

**Minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting of  
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

**2:00 – 3:10**

1. See attached *agenda* and *sign in sheet* for attendees. See also the attached *attendance list* for 2016 (to date).

2. Michael Lara from Heading Home provided a **brief description of Heading Home's** Somerville programs.

Heading Home has 28 programs for individuals (exclusive of shelters) and more programs for families. The programs for individuals are in scattered-site and congregate housing. The two programs for Somerville individuals are Better Homes 3 (13 slots) and Stepping Stone (5 slots but gave back 2). Both are "housing first" models. Many of the Better Homes 3 participants were at the Somerville YMCA but Y failed housing quality standards (no kitchen facilities) so the Somerville YMCA has been discontinued as a site and the remaining two participants temporarily transferred to the Cambridge YMCA. See *HUD letter* attached. Heading Home is considering whether to seek a waiver to rent units outside the Somerville and Arlington (as the HUD letter appears to invite such a request) & we will discuss this further at a future meeting. The HUD money does not cover the rents in the CoC geographic area.

3. Follow up on the NOFA committees

A. We will form a **coordinated entry committee** to have its first meeting in December. Heidi and Lisa to issue a joint invitation from the Providers' Group and the City of Somerville to strongly encourage participation from the agencies providing permanent supportive housing (SHC, HH, SCC, HCA, and SHA) and the agencies provided transitional housing (Wayside, Just A Start).

B. In lieu of a committee, the group as a whole will spend some time at the next 3-4 meeting to **look at sections of the last application to the NOFA** and to discuss ways to improve the narrative and data. After this discussion, we may form a planning committee (which hopefully will include the HUD-funded planner). Heidi/Kelly to divide the application into thirds and send out to the group two weeks before the SAHPG meeting so that we can review in advance of the meeting. (If 1/3 is too much, we will evaluate 1/4 at each of the next 4 meetings).

4. There are **two opportunities for affordable (inclusionary zoning) rental housing in Somerville**. See agenda for the 565 Broadway information. See email from Vicki Wairi forwarded on 10/18 re: 6 units (2 one bedroom, 4 two bedroom) at 315 Broadway. Contact Vicki to get on the email list to get direct emails about future opportunities.

5. The City of Cambridge is hosting a **regional homeless summit** on Oct 27 at 2:00 to 5:00 at Cambridge City Hall. Kelly and Mike from City of Somerville will attend.

6. AHARs are due

7. Brief description of the point in time count (end of January 2017). We will have further discussion at next meeting.

Agenda Items for the next meeting (November 15 at 2:00):

1. Catholic Charities to provide a brief description of its programs
  2. PIT count
  3. Discuss possible waiver request (to change the geographic limits so that HH can find units outside of Somerville and Arlington) v. ways to raise the rent payable to landlords [Heading Home would like input from the Continuum on which way to go]
  4. review 1/3 of the NOFA application
- It was suggested that because we usually take an August respite from our meetings, that perhaps we could skip the December meeting as it is a busy week in all of our programs.