

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

### Remote Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022

8:30 am – 10:00 am

### Minutes

| Name           | Organization                | Name             | Organization          |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Adam Harr      | City of Portland            | Norm Maze        | Shalom House          |
| Jim Devine     | HVJ                         | Ben Martineau    | HVJ                   |
| Jenny Stasio   | Through These Doors         | Dan Coyne        | United Way            |
| Terence Miller | Preble Street               | Brian Townsend   | Amistad               |
| Amy Geren      | Portland Downtown           | Hannah Brier     | United Way            |
| Ginny Dill     | Office of Behavioral Health | Vickey Rand      | CHOM                  |
| Cullen Ryan    | CHOM                        | Ben Strick       | Spurwink              |
| Aaron Geyer    | City of Portland            | Mike Guthrie     | CoP FS                |
| Bill Higgins   | HA4All                      | George Rheault   | West Bayside Resident |
| Izzy           | Preble Street               | Courtney Pladsen | Spurwink              |
| Rachel Ohm     | Portland Press Herald       |                  |                       |

### Meeting Summary

During the statistics discussion, the group decided to add total intakes to the first time homeless slide for comparison. This was the first month with bed nights on the housing placement slide showing how many nights people stayed before exiting shelter into housing. When calculating the average bed nights per person, it should be divided by individual as counting families as one placement in the equation skews the results. First Parish provided a Warming Center for two days that included meals and outreach staff to bring people inside. An emergency protocol to activate warming centers when the temperature drops below 5 degrees. The meeting ended with a PIT count update. LR2299: Land use recommendation: having up to 4 units of housing be the same zone as a single family home. Amistad has moved to 103 India Street and opened 38 units of housing for women at Freedom Place at 66 State Street.

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

### December Meeting Minutes

- Arron moved to approve the minutes and Terence seconded. ERA stands for Emergency Rental Assistance administered by the Opportunity Alliance. The motion passed with none opposed.
- **Announcements**
  - ERA stands for emergency rental assistance.
- **December Statistics**
  - Add column to 1<sup>st</sup> time homelessness to compare to total intakes.
  - Total housing placements count households.
    - Bed nights for housing placements should be divided using the individual counts from families to get an average number of bed night per placement.
  - Afghan refugee update or statistics?
  - Are the CTO stats between shelters mutually exclusive?
  - First time homelessness appears to be up during the holiday months, November and December.
- **Statistics report out**
  - Please give feedback
  - Have the stats earlier, by close of business the day before; we should have them by Friday.
- **Warming Center**
  - First Parish has provided WC two days.
    - 8am to 5pm with three meals.
    - Outreach teams went out and staff were given OT to staff.
    - 60 individuals the second day.
    - There were warm clothing donations.
    - People were connected to services.
      - Checked CTO statuses
      - Finding people who there were truly no other option were connected with GA for emergency hotel rooms.
  - Challenges:
    - It is one small space administered by a collective.
    - There were no expectations in the in space so there were unmasked people.
      - Offered testing and encouraged masks.
  - They played music and took requests and that interaction was an entry point for outreach.
  - People felt cared for.
  - Developed an emergency plan protocol for activating warming centers.
    - Looking to formalize plan with Caity Hagar, CoP Emergency Management Coordinator.
    - Activation point at 5 degrees.

## Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Evaluating capacity of space and client numbers.
  - We don't want people to get covid from unmasked exposure.
    - Do not want to create more staffing shortages.
  - 3 people staffing (Combo volunteers and outreach teams)
- **Winter Planning and PIT Count Update**
  - o Looking for volunteers for the next of next Tuesday, the 25th.
  - o Meeting on the night of at 5:30 at 190 Lancaster Street in the parking lot across from Two Fat Cats.
    - Will have forms, facemasks and snacks to hand out.
    - Will cover parts of the peninsula.
    - No carpooling because of covid.
  - o Survey days the rest of the week.
- **Shelter Licensing Update.**
  - o Council voted to postpone until June 6<sup>th</sup> due to the \$97,000 fiscal note attached to it needed to hire an inspector; the budget is considered in June.
- **Legislative Update**
  - o **Federal**
    - FEMA hotel funds extended through 4/1/22
    - FY22 Budget: currently on a continuing resolution through mid February.
    - Build Back Better is stalled.
      - Child tax credit payments may not make it.
    - S 1469/HR 6287 Homeless Children Youth Act
    - S 3350 Helping Foster Homeless Youth Act
  - o **State**
    - An act to improve access to behavioral health.
    - Resolve directing the Maine Human Rights Commission to extend to investigate and report on incidents of harassment due to housing status, lack of employment, and other issues – Re. Talbot Ross
    - LR2299: Land use recommendation: having up to 4 units of housing be the same zone as a single family home.
    - Shelter bills were carried over from 2021.
    - LD 913 Maine Data Protection Act voted ought not to pass.
- **Freedom Place at 66 State Street**
  - o Open for two weeks and will fill all 38 units by February.
  - o Most residents are moving from GA hotels.
  - o Serving women who have been homeless for a long time and are in recovery.
  - o Kelly Walsh will be the program manager.
  - o Amistad headquarters moved to 103 India Street.
    - Office and programming.
    - Once renovated, peer support space will have a post covid capacity of 25 people.