City of Cambridge Continuum of Care

Homeless Services Planning Committee (HSPC)
Cambridge Housing Authority
August 8, 2013, 9:00 -10:30 am

> Introductions

> Announcements

- Shelter Legal Services noted that their Tuesday AM legal clinic will not be held for the month of August but they can be reached at their Newton office.
- Transition House announced that they have a new program in partnership with the Cambridge Housing Authority: Pathways to Permanent Housing. The new program takes advantage of the CHA's status as a federal Moving to Work demonstration site, making flexible use of the CHA's voucher funds and public housing to provide a wider range of housing options. At the same time, CHA is funding a liaison staff position at Transition House who will not only support the clients in the program, but will provide critical assistance to the CHA staff in responding to domestic violence issues as they arise, and assisting CHA tenants and voucher participants. Please contact Ester Serra for more information at (617) 868-1650.
- Shelter Legal Services announced that the Mass Veterans Stand Down will be held on August 23 & 24th at the IBEW. Veterans come from all locations to participate in this one-stop resource event. For more information, please visit this <u>link</u>.
- Hasson Rashid of the Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT) and Cambridge Community Television (CCTV)
 asked agencies to contact him if they would like him to publicize their programs and/or appear on the CCTV
 program he hosts "Human Services News and Information" on CCTV's BeLive. For more information, contact
 Hasson at hasson.rashid@gmail.com
- Larry Gottlieb of Eliot Community Human Services has taken an active role in educating the CoC about the
 State of Massachusetts's new program Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals.
 Larry shared that marketing materials for the program are starting to come out and that dual eligible
 individuals will soon be contacted about the program. The program is called One Care and further
 information can be found at this link.

> Housing/ Program Vacancies

- Heading Home announced that their Transitional Housing Program for single women has openings. You can contact Heading Home at (617) 864-8140.
- New Communities announced that they are accepting applications for the Norfolk Street property.
 Applicants must meet HUD homeless criteria and have a disability. Please contact Liz Olson at (617) 547-3543, ext. 24 for more information.

> New ESG Eviction Prevention Program

The City of Cambridge has received a new ESG award from DHCD for FY14. These funds will be used to create an eviction prevention collaborative called STAR (Support for Tenants at Risk). This program will strengthen current prevention resources to develop a multi-faceted approach to delivering eviction prevention services. This is a community partnership between MSC, HomeStart, Eliot Community Human Services, Greater Boston Legal Services (CASLS), and Shelter Legal Services. The program is just launching and partners will be providing more specific eligibility/ referral information to the CoC and larger community in the upcoming month. Please contact the Multiservice Center if you have questions in the meantime.

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New Awards from NOFA 2012

HUD has just released awards for new projects that were awarded through Tier 2 of the most recent NOFA process. The new projects are as follows:

- Vinfen CBFS Leasing (PSH Reallocation)
- AAC Youth Supportive Housing (PSH Reallocation)
- CoC Planning Project
- Coordinated Intake Project (reallocation)

These projects will begin in the next few months and we will be providing updates on program components. Unfortunately, the Vinfen Bonus Project was not awarded. Given that this proposal was selected for our Bonus Project application for NOFA 2012, the CoC has previously agreed to give the project priority if there is an opportunity for a Bonus Project in the upcoming NOFA cycle.

Leading the Way to NOFA 2013

Liz Mengers led a discussion of the anticipated 2013 NOFA. Previous communications from HUD have indicated that this will be another challenging NOFA cycle given HUD's budgetary constraints.

HUD has indicated that they will precede the release of the NOFA with a 10-week communication strategy in which they will focus on a particular topic or priority each week. These messages and related materials are intended to provide CoC's with insight about HUD policy priorities as well as key information to help CoCs and project applicants prepare for the FY2013 CoC Program competition. Liz passed out copies of the first four weeks of the "SNAPS Weekly Focus". The group specifically discussed the communications related to Giving Priority to Chronically Homeless Persons and Leveraging Mainstream Services Funding.

You can access these weekly communications at this link or subscribe to the One CPD Mailing List.

> Next meeting: September 12, 2013 – location to be announced