

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, February 21, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Brian Townsend	Amistad	Norm Maze	Shalom House
George Rheault	Bayside	Sara Fleurant	City of Portland
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Meaghan Void	City of Portland
Ginny Dill	Shalom House	Leah Bruns	MaineHousing
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors	Jeff Tardif	City Of Portland Family Shelter
Amanda Methot	City of Portland HCD	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
		William Higgins	Homeless Advocacy for All

Announcements & Minutes: Motion to accept minutes passed without discussion.

Agenda will be updated to have Aaron and Adam as the City Contact's

HVJ:

- Don't hide us include us effort to be included in the new shelter planning at
 - o OSS
 - o PTLA
 - o City Hall: Jon Jennings to have a March community forum

Monthly Statistics: The January 2019 shelter statistics are available here:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/976>

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- Previous Warming Center MOU was just with Family Shelter for intakes from Westbrook and South Portland years ago before the Family Shelter became full.
- WC numbers is at a downward trend at the warming center
 - Families in the warming center are being fed by the city. Separate breakfast by the City. Lessons Learned: St Vincent De Paul is closed over holidays and snow days: need to get a list of their closings and a warning system when they will be closed unexpectedly. Food waste had been an issue but last night there were no leftovers.
 - Anna Foley from the WIC director made a good schedule
 - Adam to email to the group

Typical placements for the FS; Portland GA pays the gap for asylum seeking families.

- In the past, have had to switch apartments between families in other municipalities that lose eligibility with families that still have eligibility.
- Folks from the southern boarder have already applied for asylum and have an A number
 - Visa holders are in the gap and are 30-40% of the overall population.
 - Some families want to stay in Portland due to services and community.
- Family Shelter's mean length of stay is averaging in the 70s.
 - Change over time: in 2006 most families left within 45 days.

Asylum Seekers when entering the country: the towns of entry aren't under any true obligation to assist them. When families enter the country and leave the town of entry, the funding doesn't follow them.

- Money set aside not following feels like a penalization to the State/Portland for doing exceptional work.
- Who to ask why the funding doesn't follow?
 - Aids to the congressional delegation
 - MSHA to ask
- Portland could Document.

Out of towners coming into the emergency shelter system may have a pipeline from sober houses?

- Is there evidence of this at the shelters?
 - Sober houses threaten residents with staying at the shelter
 - Majority of people coming from out of state are attracted to housing or service opportunities.
 - Rarely heard that people have come from sober living
 - Providers have a sense that the people in sober living have a lot of family supports
 - Sober housing statistics are hard to track
 - Each shelter can identify its location in a sof resources and supports in centers a primary reason for people entering the shelter system there.
 - There is movement from all over the state, especially to the coast.
- Path sees people who are very Chronic and newly entering homelessness in their car, or are on the brink cashing in all of their social and financial supports to avoid homelessness
 - Roll back in Maine Care

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- An unprecedented level of people with intellectual disabilities in homelessness
- Once entering this situation is so traumatic it is that much harder to recover.

Long term process for getting ESAC reporting from HMIS

- Mary is GREAT!

271 is a high number for OSS

- 11 folks didn't get a bed that night.
- Fewer people choosing to sleep out during inclement weather

LTS had 5 placements into housing

- HVJ has done a great job engaging newly housed folks

Adam to send the article on crisis stabilization center news

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/976>

Point in Time (PIT) Data will be in April

- Underrepresentation of federal PIT homeless numbers:
 - Lewiston is concerned so many people are staying out of HMIS shelters
 - Gas have not been included
 - Houses not fit for human habitation are uncounted when that is homelessness
 - Huge number of people not seen; I see you I count you method does not work for the rural geography of our state and using a statistical analysis.
- Most states have multiple CoCs that take on the PIT
 - 6 locations of 20 volunteers in groups of 2
 - Encampments that folks purposely do not go to
 - The information gathered from service based nights is more accurate
- MSHA asked HVJ about groups that need homeless advocate representation
 - Leah to Contact Dylan Monahan, HVJ Coordinator
 - Adam to get Leah his contact
- Parking lots as emergency shelters.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2019