

**Minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. See attached sign in sheet for attendees. Two new people attended and briefly described their work:

Luciana Quintanilha is the new full time social worker for the City of Somerville. She works with those under 60 years old and helps with access to housing, benefits, health care, and legal services.

Heather Hernandez is the domestic violence and community resource specialist for the Town of Arlington. She does similar work as Luciana.

Their contact information is copied on the bottom of the sign in sheet

2. Shirley Rodriguez provided a brief overview of Celticare Health

This is a for profit health plan (via Mass Health) for individuals (not families) between 21 and 64 years old. It operates in 18 states and has operated in Mass since 2013. It has nurse case managers, social workers, behavioral health specialists, etc. Two perks are that it offers a safe link phone to its patients (or adds 700 minutes/month to those who already have a safe link phone) and provides a credit card on which it adds \$30 for various completed health related tasks (e.g. getting flu shot). See brochure for more information

3. CoC Policy Brief (copy was attached to the agenda)

Motion: This was unanimously endorsed by the Group. Mike Libby to tell Joyce Tavon of our decision.

4. CoC Application Debriefing

Kelly relayed some thoughts about the process:

1. We were caught off guard on the reallocation and in the future, we need to know in advance if agencies are re-allocating so have sufficient time to plan.

2. Permanent Supportive Housing Applications: we need to think about this early and to include the local CDC's (as leasing in the private market is difficult given the high rents in Arlington and Somerville). **Laura Wiener will reach out to CDCs (HCA, Just a Start, SCC, CASCAP, Community Builders).**

3. We should set up a separate committee on the centralized waitlist and assessment tool.
4. Scorecard: We **will** score compliance next year (**section that included** what was spent v. what reverted back to HUD). **Use Program Close Out Certification Form?**
5. We need to help the Permanent Supportive Housing Programs with assistance in finding units to lease.

6. We should convene a committee to begin to review application narrative for 2016 to see if the narrative can be improved.

5. Coordinated Entry Vulnerability Assessment Tool (copy attached to the agenda)

The affected agencies should use the current version and send copies to Lisa Davidson at SHC. Once the tool is in use for a few months, we will revisit the form (probably in November)

6. Coordinated Entry form (for referrals)

We will send out the last draft in case any further changes & should then start using it for referrals to other agencies. Lisa will set up a google document so that each agency can input its data (using initials where no permission from client).

7. APR deadline: Lisa D to re-send her email to remind those of the APR deadline (which is 90 days from 8/15/16 for some and earlier for others). Remember to send copy to Lisa, Heidi, and Kelly and **CoC Consultant Kathryn McHugh** before hit "submit" so that they can review.

8. Agency Updates

A. SHC received 2 years of funding from the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust to continue the Passages work. This includes housing search and case management for homeless and those at risk of homeless (the latter of which is not defined). It will also work with the PASS clients. It is to serve 244 people (132 individuals and 212 families) and to house 44 households in year one. SHC has one case manager now and will hire a second one soon. There may need to be a waitlist for services.

B. HCA is moving on Friday September 23 to 252 Mass. Avenue, Arlington. If the phone numbers change, HCA will let us know.

C. There is a two bedroom inclusionary zoning unit **available via an application and lottery process at 565** Broadway, Somerville. **Unit is available to a minimum household of two**

at or below 50% of AMI at \$964 per month. There will soon be 6 affordable units on the corner of Temple and Broadway. Coming up are 15 condos and 56 rental units at Assembly Row.