

## Meeting Minutes

### Somerville Arlington Homeless Providers Meeting

February 19, 2019

1. Introductions/Sign In
2. HUD has awarded the Somerville Arlington CoC approximately \$1.9 million.
3. Statewide Homeless Data Warehouse- DHCD wants to make sure that any questions re data warehousing can get answered. DHCD states that no one's data will be shared without their permission. Discussions concerning data pathways from ETO to "holding area" being discussed with anonymized data. Group talked about how to identify clients, as a suggestion: name, DOB, and last 4 of SSN to be shared with DHCD. A vote was taken on CoC recommending to DHCD to use only last 4 of SSN. Results of vote: Unanimous YES.  
Looking for volunteers for advisory committee for input on Statewide Homeless Data Warehouse. DHCD wants to know how people want to be involved.
4. RFP for ESG grant proposals now available; due 3/4/19 at 11:30 am. Important to mention in Project Narrative how agency collaborated with CoC efforts for re application, or if new applicant, how to propose that applicant will collaborate in the future.
5. Heidi Burbidge distributed inclusion for LGBTQ policies and ideas for paperwork and documentation that agencies can use to create a welcoming and affirming environment for clients and guests. It is good to have visual cues as well- posters distributed that help create an affirming environment. HUD LGBTQ policies also distributed with toolkit that includes staff training and inclusion policies. Sample policies also distributed from other agencies. See Heidi's email 2/11/2019.
6. Statewide Youth Count has been released. Somerville participated and used youth ambassadors. Statewide report combines all CoC results. Age 24 and younger- -f 2150 surveyed, 579 met HUD definition of homeless and 738 met MA youth homeless commission definition of homeless. For Somerville: 50 surveys collected, 14 met MA commission definition of homeless. Survey meant to gather qualitative data and not necessarily numbers of youth homeless. Next year Youth Commission will be taking the lead on the survey. BOTW will be taking the lead on next survey.
7. VOA- has services and programs for Veteran families. Also SSVF (Supportive Services for Veterans Families) working within South Shore, Cambridge and Somerville, looking for

support. Needs letters from CoC's to apply for funding each year. VOA has been in Somerville since 2011 and offers financial assistance, RRH, prevention for Vets and their families. Will take any Vet with active time and general discharge if fall below 50% AMI. Offers Housing First. Different kinds of assistance offered such as a bus pass as well as rental arrears. Can apply for assistance every 2 years. VOA also wants to get Veterans Committee back together again and will be making a presentation at next CoC meeting. A vote was taken by CoC to provide a letter of support on behalf of VOA- Unanimous YES. VOA recused.

8. Merger update- re engaged conversation with DHCD. Have had a meeting with Lowell (who is also thinking about joining BoS CoC) and DHCD. Will have another meeting between Somerville and Arlington and will bring info re all these meetings back to CoC. Cannot finalize anything until next NOFA process is completed. Next NOFA already has started. Cannot move (if decided) until next NOFA is due, after approx. Sept of 2019. Some talk has begun about regional coordinated entry through a metro north area, again TBD. There would be much to align- policies, funding, planning grants. Some benefits of merger are: a. that leasing dollars can be used outside of Somerville Arlington. b. for coordination, at this time City of Somerville gets 0 admin to run CoC and c. agencies would not have to deal directly with HUD as in BoS money is received directly through BoS.
9. Position posting Open- nonprofit organization representative to the Affordable Housing Trust position- someone who is working on housing from an agency. 2/28/19 is deadline for application.
10. 3/11/19- webinar from HUD on VAWA. Strategies for implementing emergency transfer plans and quick low barrier options for DV victims.
11. CAAS- on 3/6/19 Housing Search assistance hours begin, from 10-12 pm. Housing advocates will be there to help. No geographic or income limitations.
12. HCA-3/26/19 First Time Homebuyer Workshop, 4/16/19 Financial Capability Workshop, 6/9/19 Walk for Prevention of Homelessness

**NEXT MEETING 3/19/19**

VOA

2 North St.

Somerville MA