

**Minutes of the May 16, 2017 meeting of
Somerville-Arlington Homeless Providers Group**

1. Attendance – see attached sign in sheet

2. Heidi Gold from Simtech was present to discuss the HUD planning grant and how to structure data for coordinated intake. She suggested the first step was to get an accurate inventory of community assets including those not in HMIS. In addition to the HIC we should use community resource guides. This will help identify gaps.
Heidi will create a Google form to use for this assessment. Information to be gathered is who is doing what, who is collecting data, and what information is currently being collected.
The HIC needs to be project level specific versus agency specific
Lisa D (SHC) suggested that ESG/Rapid Rehousing programs should be included
Laura Weiner asked how helpful would they be as they don't prioritize for homelessness
Heidi G – include all agencies that have ESG funds from Somerville as well as any that have Balance of State ESG money.
Criteria – located within the geographical areas covered by the CoC or are funded within the CoC application. (for example there are two Caritas programs in Arlington which do not participate in the CoC)
These requirements for the January report are for all ESG and CoC projects, but anything beyond that are all to the better.

Heidi G will send the draft form to Susan Hegel for distribution to the SHP list.

Final comments – there should be a review of the HMIS policies and procedures

3. Kelly Donato is on vacation, but asked that we share information on a number of items:
Summary of PIT count (15 unsheltered in Somerville, 7 in Arlington)
She created a chart that covered 2009-2017 for comparison. This year the number of sheltered persons was down from 94 the past 5 years to 75 and the number of unsheltered went up from 6-9 persons to 22. Explanation for the change in numbers include:
Emergency beds -The Just a Start House previously provided 27 emergency shelter beds in 2016. In May of 2016, the shelter was closed. In 2016 on the night of the PIT there were 21 people in the Just a Start House emergency beds. In 2017, we had 75 people in emergency beds on the night of the PIT. If Just a Start House were still open and had 21 people again in their beds, our emergency total would have been 96, which would be consistent with the past 4 years of the PIT emergency sheltered count (94-99 people).
But, because of the reduction in emergency shelter capacity, our emergency total decreased.
Transitional: We have reclassified Somerville Homeless Coalition's PASS Program from transitional to permanent supportive housing. While the funding is temporary (up to two

years), the housing is not. The PASS Program had 22 people in the program on the night of the count. If we were to add 22 to the total number of people in transitional housing, that would bring us to 67 people, which would be consistent with the total number of people in transitional housing in 2016, which was 65. But, because of the reclassification of the PASS Program from transitional to permanent, our transitional total decreased.

Date of Count	Sheltered ES Total Persons	Sheltered TH Total Persons	Sheltered SH Total Persons	Unsheltered Total Persons	Total Persons	Status of Report
01/25/2017	75	45	0	22	142	Submitted
01/27/2016	94	65	0	6	165	Confirmed
02/25/2015	94	58	0	6	158	Confirmed
01/29/2014	94	56	0	4	154	Confirmed
01/30/2013	99	61	0	9	169	Confirmed
01/25/2012	102	34	0	9	145	Confirmed
01/27/2011	98	34	0	5	137	Confirmed
01/27/2010	108	30	0	4	142	Confirmed
01/29/2009	98	30	0	4	132	Confirmed

- a. The PIT /HIC and GIW were submitted on behalf of the CoC.
 - b. There is a Cambridge Homeless Summit on Tuesday May 23 11-1:30 at Cambridge City Hall. Kelly and Luciana will attend.
4. There is a system performance measure report due 5/31/17 – Lisa D is submitting and will contact agencies if she needs information. This information is what the HEARTH Act looks at at the community level – creates a response to need. It is about pushing communities to being more effective in response. Questions are about length of homelessness, length of stay, return to homelessness, Increase in income, # of homeless in community (PIT), # of homeless who became homeless for first time, and rate of housing from street outreach to housing.

October 1, 2012 is the “look back” date for return to homelessness
 5. Heidi Burbidge reported on the MA CoC HMIS meeting with Ryan Burger. He works for the ICF a consulting group hired by HUD for technical assistance to CoC’s.

They are looking at the regionalization of Massachusetts' programs, especially in coordination of HMIS and how CoCs are working with HMIS data sharing. They are looking to do data warehousing.

Issues – client level releases; chain of custody of data; using MOU's to give permission for data to be used at CoC level. (Lisa D will look at our current Somerville MOU regarding data and update).

6. We need to select new co-chairs for the CoC. A list of the last six pairs of co-chairs was provided. The list goes back to 2009. There were no volunteers at the meeting. Susan Hegel said she would look at the list more closely and suggest new co-chairs.

7. We need to select new co-chairs for the CoC. A list of the last six pairs of co-chairs was provided. The list goes back to 2009. There were no volunteers at the meeting. Susan Hegel said she would look at the list to see what agencies have not served and pick from a hat two to become next year's co-chairs.

ADDED Post meeting note from Susan Hegel:

I think someone from VOA and Respond should be the next co-chairs. There were 11 agencies who had attended at least 2 meetings in 2017. 8 of those have served as co-chairs from 2012 to the present (City of Somerville, Heading Home, SHC, HCA, Wayside, Town of Arlington, Catholic Charities. CASLS). The remaining 3 are Respond, VOA, and Just-A-Start. Since there will be a new person from JAS attending our meetings, I think it makes sense to have VOA and Respond be co-chairs for the upcoming year (and then JAS and Heading Home the next year). (Heading Home last served as co-chair in 2012 – the oldest).

8. Agency reports/ other business:

The youth count went smoothly. Data is being processed.

Mike Libby reported they are still working on the Shelter+Care conversion.

The issue of overcrowding in the current meeting space was brought up. Some suggestions were E Somerville Community School, Council on Aging, Argenziano School. No decision was made.

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 20, 2017 at Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Emily Cooper from OHCD will attend and give a presentation.