

**Minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. See attached *sign in sheet* for attendees.

2. Nancy Kavanagh provided a **brief description of Catholic Charities' shelter and transitional housing programs in Somerville.**

In 1990, there were around 18 or 20 beds and now there are 32 emergency beds for homeless women. This is a dry shelter (no drugs or alcohol) with a lottery done each night. In past, women were screened and picked up at the Cambridge Multi Service Center. After MSC moved its office, homeless women go directly to the shelter at 270 Washington Street between 3 and 3:15 pm every day and a lottery is conducted to determine who is offered a bed each night. Typically Catholic Charities turns away about 3-10 women each day due to insufficient number of beds.

Up to 11 of the 32 beds are set aside for working women (and so are guaranteed). In addition, there are sometimes 5 beds (on first floor) set aside for elderly or ill (and so are guaranteed).

There are two couches in the TV room which can be used for overflow when really cold/snowy weather.

Breakfast and dinner are served. There is a nurse practitioner on site once per week. In the past, Eliot social worker also on site twice per week but this person recently left.

The shelter has seen an increase in elderly homeless women. [ADD NANCY's data]

In addition to the emergency beds, there is transitional housing called St. Catherine's. Initially, there were 5 and now 10 individual rooms (on the second floor). There is a case manager (who assists residents pay off debt, save money, etc.) and residents need to keep a housing search log. At present, women from the shelter move to this transitional housing but this may change in the future.

Catholic Charities' Somerville office also has a food pantry (open twice per week) and (sometimes) United Way and FEMA funds for rental and utility arrears

3. **Point in Time and Housing Inventory Chart**

HUD's 11/10/16 webinar should be posted online

There are some changes in the data that needs to be reported this year

The PIT is on 1/25/17. Laura, Odessa, and Kelly volunteered to be a PIT/HIC committee. Kelly to contact Cambridge to be sure that it will partner with Cambridge again

4. **Homelessness Summit in Cambridge**

There will be another meeting. Kelly to notify us when it is scheduled. The state will be invited. Boston has a landlord guarantor program (with access to funds to try to keep people housed). See the power points emailed earlier for more information.

5. Heading Home is leaning towards **asking HUD for a geographic waiver** for both of its permanent supportive housing programs but will get information from HUD and check in with the Providers' Group. No opposition was expressed at meeting.

6. At our next meeting (January), we will discuss the tasks/goals and membership of **committees**. The current committees are Elder (has not yet met); Planning; Evaluation; Governance; HMIS, PIT/HIC (formed today); and Youth (Antwan volunteered).

7. **last NOFA application:** We reviewed the first 5 pages of the NOFA. Tom and Mike will see if there are formerly homeless people who may want to actively participate in the Providers' Group. We will set aside 1/2 hour at the next meeting to resume this discussion (and continue to do so at future meetings). It is helpful to read in advance of the meeting and to bring any suggestions/comments to the meeting. Tom L. will share other NOFAs.

8. We will invite Emily Cooper from EOEA to come to our January meeting

9. We cancelled the 12/20 meeting. Our next meeting will be on 1/17.