

**Minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting of  
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. See attached *sign in sheet* for attendees. Round of introductions.
2. 2013 and 2014 Planning Grants – Matt Simmonds, Heidi Gold and Joyce Tavon attended the meeting and are our consultants on the two CoC Planning Grants. Copies of the original Planning Grant submissions to HUD were shared so agencies could review the activities. An estimated timeline with HUD, State and City deadlines was also circulated in order to show approximately when certain activities would be occurring and/or completed. The System Performance Measures deadline was also added to the timeline, which is due to HUD 5/31/2017.

Susan also suggested sharing past meeting minutes and the Resource Guide the CoC developed for clients in Somerville and Arlington with our consultants.

3. Kelly shared an update from the state-wide CoC meeting which happened on 4/12/2017:
  - a. FY17 NOFA – Still will be doing tiering. There will be a permanent housing bonus. Reallocation for (i) rapid re-housing; (ii) joint transitional and rapid re-housing (new); (iii) HMIS; (iv) SSO for coordinated entry. There is no budget yet for the FY17 NOFA. FY17 Programs may continue at FY16 levels and HUD may require more funding in Tier 2. If the budget is wrapped up, we could see the NOFA in mid-May.
  - b. GIW: HUD will post it online instead of emailing each CoC their GIW in an excel spreadsheet.
  - c. Statewide CoC TA: There were two requests submitted and both were approved and Ryan Burger from ICF will be providing the TA on both. A copy of the first TA request submitted by Liz Rogers of Father Bill's and MainSpring was shared at the meeting and is aimed at assisting MA CoCs with assessing the potential for more mergers and the best way to consolidate and a review of barriers to mergers (though none are considering a merger at the moment), and greater coordination and consistency with CoC governance, coordinated assessment and data sharing and data collection. The second TA requested, submitted by Emily Cooper, is for data sharing and data warehousing. Ryan will be in town the week of May 5 to meet with CoCs and will be reaching out as well to individual CoCs.
  - d. Coordinated Entry lite powerpoint presentation prepared by TAC: A copy of the handout was shared at the meeting and the powerpoint is a very helpful summary of the requirements. All McKinney and ESG funded programs must participate in Coordinated Entry.
4. Heidi provided an update on the unaccompanied youth count, which is occurring May 1-May 14, 2017. Heidi shared an update from the committee's meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> with 5 agencies attending. Heidi also shared the tentative date of the youth ambassador training

and the pizza party (May 10). Heidi also shared details of the grant submission to DHCD in the amount of \$6,500 for the count

5. Kelly shared a reminder about upcoming CoC deadlines: PIT and HIC as well as the CoC Registration due May 1; GIW due May 4.
6. Jennifer from RESPOND shared a brief overview of the agency's work: RESPOND is the oldest DV agency in MA and the second oldest in the country. RESPOND provides emergency shelter as well as support and education services. The shelter can accommodate up to eight families (21 people) and the average stay is about three months. Individual counseling and case management is provided and staff accompany the families to court. RESPOND has a 24 hour crisis hotline. There is also a staff member present at the Malden Police Dept. a few days a week. There are a total of four high risk teams at RESPOND, and staff do outreach and education – Jennifer's focus is on the residential side and education. RESPOND's focus is on 12 immediately surrounding communities (including Somerville, Malden, Cambridge, Arlington and Belmont), but if a community outside of the 12 asks for help, RESPOND will try to provide help. RESPOND also has capacity to provide counseling in Spanish as well.
7. Agency Updates:
  - a. HCA: starting construction on a 9 unit project – have some subsidy attached to them. We might be able to work with HCA to refer clients and Pam Hallett will serve as the point of contact. The AMI limit is 60% for the units and the first 9 units should be complete within a year to a year and a half. For the other units, the timeline is unknown at this time. It will be approximately 18 months before the Westminster project is complete. The HCA number is 617-859-5211. This might be a good option for Heading Home.
  - b. Heading Home: waiver request for housing outside of Somerville and Arlington. There was a suggestion to run this by Ryan Burger first from ICF and the question was also raised as to whether to make this a more regional issue with high housing costs in the Metro Boston area. Heidi Gold suggested there may be a waiver for people to pay more than 30% of their income toward housing.
  - c. SHA: looking to reallocate their Shelter Plus Care Program- they have to match 25% and they are unable to continue to do so. This program is \$153,954 in rental assistance and admin and 8 units are funded – six 1 bedrooms and two 3 bedrooms.
  - d. City: affordable inclusionary two-bedroom homeownership unit available to households at or below 80% AMI, applications due May 11 by 4pm. Flyers for the opportunity were shared.
  - e. Consideration of new co-chairs for July 2017 – June 2018.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2017.