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**Minutes**  
**January 15, 2019 Meeting**  
**Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**  
**At Volunteers of America Mass Bay Veterans Center, 2 North Street, Somerville**

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- ❖ Intros/sign-in
  
- ❖ PIT count update (Heidi Burbidge, City of Somerville)
  - Jan 30-31
  - 3 teams: Alewife/Davis, Union Sq, Assembly area
  - Volunteer spots filled
  - Kelly asks is people know how things are going around salt piles and police department and people staying there—SHC confirms that’s likely still the case and will visit prior to count
  - Outreach team (Hannah)—meets w/ providers at Cambridge MSC, meet at 9am on Wednesdays and then regroup at end; reports steady count/contacts; found new encampment near Assembly near orange line and left supplies
  - Has been working to bring them into Coordinated Entry
  
- ❖ Removal of MassDOT intervention under Rt 2 bridge in Arlington (Erin Zorko, Arlington Planning Department)
  - Spikes that were installed by MassDOT have been removed
  - Town is establishing task force to support coordination of the response to homelessness in Arlington that will include town officials, HHS, Town Manager’s Office, Police dept, residents
  - Ongoing implementation of PD grant for Housing First; in conjunction w/ HHS; to house a homeless individual
  - Rapid Transition for Individuals is the grant, began in Nov, from MHSA
  - SHC identified two potential people
  - Housing Coalition has a 2-br unit—which would be in Arlington, grant-funded outside of current programs
  
- ❖ HMIS dedicated HUD position (Mike Libby, Somerville Homeless Coalition)
  - Connor Foley—new HMIS data coordinator
  - This is a completely data dedicated position
  - Will be working w/ SimTech
  
- ❖ Seeking resources/trainers for LGBTQ safety and welcome protocols (Heidi Burbidge)
  - City of Somerville’s LGBTQ equity position now vacant again
  - Heidi reached out to w/ Arlington to see if they can do a training at a future meeting
  - Resource ideas:
    - Youth on Fire
    - Y2Y

- Wayside trainings
- Suggestions:
  - If anyone needs posting in agency, it's on HUD and CoC sites and Heidi can share it with people who are interested
  - Using gender neutral pronouns until you learn the correct one—training on which to use and how could be helpful
- Heidi will keep us updated on what information is gathered

Announcements:

- The Somerville Affordable Housing Trust will post 3 RFPs on Jan 22, two for programs that provide housing support in the form of rental assistance, and one that provides subsidy for affordable unit production and preservation. The RFPs will be emailed to the SHPG listserv and posted on the City of Somerville website starting January 22, 2019. Deadline is March 5, 2019.
- A posting for a representative from a non-profit organization to serve on the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust will be posted soon. The posting will be send by email to the SHPG listserv. A previous position that was posted for a low-income representative is in the process of being filled by one of the applicants who responded to the posting.

Ellen Shachter announced that there is an effort to establish a real estate transfer fee in Somerville and in other communities statewide and asked for support for this effort. The fees would generate money for housing or services through a charge commercial and residential transactions for buildings w/ no owner occupants

Two steps:

Home Rule Petition is required—permission from state

Enabling Legislation—every city/town can do this

Proponents are building a coalition statewide and needs endorsements—any orgs able/willing to do so

[eshachter@somervillema.gov](mailto:eshachter@somervillema.gov)

Ellen is putting together one-pager for lobbying; let her know if you want to be on email list or include org on one-pager.

Better Homes IV announcement (Mike Libby)

7 units will be available. In collaboration w/ Just a Start have 3 units and identifying more (in Somerville)

SHC as part of CE written standards, running by-name list and verifying length of homelessness Reaching out to Respond to determine eligibility, and following up on HMIS info. A statewide data warehouse would facilitate this process by introducing improvements to our CoC's current system.

Other four units by Housing Corp of Arlington—20 Westminster, Arlington Heights are being rehabbed and may be ready for occupancy late spring/early summer.

Mike Libby announced that he is new Executive Director of the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

 **DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2019**