

Minutes  
Somerville Arlington Homeless Providers Group Meeting  
February 20, 2018

1. Introductions/Sign in
2. 2018 NOFA – in 2/13 Region 1 listening session with Norm Suchar and William Snow, we learned the registration process will open in the next two weeks and we will notice some changes to the Registration process. They anticipate the NOFA will be published the beginning of May and will close the end of Aug.
  - a. Registration will begin in the next 2 weeks for 2018 competition
  - b. NOFA expected to be published in May
3. Update on program consolidations – in the 2/13 Region 1 listening session, we learned that there will be news with respect to the current program consolidation moratorium in the upcoming NOFA.
4. Unsheltered homeless count update (Somerville 11, Arlington 0)
  - a. Arlington was 7 last year; this year it is 0
  - b. Somerville was 15 last year; this year it is 11 with 5 found at the Union Sq. Dunkin Donuts, 1 outside on Somerville Ave across from the SCAT TV building, 1 in front of the Comic Book Store on Highland Ave in Davis, another on Summer St. by the ongoing construction before the intersection of Summer and Willow, 2 in cars by the Flats, and 1 in a car at Dilboy.
5. Sheltered Homeless Count – Lisa reached out 2/12 to make sure data complete for overnight of 1/31-2/1 for those in emergency and transitional housing. Also, on our HIC, we will need to report how many were in housing on the night of the count – this includes PH programs.
  - a. Still need sheltered counts before submitting report  
Include subcategory- DV, chronic homelessness, race, mental health, etc
  - b. Follow up with:
    - i. Just a Start- possibly permanent housing count?
    - ii. Catholic Charities- funding has changed, so do we include?
6. 2018 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Count will take place April 23<sup>rd</sup>- May 13<sup>th</sup>. There is a need for agency and youth participation in the planning committee and the count itself.
  - a. 3 CoC members attended conference last week
    - i. How to include youth in count

- ii. Feedback from youth that attended. How to include them without stigma/attitude
    - iii. Some youth don't necessarily recognize their homeless status
  - b. Immigrant and LGBTQ/T can be more hesitant to participate. Will look to have other undocumented youth reach out to others to assure that this isn't tied to legal consequences
  - c. No DCF and/or other youth agencies involvement in past. Is it worth looking into getting termination list from them? (If still receiving services, those youth aren't considered homeless)
  - d. Boston PS allow surveys in schools, so Heidi to follow up with Somerville HS to encourage more active participation. Suggestion to connect with School Committee member(s). Julie to help connect in Arlington.
  - e. Previous reports created by the State to be shared by Heidi. Future mtg- as a group, CoC can look at data more thoroughly. Look for- successes? Need for shift in programs/services to address any gaps identified?
- 7. Exploration of merger update – initial meetings with BoS and Cambridge, next step to call former CoC leads and program grantees who have experienced a merger for their perspective
  - a. 2 mtgs have occurred with BoS, 1 with Cambridge
  - b. Follow up calls with other CoCs who have merged to get their feedback and possibly attend their meetings
    - i. BoS meets first Wed 10-11:30am at 100 Cambridge St
  - c. Create a memo to summarize info that has been gathered. Small window between now and NOFA registration; once the registration comes out, CoCs cannot request permission for a merge- can still internally look into it in the meantime.
    - i. Important to look at both agency and CoC pros/cons
    - ii. BoS seems a more likely candidate to consider than Cambridge
    - iii. Other considerations: s a small CoC, we will continue to struggle in annual competitions for funding. A larger CoC would hopefully be more competitive in the annual competitions, especially around performance and capacity; even in a merger with a larger CoC, there is a risk that Somerville-Arlington programs could be ranked at the bottom if they score/perform the lowest out of all programs and funding still may be cut. A pro is that in a larger CoC, it may be easier to find housing for PSH programs within the jurisdiction provided it is still close enough to the agency for staff to provide services. Right now, housing is so expensive in Arlington and Somerville that PSH programs have had trouble leasing up within the jurisdiction and as a result have reverted funding back to HUD and in one case, cut back on the number of units in a Program (Heading Home's Somerville Stepping Stones). A con to merger is a general loss of control for agencies that currently administer programs. Other cons – right now,

agencies get 100% of their admin from HUD, and do not have to give any to the City of Somerville. If the CoC were to merge, BoS as well as Cambridge take 50% of agency admin fees (this is the maximum). Also, right now, agencies have a direct agreement with HUD and if we merge, the collaborative applicant would become the grantee and the agency the subgrantee. A merge would also mean a larger pool for coordinated entry and likely not just Somerville and Arlington households into Somerville and Arlington based programs.

- iv. An agency with BoS experience shared their opinion that the:
  - 1. BoS is very transparent with ranking process
  - 2. DHCD does take pressure off by organizing NOFA

iv. Let Kelly know if interested in helping with follow up calls or to attend another CoC's meeting. We will continue to explore merger as a possibility internally and will share what we learn with the CoC for consideration..

- 8. 2013 and 2014 CoC Planning Grants coming to an end – agreement end date is 2/28
  - a. Thank you to consultants!!
  - b. Contracts with Joyce and Heidi/Simtech coming to end this month
  - c. 2017 NOFA – CoC was awarded a new planning grant- \$59,748  
Funds to be used for:
    - i. Coordination activities
    - ii. Project Evaluation
    - iii. NOFA
    - iv. Determining geographic area for CoC
  - d. An RFP will be advertised for planning work—one year term
- 9. Vote: Transition the Shelter and Care Program from Somerville Housing Authority to Somerville Homeless Coalition
  - a. 8 units, 5 occupied. Used BNL with coordinated entry to identify 3 households; Program total is \$151,219.
  - b. Sub awards for services to SHC in past under this program
  - c. SHA looking to step away and transfer program to SHC. SHC willing to accept the program
  - d. Match on the Program is \$37,805.
  - e. Transition needs to happen before 2018 competition registration that should be coming out within the next 2 weeks
    - i. Program is 100% dedicated to chronic homeless households
    - ii. In the 2017 competition, SHA was awarded the S+ C program from 6/12/18-6/11/19.
  - f. Motion to approve an SHA request to amend their S + C grant to transition the Program from them to SHC that was made by Susan at CSLS with a 2<sup>nd</sup>- from Julie from Town of Arlington. Passed 7-0 with SHC abstaining and JRI

unable to vote as not having attended enough of meetings. Kelly will write letter to HUD that the CoC approved the request and SHC will also follow up with a letter regarding their willingness to accept the grant.

10. Agency updates

- a. Looking for DTA advisory board members. 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month, meets quarterly. Email Lisa Davidson if interested.
- b. City is doing 5 yr consolidated plans. Public mtgs- 6:30-7:30pm Thursday March 1st at Argenziano School and March 8<sup>th</sup> at E Somerville Community School. Flyer shared.
- c. RESPOND's Gala is coming in April. Let Jenn know if you want postcards for your office to advertise.
- d. Sydney/Alewife application deadline at the end of Dec 2017- Somerville Community Corp received approx. 1500 applications for 5 units and SCC is processing the applications for an upcoming lottery now. Local preference for Som/Arl residents for 3 of the units and an overall preference for chronically homeless and homeless households; unclear how many of the approx. 1500 applications are from chronically homeless/homeless households.

Next Meeting: 20 March, 2018