*) indicate the convener of the committee.

Elder – meet at least once or twice a year. Laura (*), Penny, and Nancy will serve on this committee.

Youth – meet at least once or twice a year; also plan and execute the annual youth count. Antwan (*), Kelly, Heather, Luciana, and Jennifer will serve. Try to get a homeless youth to volunteer on the committee. Also maybe someone from the SHC's SAS program to volunteer on the committee.

It was suggested that for both youth and elder committees, we try to pull together providers who serve those populations to get a sense of issues and trends and review data from AHAR and PIT. Maybe identify barriers and gaps in service to these populations.

Veterans – not discussed at meeting, but we will continue to handle as an annual meeting.

Evaluation – on hold until consultant on board. (There were two responses for consultant position and when hired, that person may have input into the evaluation of programs)

Governance – Mike (*), Kelly, Jennifer and *someone from Heading Home*. Group will review the charter once a year and make sure we are in compliance with HUD regulations. Put on hold until consultant on board? Mike noted Cleonie, our HUD rep, is doing a site visit with SHC in February and Mike will be sharing some policies we'll need to review and vote on electronically in advance of our next CoC meeting. (Each agency in attendance today has a vote on this).

Planning – Update the homeless resource guide. Try to pull in nonprofit developers and look at housing policies. Heidi (*), Susan, Heather, and Rita volunteered to be on this committee. We will also see if someone from SCC is willing to volunteer

HMIS- Make sure in compliance with HUD reporting requirements (for AHAR, APR, PIT) and data quality; review and updated HMIS manual; see if additional data would be helpful. Lisa (*), Kelly, Nancy, and Antwan volunteered. Will try to have someone from JAS, Heading Home, CASPAR/Bay Cove, and VOA on committee too.

PIT/HIC - Ad hoc committee this year. If we decide to separate from Cambridge and conduct own PIT, then will need to have a standing committee

6. **Last NOFA application:** Kelly and Heidi will let providers know what areas that they particularly like feedback on, but strongly urge each member agency to review the entire NOFA.

8. HCA will provide a summary of agency programs for the next CoC meeting.

9. Announcements: Respond is having a chili cook off 1/26 for \$25/ticket; Wayside is hiring a transitional facilitator for 40/hrs week and an overnight staff at 40 hrs/week; HCA's annual walk fundraiser is Sunday April 30th.

Meeting ended at 3:30. Next meeting is 2/21/17 at 2:00 at SHC.