



Shelter Planning Task Force

June 10, 2015

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Jim Hanley	Chamber of Commerce	Rob Parritt	MaineHousing
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing	Nicole Evans	United Way
Dana Totman	Avesta	Sean Kerwin	Bayside Neighborhood Association
Mark Swann	Preble Street	Bob Fowler	Milestone
Dave Maclean	City of Portland, HHS, Social Services Division	Angela Giordano	City of Portland, HHS, Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Claude Rwanje	Immigrant/refugee/asylee communities	Bill Higgins	Homeless Voices for Justice
Dawn Stiles	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept	Cullen Ryan	Community Housing Options of Maine
Mike Tarpinian	The Opportunity Alliance	Rachel Talbot Ross	City of Portland, Multicultural Office
Melissa Skahan	Mercy Hospital	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Jim Devine	Region 1 Homeless Council	Julie Sullivan	City of Portland, staff to Task Force

1. Welcome, (re-)introductions, updates

- Shelter funding appears to be still in the State budget – approx. \$2.1 million, but coming from HOME funds?
- GA court ruling – likely appeal, likely request for clarification – State did not follow rulemaking procedure; State is allowed to not reimburse for services provided to non-eligibles as defined under federal law

2. Best practice review and discussion

- Julie presented an overview of literature and best practice review indicating three major areas of focus in the homeless services arena across the country
 - Coordinated entry
 - Housing first
 - Support services
- As requested, Julie will send out the State's plan and the dashboard the Social Services Division provides to the City Council
- Concern about state and federal housing resources being "totally insufficient," that we have a good plan but the policymakers aren't doing anything to help, especially coupled with the loss of mental health and substance abuse treatment funding
- Important to move toward housing, not shelters – need to make sure we have sustainable

plan/process to do so

- What's in the pipeline for new affordable housing in the city?
- Oxford Street does need to work more on diversion from shelter; we do intake, not assessment currently
- Maine does not do enough on homelessness primary and secondary prevention
- Call center for pre-eviction support/problem-solving between landlord and tenant – primary prevention
- Need to review progress on 7-point plan from Task Force to Prevent and End Homelessness
- What do we want the emergency shelter to look like? How do we manage the inflow?
- Stay focused on emergency shelter issues; deliverable is shelter model

3. Wrap up and **next meeting**

- Weds 6/24, 9-11 a.m., City Hall, rm 24
 - MaineHousing/HUD/Statewide Homeless Council – coordinated entry process
 - ESAC – current efforts/structure on housing first and supportive services

- Web site: www.portlandmaine.gov/1512/Shelter-Planning-Task-Force
 - User name: taskforce
 - Password: portland15

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