

Minutes
August 23, 2016 Meeting
of the Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group
At Somerville Homeless Coalition (2:00 – 3:40)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 17 attendees (plus Pam Hallett via speaker phone) - see attached sign in sheet
- See attached Agency vote eligibility sheet – 9 Agencies eligible to vote.

2. Discussion about the increase in reallocation funds as tallied by Kelly. See handout attached. CASPAR was asked if it would reconsider its decision to reallocate 100% funds (and to consider submitting an application for a small street outreach program) but it said no. Two options were presented for use of the \$255,818 in reallocation funds. Mike Libby presented a scenario where SHC would use the \$255,818 for coordinated entry based on HUD answer to question of inclusion of housing search as eligible activity.

- a.) Scenario 1: If HUD says “yes”, then SHC increases initial proposal for Coordinated Entry from \$70,000 to \$255,818 (and Housing Corp of Arlington proposes the housing bonus for \$96,000).
- b.) Scenario 2: If HUD says “no” to housing search, then Housing Corp of Arlington will apply for \$155,000 (for a permanent supportive housing program as a reallocation program as opposed to applying for a permanent supportive housing bonus) and SHC for \$100,000 for Coordinated Entry. Note: Kelly will ask HUD if HCA may also apply for the same 20 Westminster project as both a permanent housing bonus and a reallocation project.

Motion was made to: Accept all applications submitted and emailed to the Continuum on Friday 8/19 with the amendment that SHC and HCA would go forward with Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 based on HUD’s response. The motion was seconded and passed with 8 yes votes and 1 abstention.

3. Discussion regarding the project Scoring and Ranking tally: Two scoresheets were presented to the group. See attached.

The first gave an average ranking score to the Coordinated Entry project which put it ahead of Wayside ShortStop and Somerville Homeless Coalition SAS programs in Tier 1. This pushed part of SHC SAS, Just A Start Next Step, Heading Home Stepping Stones into Tier 2 with HCA 20 Westminster Permanent Housing Bonus application.

The second scoresheet (“straddle” option) placed part of the Coordinated Entry at the bottom of Tier 1, keeping all existing PH and TH projects in Tier 1. Tier 2 included the remainder of Coordinated Entry and the HCA Housing Bonus.

Much of the discussion focused on putting Coordinated Entry wholly in Tier 1, thus jeopardizing the two PH and one TH projects. Although we need to have Coordinated Entry in the Continuum application, we would be showing good faith by placing part of the program in Tier 1 and saving the existing renewal programs. The discussion centered on the balance of gaining points by including Coordinated Entry or possibly losing points by putting PH and TH at risk.

A motion was made to accept splitting the Coordinated Entry into Tier 1 and Tier 2 and keeping all renewal projects in Tier 1 (the “straddle” option above). The motion passed 9-0.

New Scoring and Ranking sheets may be created depending on HUD’s answer to the question about whether housing search may be included as part of Coordinated Entry and whether HCA can apply for 20 Westminster as both a permanent housing bonus application and as a reallocation program. Kelly will email various new options and will ask for eligible agencies to vote via e-mail as we have a time constraint for posting the projects. Due to vacation schedules, Kelly to provide at least 48 hours of any deadline to vote (by email) unless time only allows for shorter notice.

4. Kelly presented the draft of the Somerville-Arlington Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing Programs criteria for prioritizing persons experiencing chronic homelessness. This was previously emailed to the group. There was a motion to accept the draft as written. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0. Heidi to circulate this as each agency must sign it.
5. There was a motion to adopt a centralized waiting list for permanent supportive housing programs. This was passed 9-0. If funded, SHC’s coordinated entry project would include the maintenance of this waiting list.
6. Kelly presented the Coordinated Entry Vulnerability Assessment Tool used by the Balance of State and a motion was made to accept this for use in the Somerville-Arlington Continuum of Care. This passed by 9-0 vote. It was pointed out that we would need to account for youth (who should not be penalized for having a low number of years of homelessness, due to age).

The meeting adjourned at 3:40.

Attachments/Handouts

- * Agenda
- * Sign in Sheet
- * Attendance January – July 2016 (shows agencies eligible to vote)
- * Chart showing programs/amounts for reallocation
- * Scoring and Ranking spreadsheets (two options)
- * Permanent Supportive Housing Programs)