

## Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group Minutes

---

**April 19, 2016 - 2-3:30 PM at the Somerville Homeless Coalition**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Wayside— brief overview of programs, services and referrals. Wayside has programs in Somerville, Arlington, Watertown and Waltham. Clients can stay for up to 2 years in the transitional housing program up to their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and the average stay is 1 year. Wayside is hosting a 10 week workshop on STD prevention and it is a stipend program. Young adults can do self-referrals. Other referring agencies are Bridge Over Troubled Water and Bunker Hill College. Wayside has a Somerville preference and individuals are contacted in the order in which they applied.
3. Scott Hayman, SCC awarded HPSTF funding for 4 units for very low income – MRVP – 2 properties (4 units total) were awarded under this program. There are 4 MRVPs and the units are to go to homeless or at risk of becoming homeless households. There is approximately \$1,500 per unit for supportive services from SHC. Hope to be renting up the units in 2-3 months. The tenant selection plan is up to the CoC. A committee will be convened for developing the tenant selection plan and process. Volunteers for the committee: Lisa (SHC), Rita (HCA), Susan (CSLS), Nancy (CC) and Kelly (City).
4. Clare Deucher, SOAR Team Leader in MA – SOAR started in 2005, it is a national effort funded by SAMHSA. Clare’s role is to energize the program in the state. They keep track of homeless accessing benefits. 22% in the last quarter in the state; for SOAR applications across the country, it is 65%. SOAR is a portal to housing. In MA, 75% of applications are approved due to a psychological reason and 25% due to a medical diagnosis. It is a myth that everyone is denied the first time they apply. There is not an automatic denial if the client is drinking or using drugs. Applicants have 60 days to appeal a denial. Case managers in various agencies get trained in SOAR (online training). Clare’s position was funded as a 1 year grant. Only 15% of homeless individuals were approved prior to SOAR efforts. In MA, there is a Homeless Unit in the disability determination office. In MA, a majority of the cases are not going through the SOAR model.
5. Recap of recent meetings
  - a. statewide CoC meeting March 23rd (Kelly and Mike attended) – review of CoC policy brief for joint advocacy around annual NOFA.
  - b. HUD Boston CoC meeting April 5th (Kelly, Lisa, Mike, Antwan, Nancy, Laura and Jenny attended, Linda and Shannon from the SHA attended as well) – coordinated assessment, overview of youth homelessness and prioritizing youth homelessness, partnering with Public Housing, Debrief of FY15 NOFA
6. Coordinated Entry Form – aim for comments to be finalized by the May meeting so that agencies can begin to use the referral form.

7. Review CoC 101 Responses – Lisa ran through the responses. It seems a majority report to be executive directors coming to the meetings, but this does not seem to bear out at the meetings. 30% reported being involved with the CoC for 9+ years; 20% of the CoC reported to be new to the CoC. 10 total respondents to the survey. Committee to begin to address CoC 101 responses: Kelly (City), Mike (SHC) and Susan (CSLS).
8. PIT and HIC Review – due May 2<sup>nd</sup> (copies of submitted reports emailed out to all agencies on listserv on 5/2/16)
9. Other Updates
  - Homeless Youth Count NOFA submitted 4/8/16; partners Baycove, Wayside, JRI and Teen Empowerment. Count from May 2-May 15.
  - Heading Home applying for Rental Assistance Program from DHCD (Mark did not have additional details on the application)
  - Winn Management accepting applications for Somerville Community Corp's Union Sq. Apartments (City shared applications and fliers shared at the meeting)
  - Next month focus on elder homelessness with reps from Council on Aging and Somerville Cambridge Elder Services.