

**Minutes of the June 20, 2017 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. Attendance – see attached sign in sheet
2. With apologies for not having a CoC member reach out to the respective agencies prior to today's meeting, Susan Hegel described the process by which representatives of Respond (Jennifer Wolter) and VOA (will be a rotating representative) were selected as the new Co-Chairs of the CoC for FY 18. She gave a brief description of the role and duties and the three agreed to meet after the meeting for questions or further explanation.
3. Emily Cooper, Chief Housing Officer, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, was our guest. She is working with State continuums focusing on homeless individuals 50+ for elder homeless services. She explained that those 50+ should be considered elder because of the health issues associated with many homeless individuals. Those 50 have the bodies and health issues of 70+. The EOEA is working with MA Health to address concerns.

Emily reported that there was a housing fair held recently in Boston where 124 individuals were invited/ 64 attended and 59 left with housing options. 41 individuals received apartments from the BHA that day and many were enrolled in support programs such as PACE.

She reviewed a power point presentation (on paper) that detailed the areas that EOEA is working on in relation to homeless issues. * This was sent out to the S-AHP membership after the meeting.

Emily introduced representatives of various agencies that she brought to the meeting, each of whom provide focus elder services in the Somerville Arlington area.

All representatives spoke briefly about services offered and handouts from the meeting were also emailed to provided members.

4. Linda DeProfio announced that the Somerville Housing Authority is looking for another agency to take over the Shelter Plus Care program because the contract % they receive is too small for them to oversee. The grant of \$157,000 for FY 18 is for rental subsidies. SHA cannot come up with the match. Their role has been to recertify each year. This item was tabled for further discussion to see if any agency wants to take it on..
5. Penny Snyder, City of Somerville talked about ESG funds and the priorities for funds linked with homeless prevention and rapid re-housing as well as operational shelter funds.
The City is an entitlement community and level funding of \$200,000 was expected. An RFP went out and received requests of \$270,000 for \$203,000 in funding available. There is a dollar for dollar recipient match. The city has 180 days to award the sub recipients

once they receive the final amount from HUD. Caper reports associated with ESG awards are due by September 30. Agencies targeted for funding are: CASPAR for operations – 97 overnight guests and sobriety support; Catholic Charities for shelter operations – 42 overnight guests in emergency and transitional programs; Respond for safety net planning and rapid re-housing assistance for the 8 room DV shelter; Somerville Homeless Coalition – representing a number of programs – 16 individual shelter beds, 5 family rooms (20 persons); rapid response up to 15 household for homeless prevention; and as lead HMIS agency.

Joyce Tavon commented that from a CoC planning perspective, all agencies receiving funds must participate in the CoC meetings.

6. Heidi Gold and Joyce Tavon are the CoC consultants. They reviewed the HMIS policies focusing on the importance of good data going forward to ensure continued HUD funding. New emphasis on certain questions and added questions: length of homelessness; return to homelessness (w/in 2 years); increase/maintenance in income which includes benefits; and destination. All HUD funding recipients including ESG funds will be bound by these policies.
7. Heidi – will send out a meeting doodle for a webinar concerning HMIS.
8. Joyce, Heidi and Kelly met to review the ranking tool and Joyce and Heidi met with the Fy 17 grantees to begin preparing. Notes will be sent to the listserv.
9. A vote was taken on the HMIS policies from the CoC and ESG projects. There was a unanimous approval of the draft. The draft will be sent to the listserv for further comments. A vote on the final draft will be taken at the July meeting.
10. Heidi will create a Google form to collect project information and put it in table form.
11. Update on recent & upcoming CoC related meetings:

Statewide CoC meeting 6/14 –

Kelly distributed a handout with a map of the MA CoC's. There is talk of consolidating into regions to reduce the number of separate CoC's.

There was discussion of creating a statewide framework for HMIS/data sharing. Plans are afoot for a state-wide retreat to identify needs and wants of HMIS users. There is talk of a multi-year application for HUD funding
Coordinated entry report – 3 CoC's are fully operational; 9 are semi- or in process

There will be a HUD Region 1 conference call on 6/21 to clarify definition of chronic homelessness, recordkeeping and documentation. Report back at July meeting.

12. New meeting space beginning July 18, 2017. **165 Broadway at Cross Street.** There is metered parking. Be aware of street sweeping times!