

Somerville-Arlington CoC Homeless Providers Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2018

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ CoC application 2018
 - Joyce T is reviewing/editing; Laura P taking lead on writing application
 - Due Tues 9/18 to HUD; goal is submission Fri 9/14
 - Rethinking process for the future, in particular dealing with HUD requirements sooner
- ❖ HUD racial disparity analysis
 - New to this year's HUD application
 - Comparison of homeless population served and potential recipients
 - Group briefly discussed SPARC study and correlation between race and homelessness, which is also reflected in our AHAR stats
 - Initial look at the numbers didn't reflect a significant effect (due to small sample size and lack of clarity on race/ethnicity, i.e., are the numbers reflecting an artifact of self-reported ethnicity?)
 - No difference in access to PSH
 - Some difference in access to services and housing overall
 - CoC will need to decide if we need to do preliminary analysis, or if outside training is needed
 - Questions to consider:
 - Is there a higher incidence of African-American and Hispanic homelessness than those individuals with low income?
 - Are there disparities in service access and outcomes correlated with race/ethnicity?
 - Laura S will look at data more closely, esp to parse out ethnicity and race questions
 - Compare our data to other CoCs, and discuss who is more successful at getting into housing, and what services are offered
 - HUD expects CoC to train on anti-discrimination and affirmative marketing
- ❖ HUD CoC requirement: Emergency Transfer plan for DV victims in CoC-funded housing
 - HUD requesting data on those experiencing DV we're not able to serve—which is difficult data to produce
 - Self-disclosure and confidentiality
 - Could police department help us with this?
 - HUD also looking for written policies at for emergency transfer protocols and providing appropriate assistance at non-DV shelters
 - Group discussion of:
 - Barriers to emergency transfers include lack of available beds
 - How do we approach this as a CoC (being mindful that merger could mean we address it jointly in the future)? Some things to consider:

- Who is assessing safety/feelings of safety (of all clients)?
 - How would funding work with multiple service providers?
 - What is HUD's expectation for safety and the need to move?
 - What's been done to assess and document in the past?
 - What model should we use? Explored hotel "partners", hotels, units
- RESPOND could potentially facilitate a training to coincide with November meeting
- ❖ Items for discussion by members:
 - Mugar Woods—Julie W talked about recent incidents involving homeless individuals living in property, recent uptick in population
 - Health dept did a walk-through, concerns of substance use and safety
 - Arlington and Mugar family are facilitating a response; other provides like CASPAR-FSC/Somerville Homeless Coalition are involved as well and can connect folks to shelters; areas to be cordoned off
 - Use flyers from PIT in area to inform of housing options, and Julie will connect HHS to providers
 - Arlington hiring new outreach worker and Julie will send information to CoC members
 - Rapid Re-housing Institute
 - Kelly D has more information if anyone wants it
 - Elizabeth went last year and will share PowerPoints/useful resources with the group
 - ACA First-time Home Buyer Workshop is Tues at 297 Broadway; contact Rita S for details
 - Rita will have details about Oct financial workshops once dates are finalized (2nd/3rd week most likely)
- ❖ Next meeting: Oct 16 2018 at 2pm
 - HUD All-grantee meeting is Thursday, Sept 20
 - Note: November meeting will be moved due to Thanksgiving holiday—date is Nov 13