

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

**Thursday, April 18, 2019
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
 - a. Announcements and Approval of Minutes
- 2. Homeless Voices for Justice**
- 3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - a. March Shelter Statistics
 - b. Portland Community Support Fund
- 4. Long Term Stayers**
- 5. Federal, State and Local Legislation**
 - a. April Update
- 6. Preble Street 40-bed Healing Center for Women**
- 7. Other Business**

**Next Meeting
May 16, 2019
9:00 AM**

Location: One City Center

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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Adam Harr
Health & Human Services Department
Social Services Division
(207) 482-5144
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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, March 21, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Brian Townsend	Amistad
George Rheault	Bayside
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown
Jim Divine	HVJ
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Amanda Methot	City of Portland HCD
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Cullen Ryan	CHOM

Name	Organization
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Sara Fleurant	City of Portland
Meaghan Void	City of Portland
Leah Bruns	MaineHousing
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Sara Ewing-Merril	GP Family Promise
Jeff Tardif	City Of Portland Family Shelter
Christina Cook	TOA PATH
William Higgins	Homeless Advocacy for All

Announcements & Minutes:

- Not everyone signs in making attendance in the minutes difficult; names of folks who may have attended but did not sign attendance are highlighted in yellow. Sarah Ewing-Merrill was not at the February meeting.
- Norm Moved to accept the minutes, Sara seconded and the motion passed.

HVJ:

- Homeless Services Shelter
 - Don't Hide Us, Include Us

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Survey feedback:
- Went to the 3/19 HHS & PS Committee meeting
 - Does not like County Way
 - Does not like Riverside Industrial Park
 - Does not like the reduction to three sites
 - Favor Angelo's Acre
 - Favors multiple smaller shelters
- Annual Statehouse Day:
- Summer Solstice Event in June
- Annual Southern Maine Workers Association Awarded HVJ for collaboration on paid sick days
- Homeless Dignity Act

February Statistics

- When do OSS Chairs get accessed: why is there an OSS warming Center one busy night and not another?
 - Bed turn around and gender are factors for the capacity of the shelter and how many beds are used.

Warming Center

- 4 families for 16 individuals last night
 - Downward trend
- About 150 families headed to Portland according to families coming from southern border.
 - Michael Smith in Laredo, Texas says about 150 people will be coming up.
 - Families in warming Center reporting more are coming up from the Southern Border.
 - Rumor is that this weekend is when the spike in families are rumored to arrive.

LTS

- 226 people housed 93.7% success rate
 - December 6 list down to 58
 - Most lists are down to single digits
- BRAP has been available
- Once housed, people are largely stable.
- OOB Murder: altercation between two former OSS guests; were either of them from the LTS or were housing placements? Could not speak to this due to confidentiality but it is unlikely that they were LTS placements.

State and Federal Legislation

Federal

Continuing resolution to increase the HUD budget.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- FY20 Budget for September
 - Trump Budget doesn't help but not likely to influence
 - Sequestration cuts hitting this budget
 - Lifting the caps refers to sequestration cut relief.
- HUD Carry Over Rule
 - SNAP: Trump Administration proposed time limits
 - Lose after 3 months
 - Homeless councils voted to send a message that this is not helpful; Cullen asked if ESAC wanted to send a similar letter.
 - Peggy made a motion and norm seconded for ESAC to send a similar letter; motion passed
 - Federal Aid for outreach services to homeless and fostered youth

State

- Wednesday 3/27 LD1201: Act to create a low barrier permanent housing rental subsidy for people experiencing long term homelessness including housing retention services. (most similar to HUD VASH targeting state long term homeless individuals.)
 - Wednesday at 9:00 Am in room 202
- Act to Authorize General Bond for Housing
 - Needs a public referendum
- Act regarding Substance Use disorder Continuum of Care
 - Prevention, law enforcement, diversion, recovery
- Act to create a Substance Use Disorder Department
- Resolve to create a pilot program for people recovering from substance use disorder
- Act to establish a substance use disorder clinic at the jail
- Act to create flexibility in affordable housing calculations
- Resolution proposing a right to food: amendment to the Maine constitution
- LD1294 Right to investigate harassment based on housing status
 - HVJ working with Rachel Talbot Ross
 - Was homeless bill of rights
- Act to save lives establish to create opioid users engagement LD1337
- Act to support health services for homeless youth in Maine
 - Cullen asked if ESAC wants to weigh in on public hearing?
 - List ESAC in support?
 - Jeff Made a motion for ESAC to be included, Harrison Seconded; Motion Passed
 - There is a fiscal note attached but it is unknown how it is funded
 - Leah asked if there is new funding or could it potentially take funding from existing programs?
 - Cullen said Peter Merrill of Maine housing helped craft
 - \$2.5 million original ask

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Permanent supportive housing
 - 250 units

Other Business

- HHS is under acting/interim leadership
 - Dawn left and Kristen is Interim Director of HHS and the position is posted.
 - Concern it was not well Publicized
 - Announced six weeks in advance.
 - Dawn had a goodbye luncheon where she was awarded the key to the City (Thank you Dawn!)
- HHS 3/26 Public comment
- Parks Commission would like a contact number/email from service providers to contact when they encounter someone so they do not have to contact the police.
- HCD has ESG funding and is creating an action plan.
 - Amanda to email current budget and last year's action plan
 - Would like feedback for this year's action plan

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	March 2018	March 2019
ADOLESCENTS	12 Individuals	21 Individuals
FAMILIES	221 Individuals 66 Average Families	172 Individuals 57 Average Families
ADULTS	297 Individuals	319 Individuals
Total	530 Individuals	512 Individuals

31 Days in the Month of February

*number based on mean of “total bed nights” column on slide 7.

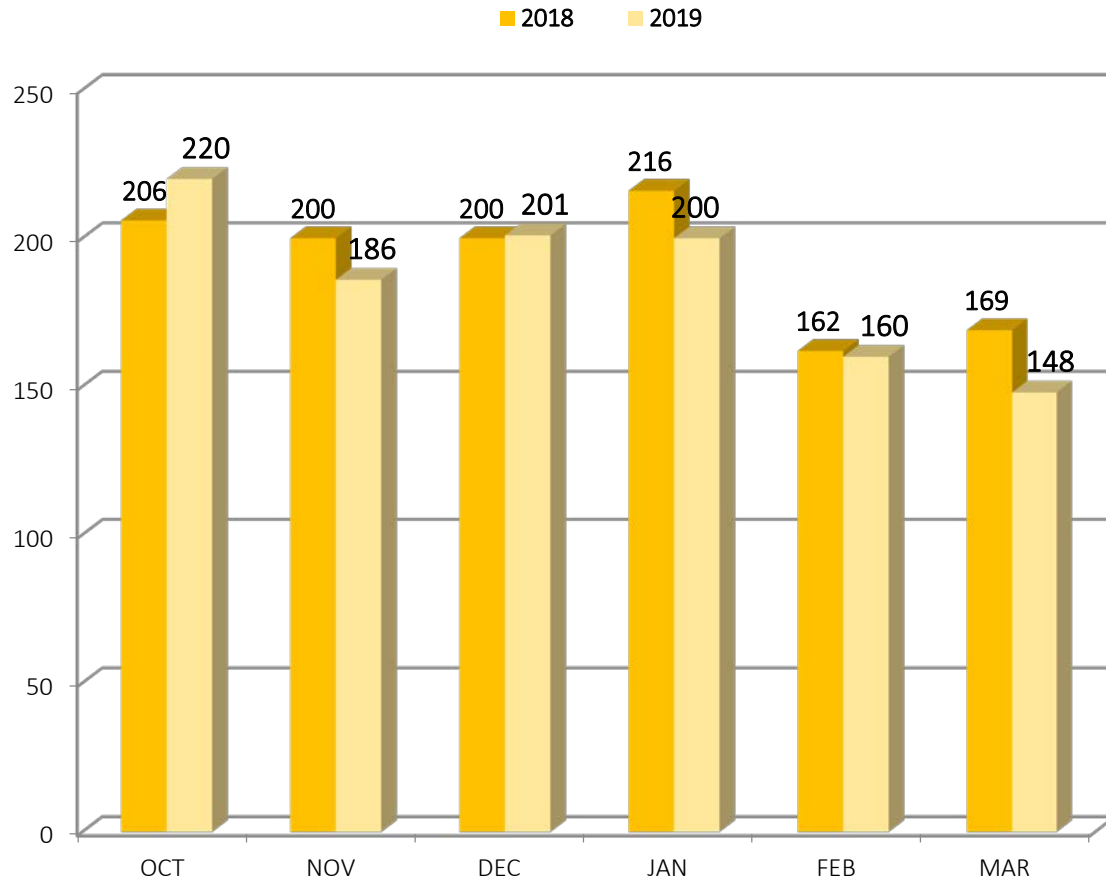
OXFORD STREET SHELTER

MARCH 2019

Intakes by Residency

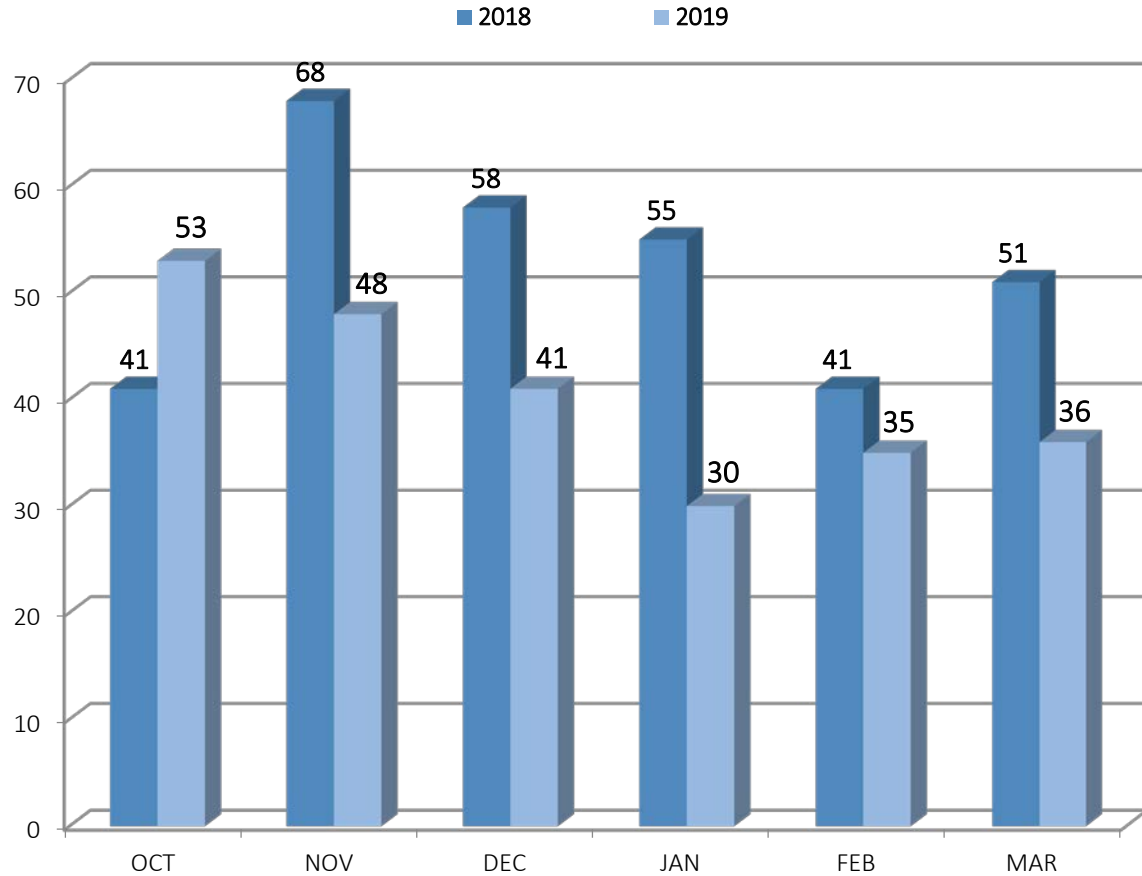
MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE				OUT-OF-COUNTRY	
Bangor	2	North Berwick	1	Windham	2	AZ	1	SC	1	Angola	2
Bath	1	Raymond	1			CT	2	TX	1		
Biddeford	3	Rockland	1			FL	1	VA	1		
Bridgton	1	Sanford	3			IA	1	WA	1		
Brunswick	1	Scarborough	1			IL	1				
Buxton	1	Skowhegan	1			LA	1				
Chesterville	1	South Portland	3			MA	4				
Falmouth	2	Standish	2			NH	3				
Gorham	2	Turner	1			NM	1				
Gray	2	Warren	2			NY	1				
Lewiston	1	Waterville	1			OR	2				
Lyman	1	Westbrook	5			RI	1				
MAINE TOWN:	42	OUT-OF-STATE:	23	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:	2	PORTLAND:	37	Unknown:	5	TOTAL:	<u>109</u>

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MARCH 2019 SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



	INTAKES
Through These Doors	2/4
Family Shelter	16/46
Joe Kreisler	9
Milestone	4
Oxford Street (Men)	81
Oxford Street (Women)	28
Florence House	8
TOTAL	148

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MARCH 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



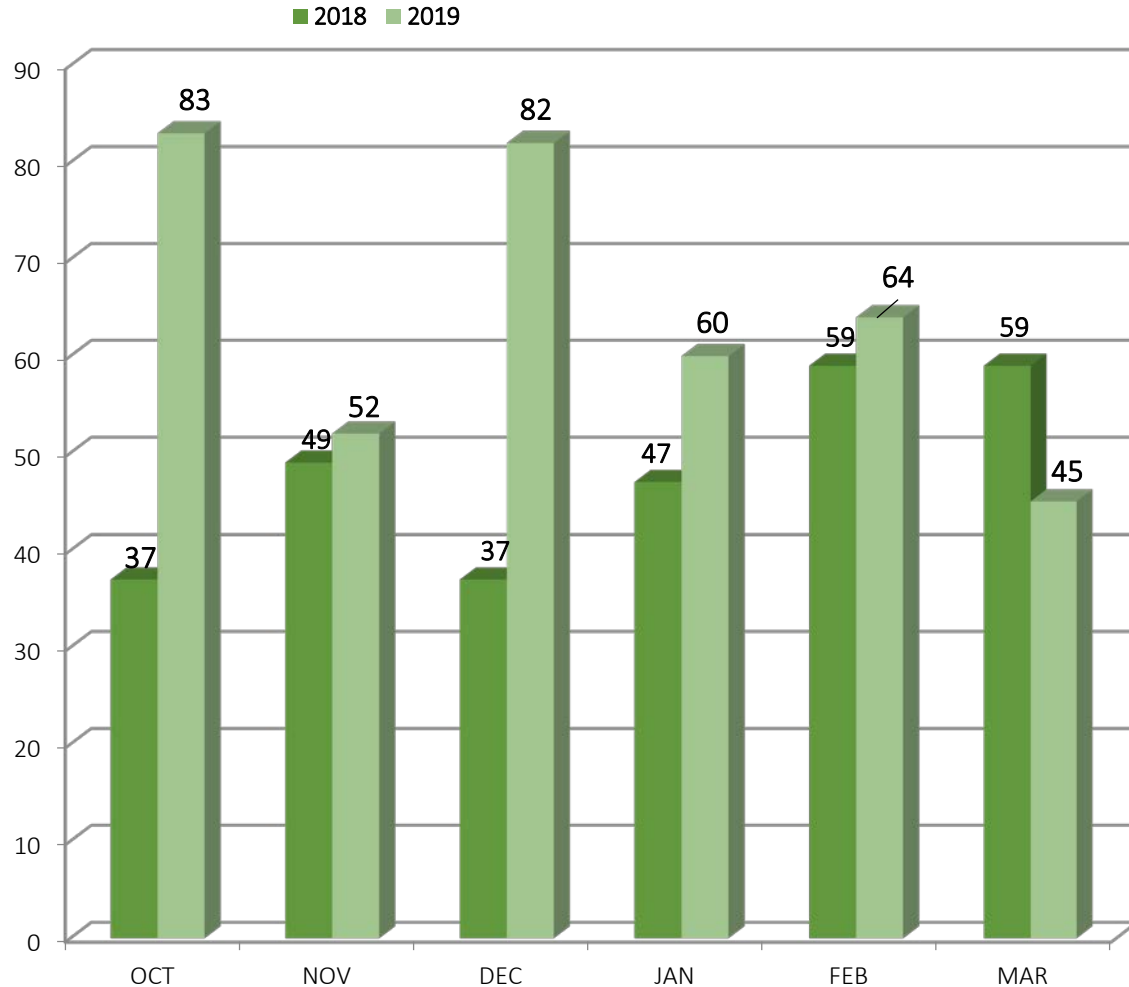
*Starting November, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	1/3		1/3
Family Shelter	14/44		14/44
Joe Kreisler	1	1	
Milestone	2		2
Oxford Street (Men)	13		13
Oxford Street (Women)	0		0
Florence House	5		5
TOTAL	36	1	35

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

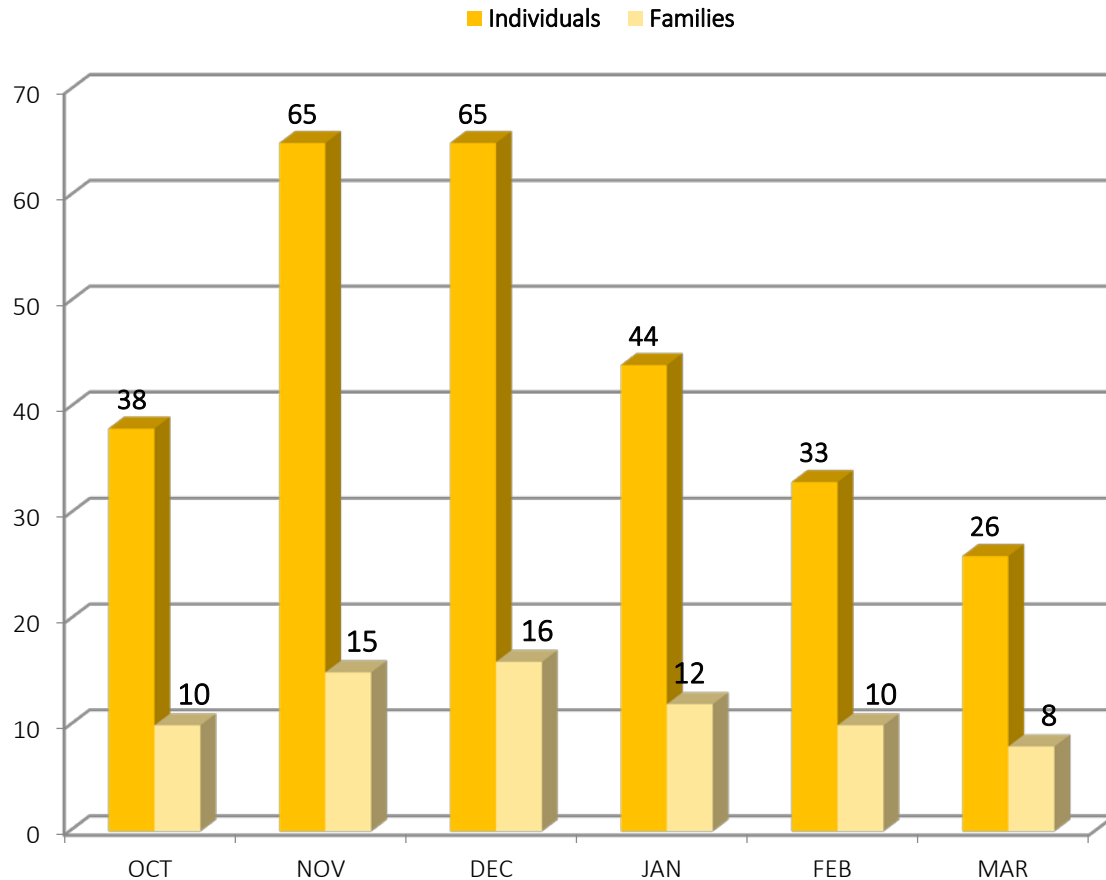
MARCH 2019

1st TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)



1 ST TIME HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS % OF ALL INTAKES (BASED ON SELF-REPORTING)	1 st Time Homeless Intakes	% of Total First Time Homeless Intakes
Through These Doors	0/0	0%
Family Shelter	13/38	29% (54%)
Joe Kreisler	8	18% (11%)
Milestone	1	2% (1%)
Oxford Street (Men)	14	31% (20%)
Oxford Street (Women)	8	18% (11%)
Florence House	1	2% (1%)
TOTAL	45 (70)	100%

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE MARCH 2019 WARMING CENTER STATISTICS BY MONTH



Warming Center Location	Nights Used
Family Shelter only	13
Salvation Army only	18
FS & SA	
FS & Yarmouth	
FS & Preble	
FS & GA	

Date	Families	Individuals
1	10	31
2	8	30
3	10	36
4	10	36
5	10	36
6	9	32
7	9	32
8	5	17
9	3	9
10	4	12
11	4	12
12	3	10
13	3	10
14	4	12
15	3	10
16	2	7
17	4	13
18	3	11
19	4	16
20	4	16
21	4	15
22	5	18
23	4	15
24	12	42
25	12	43
26	13	44
27	14	47
28	14	48
29	15	48
30	15	48
31	17	50

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE March 2019 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

On March 25:

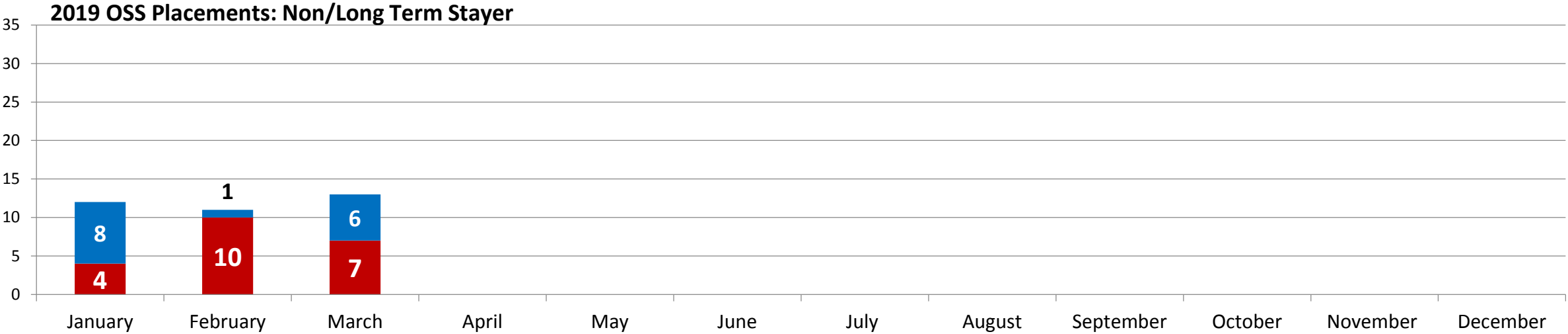
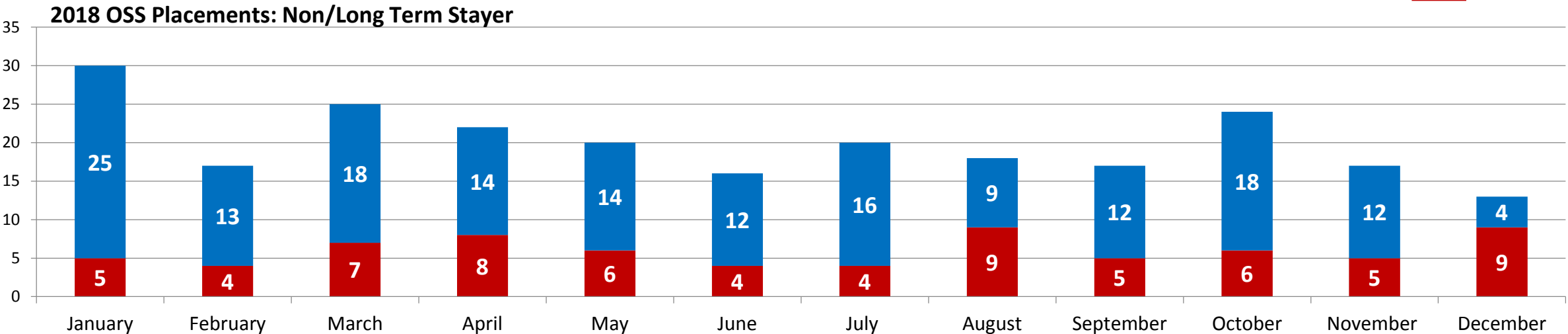
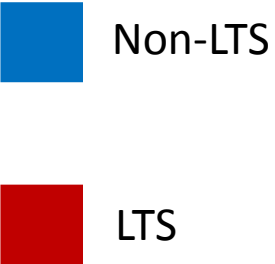
569 individuals

(including families)

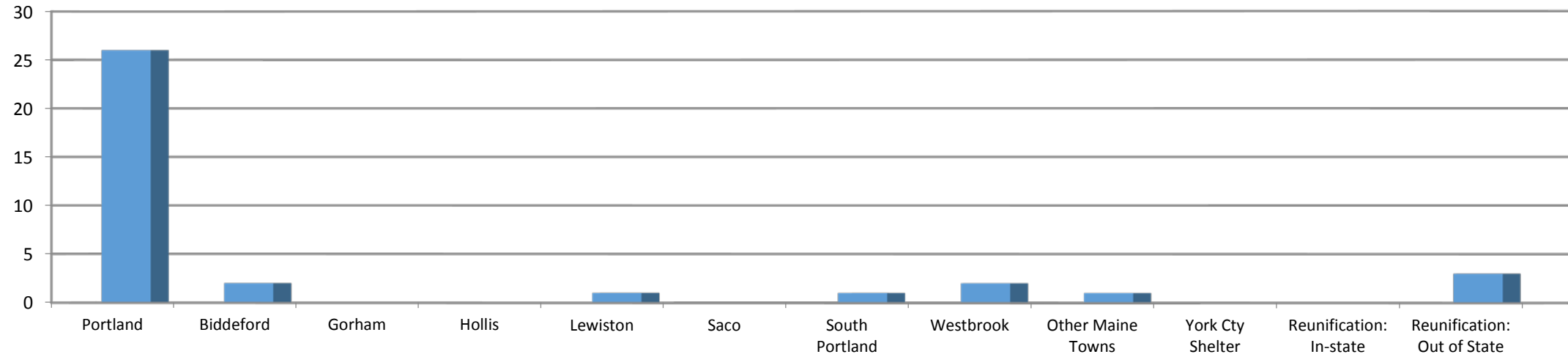
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Doors	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	13	169	40	13	29	228	0	492
2	13	168	40	14	36	199	0	470
3	13	174	39	23	39	220	0	508
4	15	174	39	23	36	235	0	522
5	15	169	40	21	38	252	0	535
6	15	165	40	22	36	251	0	529
7	15	167	40	23	36	247	0	528
8	15	146	37	21	35	230	0	484
9	13	146	39	25	41	234	1	499
10	13	149	40	19	40	234	0	495
11	13	147	40	24	40	239	0	503
12	13	147	37	23	43	258	27	548
13	13	147	40	21	39	239	0	499
14	13	147	40	17	40	249	0	506
15	13	139	39	17	43	232	0	483
16	10	139	39	18	39	238	0	483
17	10	145	40	20	39	246	0	500
18	10	142	40	23	43	258	17	533
19	10	147	39	23	44	248	0	511
20	9	146	38	20	42	245	0	500
21	9	149	40	22	40	245	0	505
22	9	145	38	17	35	223	0	467
23	9	145	37	20	44	230	0	485
24	9	177	40	19	37	239	0	521
25	11	180	40	23	37	261	17	569
26	11	181	40	21	38	237	0	528
27	11	184	39	25	39	257	0	555
28	10	185	39	24	37	240	0	535
29	10	184	39	22	34	230	0	519
30	10	184	38	21	35	221	0	509
31	10	182	39	23	39	243	0	536
Total*	363	4,969	1,215	647	1,193	7,408	62	15,857
Avg/night*	12	160	39	21	38	239	2	512
Highest*	15	185	40	25	44	261	27	569
Lowest*	9	139	37	13	29	199	0	467

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

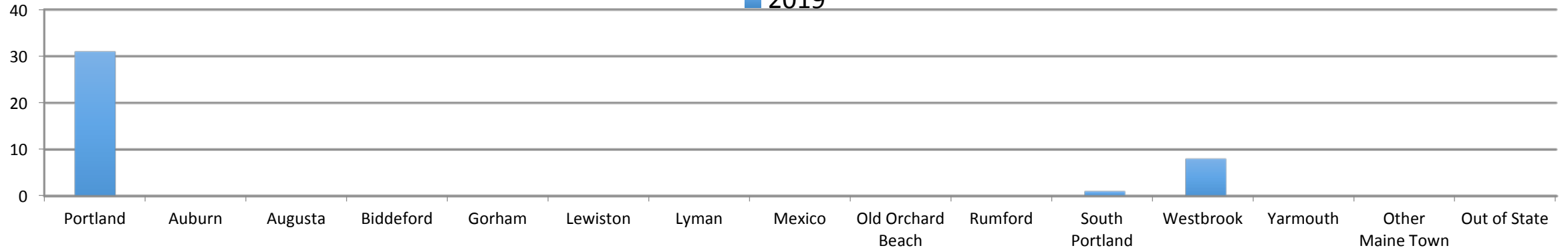


OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	12	11	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	100%
Portland	8	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	72%
Biddeford	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6%
Gorham	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Hollis	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Lewiston	0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3%
Saco	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
South Portland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3%
Westbrook	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6%
Other Maine Towns	0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3%
York County Shelter	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Reunification with friends/family in another Maine town*	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Reunification with friends/family in another state*	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8%

FAMILY SHELTER
PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA
2019

[illegible]



CITY OF PORTLAND
Health and Human Services
Kristen Dow, Interim Director

April 16, 2019

RE: Portland Community Support Fund

Dear Community Partner,

The City of Portland's Health and Human Services Department remains committed to providing assistance for the city's most vulnerable residents. Unfortunately, we exhausted all of the allocated funds for the Portland Community Support Fund (PCSF) in the FY19 budget in March. This was much sooner than we had planned, and vastly different than the year before. The City Manager is required to receive approval from the City Council in order to expend funds beyond what was appropriated. Because of this, we were obligated to put some limitations in place until the Council can address the matter.

While the fund remains fully expended, we are able to provide some additional funding to the PCSF thanks to the generous donations of several community members. This additional funding will allow us to continue to provide rental assistance to individuals who were active in the program prior to April 1st. For food and non-food vouchers, we will be working with local organizations who currently provide similar services to help individuals in need.

As always, the City of Portland is doing our very best to meet the needs of our residents. From July 1, 2018 to date, the City has provided \$187,184 in rental assistance and \$53,732 on food vouchers and prescription assistance through PCSF. Please know that while our policy remains the same, it has become financially necessary for these limitations to be put in place at this time.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KD", written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Dow

Interim Director of Health & Human Services

Policy/Advocacy Update – 4/3/2019

Federal Legislation Update:

FY20 Budget & Appropriations – New – Now that the FY 19 budget has been enacted, Congress will be working on the FY 20 budget, which begins 10/1/19. If Congress does not lift the Budget Control Act federal spending caps, sequestration would occur, as the previous agreement to lift the caps only included FY 18 & 19. Advocacy organizations are urging Congress to lift the caps to ensure affordable housing, community development, and transportation programs receive the highest allocation of discretionary funds possible for FY20.

President Trump’s FY 20 Budget Request – New – President Trump released his FY 20 budget on Monday, 3/11. Per NLIHC: “proposes to drastically cut housing benefits that help millions of low-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, veterans, and other vulnerable people afford their homes. Like his other budget requests in FY18 and FY19, the proposal would reduce housing benefits for the lowest-income people by slashing federal investments in affordable homes, increasing rents, and imposing harmful work requirements on America’s struggling families. If enacted, the budget could leave even more low-income people without stable homes, undermining family stability, increasing evictions, and, in worst cases, leading to more homelessness.” Congress decides the Federal Budget and corresponding appropriations bills; however, according to CBPP “the budget is a roadmap to the types of policies the Administration will seek to implement with the tools at its disposal, including executive orders and regulatory changes.”

HR 1856: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – Update – Reintroduced by House Financial Services Committee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA). This bill would provide a path to end homelessness in the United States, and for other purposes. **This bill passed the House Financial Service Committee on 3/28.** This legislation is a comprehensive plan to ensure the lowest-income people have safe, decent, and affordable homes. The bill invests \$13.27 billion over five years to address the shortage of affordable housing and combat homelessness by providing 410,000 new affordable homes for the lowest-income households. The bill earmarks \$1 billion annually to the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and \$50 million each year for rental assistance to be used in conjunction with HTF-created housing. Within Congressman Waters' bill is a 75% set-aside that will help create new supportive housing throughout the country. Additionally, this bill would permanently authorize appropriations for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Act and permanently reauthorize USICH.

S. 923: Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act – New – Sponsored by Senators Feinstein, Murkowski, and Congressmen Lieu and Stivers. This bill would bill authorize \$750 million in grants annually for the next five years for local governments. It also conditions federal funds on a grant recipient’s ability to provide not only housing but also comprehensive services like mental health care, substance abuse treatment and job training.

H.R. 508: Trafficking Victims Housing Act of 2019 – New – Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Beatty. This bill would require a study and report on the housing and service needs of victims of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking.

H.R. 232: Landlord Accountability Act of 2019 – New – Sponsored by Rep. Nydia Velazquez. This bill would amend the Fair Housing Act, to prohibit discrimination based on use of section 8 vouchers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 715: To amend section 428 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide incentives to grantees under the Continuum of Care program to re-house all former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes – New – Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers. Content of bill and bill summary not available.

S. 8: Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act – New – Sponsored by Sen. Marco Rubio. This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes.

Trump Administration Proposed SNAP Rule – New – Per the Food Research & Action Center: The Trump Administration’s [proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) rule](#) would time limit food benefits for unemployed and underemployed people who can’t document sufficient weekly work hours. They would lose SNAP eligibility after three months. Anti-hunger advocates are urged to submit a comment expressing their strong opposition to the proposed rule during the 60-day public comment period that ends on April 2, 2019. You can take action to stop this harmful policy by [submitting a comment opposing this proposed rule](#).

The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019 (HEASHFY) – New – This bill was introduced by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) in the Senate, and by Representatives Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Don Young (R- AK). HEASHFY amends the Higher Education Act to simplify eligibility for federal financial aid and to improve outreach, resources, and policies for homeless and foster youth. The legislation:

- Streamlines the process of applying for and receiving financial aid;
- Helps students access housing;
- Designates a higher education liaison to help students access services;
- Asks states to grant in-state tuition rates to those students who haven’t had stable residency;
- Ensures that college access programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college; and
- Requires the U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about a student’s independence, simplify the FAFSA, and publish useable data and reports.

State Legislation Update: This is the first year of the biennium, where legislators can introduce any number of bills, and the Legislature will be considering the Biennial Budget.

Medicaid Waiver & Work Requirements – Update – Governor Mills pulled Maine out of its approved Section 1115 Medicaid waiver that would have imposed work requirements on Medicaid recipients, as well as impose monthly premiums. DHHS will instead be requesting a Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver that would allow for increased flexibility.

Bills of note: The following list are bills which have been given LD numbers and will be considered as of the date of this update:

- **LD 1201**, An Act To Create a Low-barrier, Permanent Housing Rental Subsidy for Individuals in the State Experiencing Long-term Homelessness – Rep. Dick Farnsworth - This bill establishes a rental subsidy program within the Maine State Housing Authority for persons experiencing long-term homelessness. The rental subsidy program provides a rental subsidy and housing retention services to a person eligible for the program. **Public Hearing in front of the Labor and Housing Committee was held on 3/27, and a Work Session was held on 4/3.**
- LD 48, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless" (Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland). This bill would authorize a \$15million bond, to go to referendum, to invest in the creation of housing for people experiencing homelessness, to be administered by MaineHousing. A Public Hearing was held on 1/22.
- LD 184 – An Act To Amend the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Coordination Program – Rep. John DeVeau. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. A Public hearing was held on 2/4, and a Work Session was held on 2/4 and 3/27. **The bill as voted OTP as amended by Committee.**
- LD 459, An Act To Include Homelessness in the Laws Governing Emergency General Assistance – Sen. Ben Chipman. Bill summary: This bill defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/12 at 9am.**
- LD 447, An Act Regarding the Substance Abuse Disorder Continuum of Care – Sen. Geoff Gratwick. Bill Summary: This bill proposes to provide support for persons with substance use disorder along a continuum of care that includes prevention, law enforcement diversion, treatment, harm reduction and recovery. The bill proposes to provide: 1. Funding for programs that reduce the use of marijuana and so-called "vaping" by youth in Maine in order to reduce the likelihood of neural pathway changes that can lead to addiction later in life; 2. Ongoing support for detoxification as a path to recovery; 3. Reimbursement under the MaineCare program for substance use disorder peer recovery coaches; 4. Funding to the Bangor Area Recovery Network for addiction recovery support; 5. Support for regional 2-1-1 hotlines to offer referrals to persons with substance use disorder for local services; and 6. Access to evidence-based approaches to prevent substance use and treat substance use disorder in rural areas. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/1 at 1pm.**
- LD 80, An Act To Create the Department of Substance Use Disorder Services – Rep. Perry. This bill establishes the Department of Substance Use Disorder Services as a separate cabinet-level department. It removes from the Department of Health and Human Services, and transfers to the Department of Substance Use Disorder Services, functions and services for individuals with substance use disorders, prevention programs and administrative assistance for the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/1 at 1pm.**
- LD 578, Resolve, To Create a Pilot Program to Assist the Transition to Recovery of Persons Suffering from Opioid Use Disorder – Rep. Patty Hymanson. This resolve directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to develop a pilot program designed to assist the transition to recovery of persons suffering from opioid use disorder. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/1 at 1pm.**
- LD 46, An Act to Establish a Substance Use Disorder Clinic at the Cumberland County Jail – Rep. Michael Brennan. This bill would provide funding (\$250,000 in each year of the biennium) to create a substance use disorder clinic at the Cumberland County jail. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/1 at 1pm.**
- LD 195, An Act To Continue MaineCare Coverage for Parents During the Rehabilitation and Reunification Process – Rep. Patty Hymanson. This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to provide MaineCare coverage to parents who are MaineCare members while they are participating in reunification efforts with child welfare. **A public hearing was held on 2/7; a Work Session was held on 2/14. The HHS Committee Voted OTP-As Amended.**
- LD 510, An Act To Authorize Funding for Transitional Housing for Women Veterans and Their Families – Rep. Bettyann Sheats. This bill would provide a one-time \$150,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2019-20 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope to provide suitable housing for women veterans in transition and their families. **The Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee voted OTP as amended.**
- LD 613, Resolve, Concerning the Adoption of Rules To Carry Out the Purpose of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program – Rep. Dick Farnsworth. This resolve directs DHHS to adopt rules for BRAP in order to ensure fairness, equity and access to the program for those persons with mental illness who qualify for the program. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/17 at 9am.**
- LD 501, An Act To Provide Funding for the Homeless Veterans Center in Caribou –Sen. Pres. Troy Jackson. This bill would provide \$200,000 in a one-time appropriation of funds to the homeless veterans center in Caribou. **The Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee voted ONTP.**

- LD, 763, An Act To Ensure the Availability of Community Integration Services – Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross. This bill provides funding to increase reimbursement rates in the Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 17 for community integration services to \$24.25 per quarter-hour. This would increase the rate for Section 17 CI services. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/9 at 1pm.**
- LD, 775, An Act To Expand Community Support Services for Certain Adult Members of the MaineCare Program – Rep. Gramlich. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 17, Community Support Services to include access to services to persons who have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, panic disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. In practice, this would revert back to the previous Section 17 (pre-March 2016) eligibility criteria. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee, Cross Building, Room 209, on 4/9 at 1pm.**
- LD 866, An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine – Rep. Michael Brennan, & Rep. Charlotte Warren. This bill requires institutions of higher education in the State to designate an existing staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of higher education. The bill also requires institutions of higher education to give homeless youth priority for on-campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless youth housing during school breaks and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of school. The bill also expands the tuition waiver for state postsecondary educational institutions to include tuition waivers for homeless youth. **Public Hearing in front of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, Cross Building, Room 208, on 4/17 at 1pm.**
- LD 591, An Act To Create Flexibility in Affordable Housing Calculations – Rep. Mike Sylvester. This bill proposes to allow exemptions in the calculation of the affordable housing cap for per unit expenditures. **The Labor and Housing Committee voted ONTP.**
- LD 683, An Act to Provide Social Workers to Persons with Mental Illness to Help Them Avoid Incarceration – Rep. Craven. This bill proposes to provide social workers to persons with mental illness who are in crisis or pose a threat to themselves or others in order for them to avoid incarceration and protect their safety and the safety of others. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee was held on 3/27. A Work Session is scheduled for 4/4 at 2pm.**
- LD 353, An Act to Classify Recovery Residences as One-family Dwellings for the Purposes of the Fire Code. This bill requires a recovery residence located in a house to be considered a one family dwelling under rules concerning safety to life from fire if the recovery residence has no more than 6 occupants and contains a fire extinguisher and smoke detector in each room. This bill also defines "recovery residence" as an alcohol-free and illegal substance free shared living residence for persons recovering from substance use disorder that provides peer support and connects residents to support services and community resources.
- LD 730, An Act To Create the Substance Use Disorders Cabinet – Rep. Patty Hymanson. This bill establishes the Substance Use Disorders Cabinet. The cabinet consists of the Commissioner of Corrections, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of Labor and the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and, at the discretion of the Governor, one member of the public. The initial chair of the cabinet is the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee. The cabinet is established to promote interdepartmental collaboration on substance use disorders policy development and program implementation and support service delivery in an integrated manner. The duties of the cabinet include coordinating funding, conducting long-term planning and policy development, coordinating service delivery, assessing resource capacity, reviewing programs and policies and communicating the work of the cabinet. The cabinet is authorized to solicit, receive and pool funds from the Federal Government, subdivisions of the State and individuals, foundations or corporations. The cabinet is required to submit an annual report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, criminal justice and public safety matters, education and cultural affairs, health and human services matters, judiciary matters, labor matters and state and local government matters and to make the report available to the public. The cabinet is required to carry out its duties within existing resources. **The Committee on State and Local Government voted ONTP.**
- LD 964, Resolve, To Study Housing Options for Persons with Mental Health Challenges and Substance Use Disorder – Rep. Beebe-Center. This resolve establishes the Study Commission to Assess Housing Needs of Persons with Mental Health Challenges and Substance Use Disorder and requires the study commission to assess the housing needs of persons who are living with mental health challenges and who have substance use disorder, with a focus on the needs of such individuals located in rural Maine. The study commission is required to explore methods of expanding the options and availability of housing for such individuals, including options that support the unique housing needs of such individuals, and report its findings and recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee was held on 3/25.**
- LD 795, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Food – Rep. Craig Hickman. This constitutional resolution declares that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve and consume and to barter, trade and purchase the food of their own choosing for their own

nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being. **Public Hearing in front of the Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee scheduled for 4/2 at 1pm, Cross Building, Room 214.**

- LD 1294, Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Implement a Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues – Rep. Talbot-Ross.
- LD 1337, An Act To Save Lives by Establishing a Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Project within the Department of Health and Human Services (HOUSE) – Rep. Gattine. This bill will establish and fund a program to support recovery and create stability for people using opioids who are among the most vulnerable in Maine. This program will address the intersection of the opioid and homelessness crises by providing rapid access to low barrier treatment for substance use disorders, intensive case management, and a housing assistance fund to support stable housing. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/8 at 10am, Cross Building, Room 209.**
- LD 1275, An Act To Support Access to Health Services for Homeless Youth in Maine – Sen. Linda Sanborn. This bill allows a minor to provide consent to all medical, mental, dental and other health counseling and services by proving that the minor is living separately and is independent of parental support through various means such as a written, signed statement to that fact from the director of a governmental or nonprofit agency that provides services to homeless persons or an attorney representing the minor or proof of filing for emancipation. This bill also provides immunity to a health care practitioner who provides services to a minor if the minor consented to those services and provided proof of living separately and independently. Finally, this bill prohibits a minor or other person from disaffirming the consent given by the minor solely because the minor is a minor. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/12 at 9am, Cross Building, Room 209.**
- LD 808, An Act to Create a Youth Wage – Sen. Timberlake. This bill establishes a minimum hourly wage for a person who is under 18 years of age and is enrolled as a student in a school. The wage is 75% of the regular minimum hourly wage. **The Labor and Housing Committee had a Divided Report on 3/27.**
- **LD 1318, Resolve, To Increase Access to Housing-related Support Services – Rep. Drew Gattine.** This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for waivers to provide housing-related services, including housing transition and tenancy sustaining services, to individuals with disabilities, older adults needing long-term services and supports and persons experiencing chronic homelessness under the 1915(b) and 1915(c) Medicaid waiver provisions. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/17 at 9am, Cross Building, Room 209.**
- LD 1317, An Act To Restore Services To Help Certain Noncitizens Meet Their Basic Needs. Rep Gattine. This bill removes limitations on food supplement program benefits and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program benefits, provides MaineCare coverage and modifies language for state-funded supplemental security income to maintain consistency throughout the law for certain noncitizens who are lawfully present in the United States or pursuing a lawful process to apply for immigration relief. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/12 at 9am, Cross Building, Room 209.**
- **LD 1404, Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver Relating to Support Services and To Provide Funds To Prevent Homelessness – Rep. Brennan.** This resolve requires DHHS to CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for a waiver from the requirements of federal law and regulations to allow Maine to provide Medicaid-funded direct support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the bill provides ongoing funds (\$500,000 annually) to the Housing First Assistance Program established within the Maine State Housing Authority to be distributed to community action agencies to assist individuals on the verge of becoming homeless. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/12 at 9am, Cross Building, Room 209.**
- LD 876, Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services To Build Peer Respite Program Capacity in Maine by Implementing at Least One Peer Respite Program – Rep. Madigan. This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, office of substance abuse and mental health services to implement by means of a request-for proposals process at least one peer respite program in the State to provide a voluntary, short-term residential program designed to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric crisis. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee scheduled for 4/8 at 1pm, Cross Building, Room 209.**