

**Remote HHS and Public Safety
Meeting Agenda**
September 13, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Remote Meeting



MEMBERS

Councilor Tae Chong, District 3, Chair
Councilor Mark Dion, District 5
Councilor Victoria Pelletier, District 2
Councilor Anna Trevorrow, District 1

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email HHSPS@portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Health & Human Services and Public Safety meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

The Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/89703826458?pwd=SFhhOGFhSlluV1ljaEovcy9idEZkQT09>

Passcode: 102192

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13126266799,,89703826458#,,,,*102192# or +16469313860,,89703826458#,,,,*102192#

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US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 897 0382 6458

Passcode: 102192

International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/u/kbnhBr1xw7>

1. Announcements
 - a. Introduction of New Public Health Director, Dr. Alfredo Vergara
 - b. Introduction of New Barron Center Administrator, Mary Beth Daigneault
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2022
 - a. July 12, 2022 Draft Minutes
3. School Safety Update

4. Staff Updates
 - a. HHS Departmental Updates
 - b. Overdose Update
5. Discussion around Forming of an Homeless Services Center (HSC) Advisory Group
6. HHS & PS Committee Work Plan Review and Planning for Remainder of the Year
 - a. 2022 Committee Work Plan
7. Next Meeting: October 11, 2022



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance: Tae Chong, Chair (District 3), Anna Trevorow (District 1), & Victoria Pelletier (District 2).

Councilors in Attendance: Mayor Kate Snyder

City Staff:

Kristen Dow, Director of HHS; Tina Pettingill, Deputy Director of HHS; Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Social Services; Heath Gorham, Interim Police Chief.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM.

Announcements and Approval of Minutes

- Chief Gautreau had a scheduling conflict and will not attend the meeting.
- Councilor Dion is unable to attend.
- We will postpone the Public Safety Building discussion.
- Councilor Trevorow moved to accept the minutes, Councilor Pelletier seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Health Report Out on Gun Violence: Acting Public Health Director, Tina Pettingill

- The data around gun ownership and violence is lacking making it hard to draw inferences and conclusions.
 - Until recently, there was a moratorium for any type of research on gun ownership or violence.
 - There is not state or national gun registry.
 - It is estimated that 41% of Maine households own gun at least one gun.
- Maine has the 40th highest rate of firearm deaths in the United States.
- 2015-2019: Maine has 10.4 firearms deaths per 100,000 which is slightly lower than the national average.

- Portland is less than 5 per 100,000.
- Death by Suicide is higher; in 2020 56% of the Mainers who died by suicide used a firearm.
 - Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in Maine.
- Suicidal ideation in youth has gone up.
- 2019: close to 20% of Cumberland county students wanted to leave their home due to violence or threat of violence.
- Death by firearm does not rise to the level of other public health threats faced by the State.
- Maine Gun Safety Coalition is active in Cumberland County but there is not much else in preventative programming.

Committee questions and discussion.

- Councilor Chong said that we have more gun ownership but lower gun deaths than the national average.
 - Most of our gun deaths are men dying by suicide.
 - What do we do about mental health awareness?
 - Through grants we have hired a mental health coordinator who will be working with the schools.
 - Portland schools added a large number of social workers.
 - Is there communication with the social workers and the Police Department?
 - This was a struggle when the SROs were first removed from the schools. Weekly meetings are held with the superintendent's staff and the threat assessment team.
- Councilor Pelletier noted the 86% fatalities by suicide; do we see an uptick of this type of firearm violence anywhere specifically in Maine or is it up in Maine overall?
 - Everything we shared is as small of a sample available to us, given the lack of data.
 - What is legal intervention involving firearm discharge? (Accounts for 3%)
 - Something of undetermined intent where the information is unavailable.
 - Gun give back day: do we have the percentage of people who turn in their unwanted guns.
 - We do not know this because there isn't a registry to know the percentage of total guns; we could find out the number of guns turned in.
- Councilor Chong said at the last meeting, the committee talked about SOPs for providing more support for victims of gun violence and would like to further explore this when the committee meets again.

Barron Center Update

Staffing overview

- The Barron Center has 94 open positions including the Administrator and Director of Nursing.

- Gail Winchell is the Interim Administrator.
- Interim Director of Nursing is Jeanne Delicata, who was the Director of Nursing at the Barron Center for 14 years.
- New recruiter position, Denise Perkins, has expanded efforts.
- Hired 75 new employees over the past year, but have lost 95.
- Stay interviews.
 - Director Dow and Deputy Director Pettingill have interviewed staff across positions. Things that were lost in the pandemic came up and are being restored, such as picnic tables and the staff café.
- Both Director Dow and Deputy Director Pettingill are onsite at the Barron Center at least one day a week.
- CARES Act Funds are being used for staffing at the Barron Center. \$4.1 million is for staffing at long-term care facilities and cannot be used for other programs.
 - \$1,500 bonuses.
 - \$5 shift differential for all positions at the Barron Center.
 - \$2,500 bonuses.
 - Urgent Shift coverage differentials.
 - Overnight incentives.
 - Referral and sign-on bonuses.
 - Possible agency support.
 - Has not happened yet and is not guaranteed to happen.
 - Total spent to date: \$3,347,439.
 - \$812,000 remaining to be spent by the end of the summer.
- New Efforts
 - Summer stay incentive for full time staff.
 - Per Diem rate increase.
 - Helps when in outbreak status to deal with staff out.
 - Wage analysis
 - Updated CEBA Union Contract
 - We could only start at step three and worked to shift that for commensurate experience.
 - All staff meetings and communication.
- Kindness matters.
 - To our residents, staff, and ourselves.
- Interviewing for both the Administrator and Director of Nursing positions and are accepting them on a rolling basis.

Committee questions and discussion.

- Mayor Snyder said the Barron Center has been under so much pressure during the pandemic and thanked Director Dow and the City of Portland staff.
- Councilor Chong thanked Director Dow for listening to staff needs.
- Councilor Trevorrow thanked Director Dow for her leadership.

- Mayor Snyder said that city leadership is open to all future updates.

City Shelters Update

- FS:
 - FS: 21/62
 - Hotels: 256/904
 - Total: 277/966
 - Seen 107/361 since May 5th who did a self-directed housing search. We have seen a slowdown in families.
 - Working with 21 different states, southern and northern border states, on a registry of shelters. Compassionate care is making sure families have resources outside of just when they cross the border.
- OSS
 - OSS: 98
 - Hotel: 133
 - 513 singles overall across shelter and GA hotels.
 - Contract with hotels were supposed to end in June and working to extend; so far is working month to month.
 - Going to the South Portland City Council with a Preble Street on a joint proposal.
 - Andrew Bove, of Preble Street worked on provider agency buy-in.
 - \$2.5 million from the State.
 - We want people to call 911 if needed.
- Needle Exchange
 - Total number of needles collected and distributed were high this month: Over 80,000 for collected and distributed.
 - We do not know if the other sanctioned exchange has reopened in July.
 - July
 - 588 exchanges.
 - 862 doses of Narcan distributed.
 - 323 collected.
 - 130, 40% from community sharps boxes which is a dramatic decrease. We do not know why. It had been 80%.

Committee questions and discussion.

- Mayor Snyder attended the Statewide Homeless Council this morning and noted how many City staff and Portland organizations are there; it is encouraging to see that the entire state is working towards solutions to shelter and housing.
- Where is the new needle exchange site Governor Mills announced?
 - We do not know and have not received notice which we would receive if it were in Portland.

- Councilor Chong said we normally distribute 30,000 needles and that went up to 80,000 with the closure of Amistad's exchange. What can we do as a community to notify the public? Is fentanyl becoming more ubiquitous?
 - We expect to see the number of Narcan doses distributed go up with the number of needles.
 - We are able to give other supplies in addition to needle exchange supplies with our other funding streams such as water and hygiene supplies.
 - We have seen an increase in new or reenrolled clients and syringe distribution. We expect this number to level off but remain high. We are aware of an increase in overdoses.
- Councilor Chong asked why Amistad stopped distributing needles.
 - We do not know.
 - They have been closed since mid-April.
- Councilor Chong asked what we can do to prevent more overdoses and get people to accept help from first responders.
 - The more touchpoints and rapport the more people are able to listen to safer alternatives and treatment.
 - Trust and outreach.
 - Sometimes there are people who want to get help and there is literally nowhere to send them.
- Councilor Chong asked if the \$2.5 million is part of the \$25 million.
 - It is.
 - How long are people in shelter?
 - Averaging 9 months in hotels.
 - We contracted with a hotel and MaineHousing in Saco for families that will be fully staffed by Catholic Charities. This is the comprehensive model we have been asking for with wrap-around services. 96 families will move in over the next few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM.

City of Portland | Health & Human Services Department

Kristen Dow, *Director*



To: Members of the Health & Human Services & Public Safety Committee

From: Kristen Dow, Director of Health & Human Services

Date: September 8 , 2022

Re: Month of August Health and Human Services Department Updates

The following data and information is to serve as the monthly update from the Health & Human Services Department to the HHS & PS Committee:

Overview of Oxford Street Shelter and contract hotel:

- OSS average nightly census: 149 (up by 20 from July, 2022)
- Contract hotel average nightly census: 137 (up by 7 from July, 2022)
- In hotels: 122

Overview of the Family Shelter:

- Average number of Families/individuals on site in shelter: 18 families/ 50 individuals
- Average number of families/individuals in hotel overflow: 179 families/ 664 individuals*

*Families have been moved out of hotels in various communities and moved to the contract hotel in Saco that is being managed by Catholic Charities. Please see the Resettlement Coordinator's update for this information.

Average Nightly Individuals in Shelter in August:

- 1,122 per night between various sheltering methods

Prevention and Diversion Program:

After several years of planning, including a pause because of the pandemic, our Prevention and Diversion program opened in June at our 39 Forest Ave location. We currently have four full-time staff members and are looking to hire four more. In the first three months of the program (June-August) we have seen the following outcomes:

- 138 intakes
 - 80 stayed at the shelter, and of that number, 29% stayed less than 1 week.
 - 58 (42%) were diverted to other resources and did not stay at the shelter.

Update from the City's Resettlement Coordinator:

- Over the months of July and August 2022 the Resettlement Program welcomed 6 Senior Human Service Counselors to their team, along with 1 French Speaking Community Health Promotion Specialist. Additionally, an Americorps Vista member joined the Resettlement

Program. They will be focusing on capacity building for culturally preferred food options for the next year.

- The largest project of the summer for the Resettlement Coordinator, and team, has been the coordination and placement of families at the Saco Comfort Inn staffed by Catholic Charities. Throughout this process the Resettlement Coordinator met with local schools, medical homes, WIC providers, hotel owners and community agencies to assure continuity of services throughout the transition.
- Thus far 52 asylum seeking families for a total of 192 individuals have been relocated from overflow hotels to Saco.
- Sr. HSC's from the Resettlement Program have begun working onsite with asylum seeking guests placed by the City of Portland at the Casco Bay Inn in Freeport, and Quality Inn in South Portland. Staff are assisting guests with accessing community resources, transportation, appointments, benefit applications and connections to healthcare services. In partnership with ILAP an immigration information session was held at the Casco Bay Inn, as well as a housing education workshop for families. Future programming is being planned for the fall.
- The Resettlement Coordinator continues to meet with area providers and housing navigators regarding the planning of upcoming permanent housing projects.

The totals for the City's General Assistance Program are as follows:

- Total Applications: 1320
- Denials: 73
- Denial rate: 5.5%

Totals for the Needle Exchange Program (NEP) are as follows:

- Total number of exchanges: 647 (165 outreach, 482 onsite)
- Total number of needles collected: 74,506
- Total number of needles distributed: 74,048
- Total number of new enrollees (who receive starter pack of 10 at time of enrollment): 83
- Total number of Narcan doses distributed: 570 kits (1,140 doses)
- Community sharps reported: 1,029 (471 from sharps containers, or 46% of total)

Public Health Clinic Numbers:

- **STD Clinic:** Patients seen: 141, new patients: 38, Monkeypox vaccines administered: 288
- **PCFC:** Patients seen: 52 new patients: 11
- **Maternal Child Health** patients seen: 116

SOCIAL SERVICES

FY22 REVENUE

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

\$5,086,735

total non-General Fund dollars



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PUBLIC HEALTH

FY22 REVENUE

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

\$3,692,081

total non-General Fund dollars



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BARRON CENTER

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

43,844

bednights provided to 136 unique patients



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ELDER SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

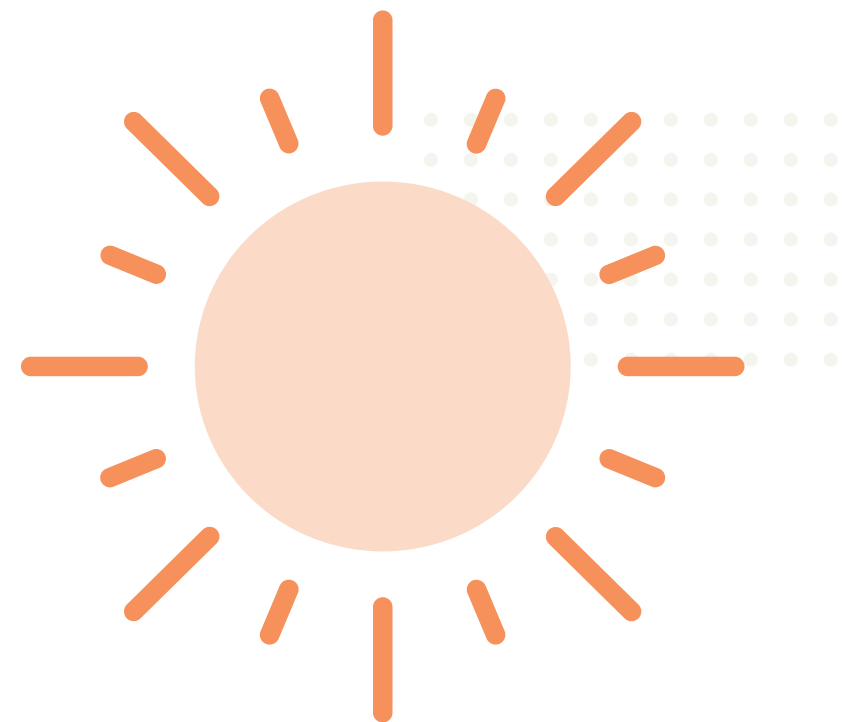
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

17,664

program hours with 62 Adult Day Program clients



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ELDER SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

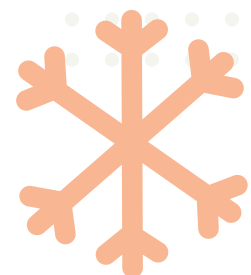
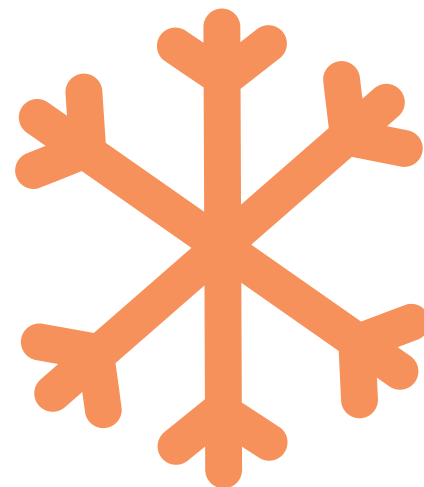
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

94

Portland residents received snow shoveling services from 85 volunteers



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SOCIAL SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

9222

families served through **General Assistance**



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SOCIAL SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

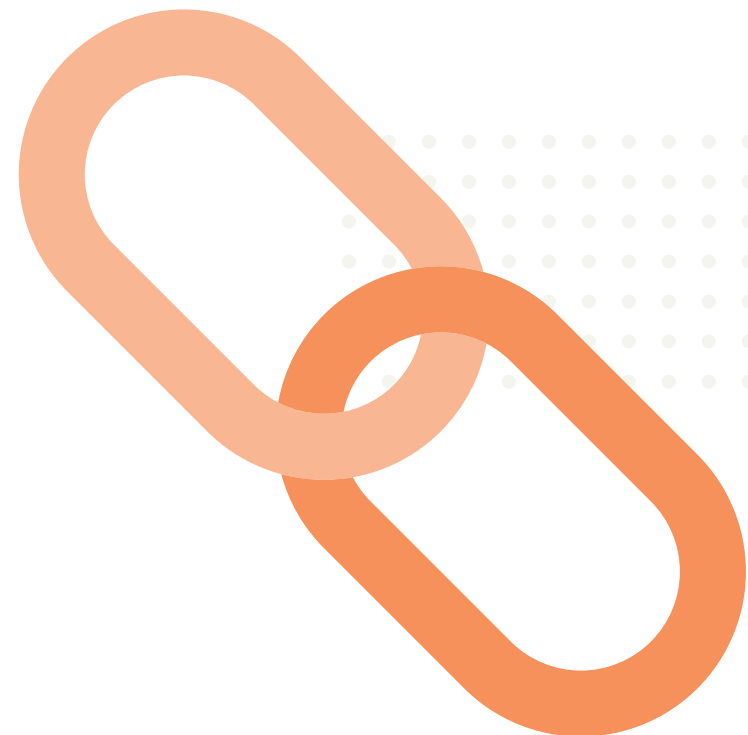
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

816

singles served through **General Assistance**



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SOCIAL SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

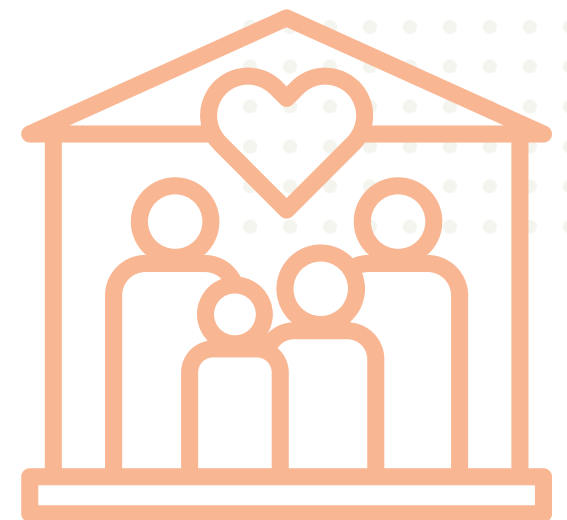
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

690

families provided emergency shelter
through the **Family Shelter**



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SOCIAL SERVICES

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

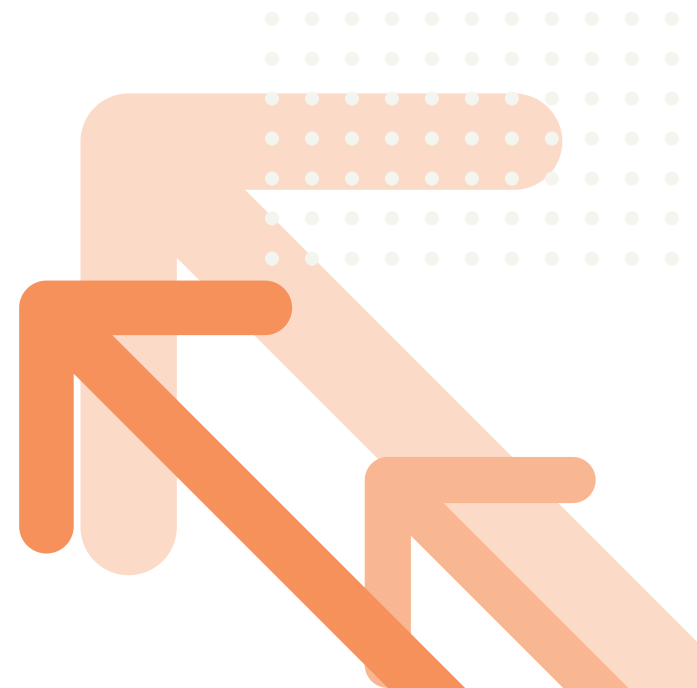
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

76,316

bednights provided to 1,391 individuals
through the **Oxford Street Shelter**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

3,991

children in early childcare centers and 3,842
Portland Public School students reached by
the **Healthy Eating Active Living** program



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

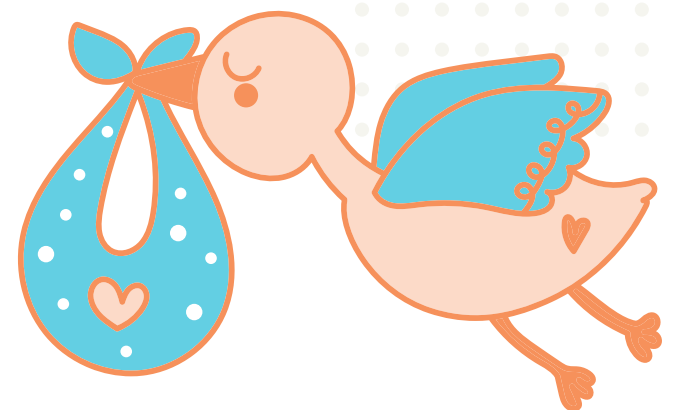
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

1,260

home visits provided by the **Maternal Child Health Program** to residents who are pregnant or have a child under 5 years old



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

1,004

individuals connected to needed care,
education, and resources with support
from the **Health Equity Program**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

544

patients provided comprehensive primary care by the **Portland Community Free Clinic**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

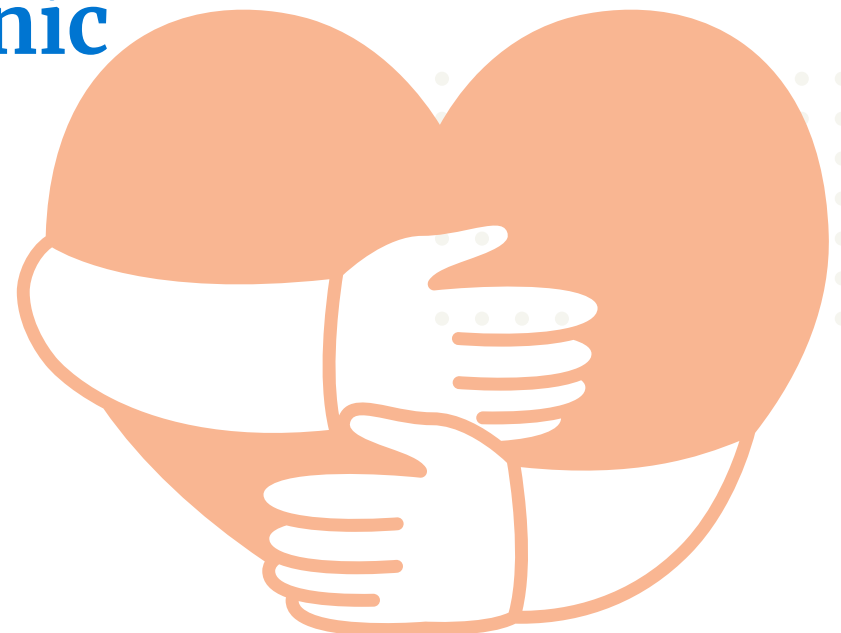
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

787

patients provided comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnosis and treatment by the **STD Clinic**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

566,082

syringes collected and safely disposed of
during **6,107** total exchanges by the **Harm
Reduction Services Program**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT IN PORTLAND DURING FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

26

comprehensive tobacco-free policies passed across Cumberland County, facilitated by the **Tobacco Prevention Program**



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Portland Fire Department Headquarters Office of the Chief of Department

To: Health & Human Services / Public Safety Committee Chair, Councilor Tae Chong
CC: Kristen Dow, Health and Human Services Director
Heath Gorham, Police Chief
Adam Harr, Executive Asst.
From: Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief
Date: September 12, 2022
RE: Update on Fire Department's Response to Overdose Calls

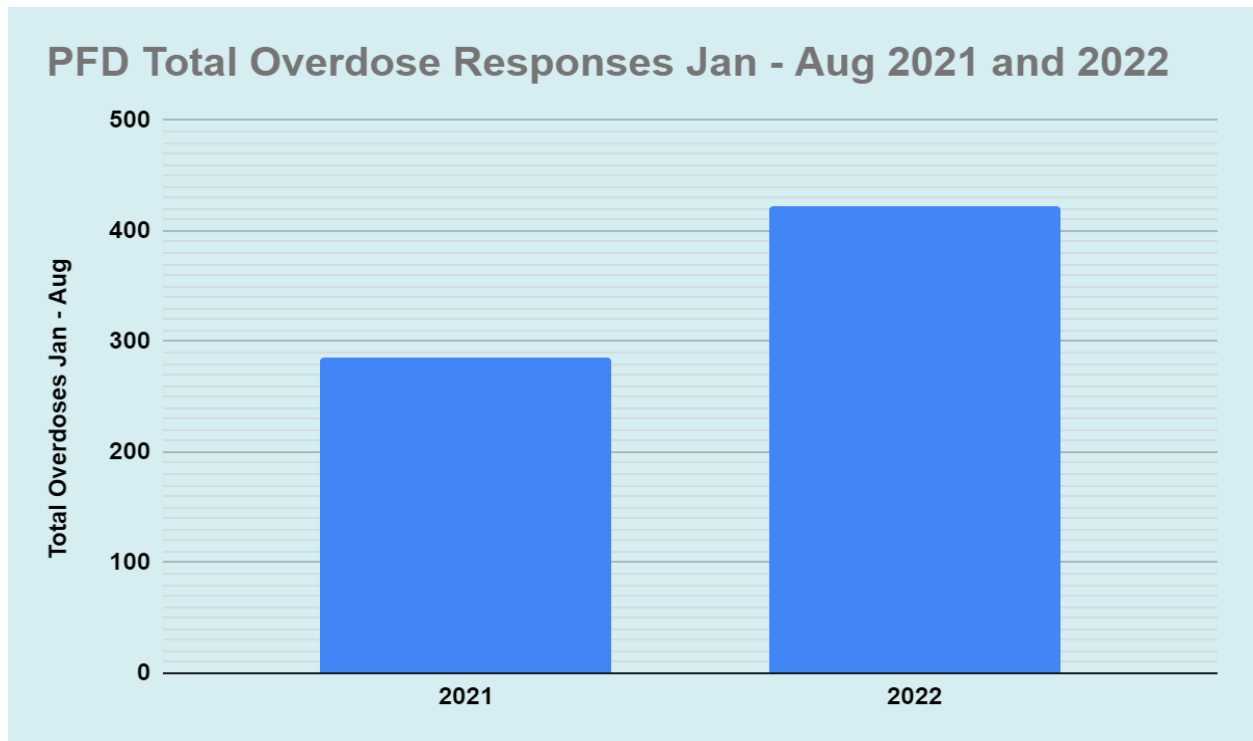
The purpose of the memo is to provide the most recent update on overdoses that the Fire Department has responded to this year.

This report includes overdose information recorded by the Portland Fire Department from January 1st through the end of August for 2021 and 2022. Chart 1 below illustrates the changes in the overdose response from one year to the next. The substances involved in the highest amount of overdoses we responded to are highlighted in red. Of note, are the large increase in overdoses attributed to opioids, presenting either with or without coma. While we continue to respond to many overdoses that are non-opioid, the percentage of our response to these has changed very little from year to year. The highlighted blue line at the bottom of Chart 1 provides the year to date totals, and shows a nearly 50% increase in total overdose responses from 2021 to 2022 in the same time period. This is represented graphically in Chart 2.

Chart 1: Portland Fire Department Overdose Response Comparison

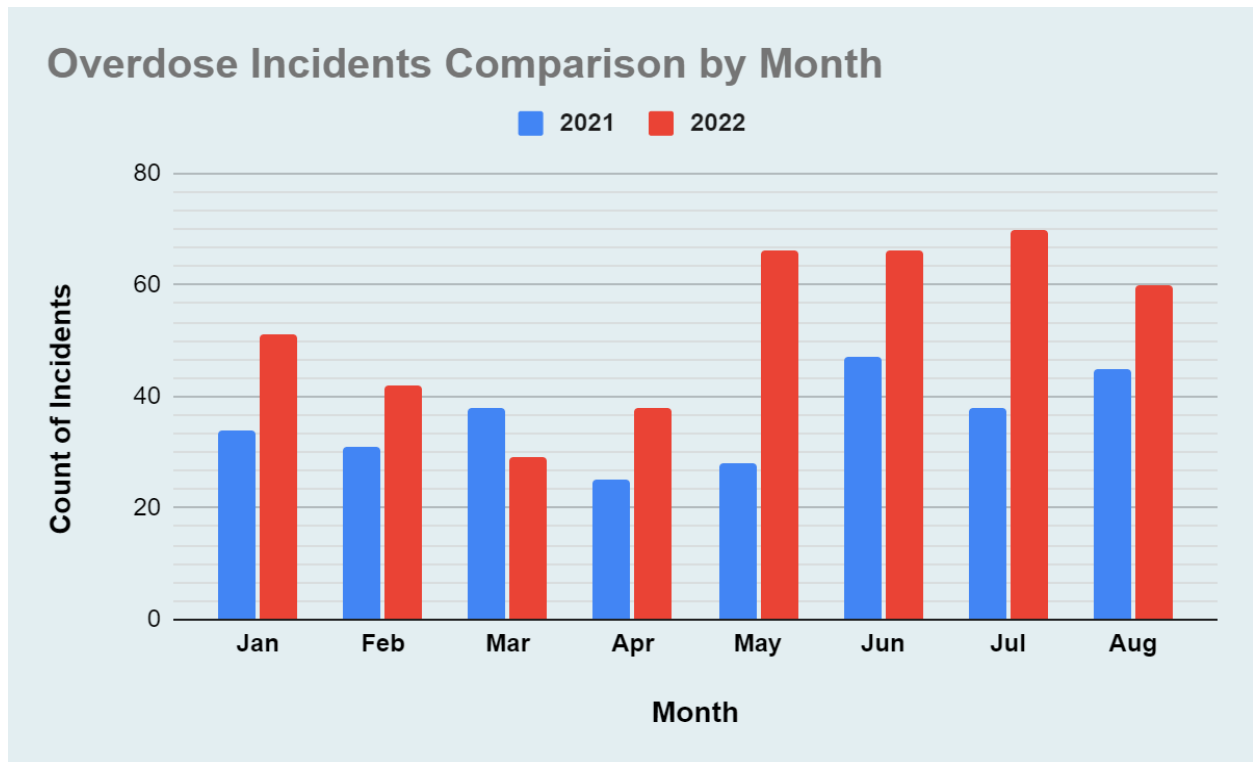
	2021	2022	% Change
Tox - Opioid use - with Coma	85	177	108
Tox - Opioid use - without Coma	46	87	89
Tox - Overdose/Drug Ingestion	137	138	1
All Others	18	20	11
Total Overdoses Jan - Aug	286	422	48

Chart 2



The distribution of calls over the time period examined is illustrated in Chart 3 below. While overdose rates were relatively constant over the first four months, from May through August we have seen a significant average increase of over 60 overdose responses per month in 2022, compared to roughly 40 per month in 2021 for the same time period.

Chart 3



The increase in call volume for overdoses predictably has led to increased transports of overdose patients to area hospitals. Charts 4 and 5 below illustrate the final disposition of the patients we responded to that were suffering from opioid overdose.

Chart 4 pertains to patients who had overdosed and were found to be comatose. There is a significant increase in these patients who were treated by PFD personnel, but then refused transport to the hospital. There is a less significant increase in patients who were treated and then transported, but it is still considerable.

For patients that were not comatose, Chart 5 shows that there was a large increase in those who refused any evaluation and care, and a similar increase in those who were transported.

When combined, the increase in patients that either refused or accepted transport to the hospital for both categories examined is relatively commensurate to the increase in overdoses we responded to overall.

Chart 4

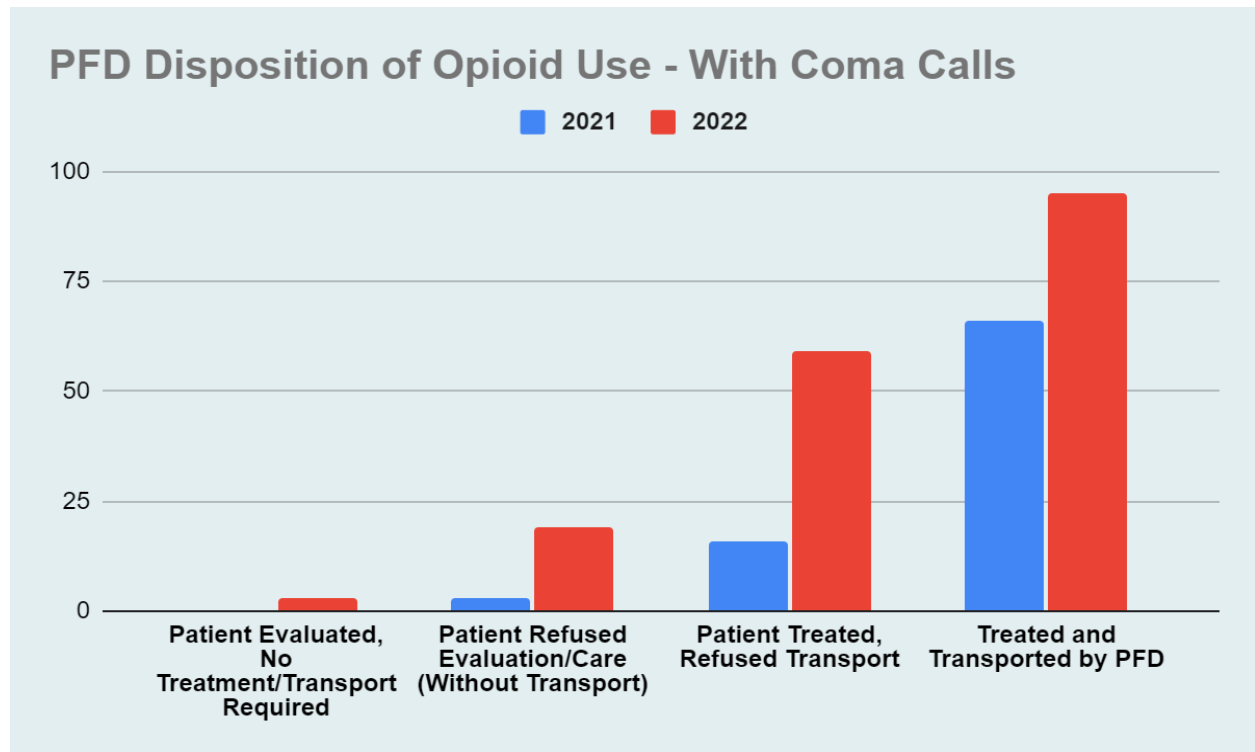
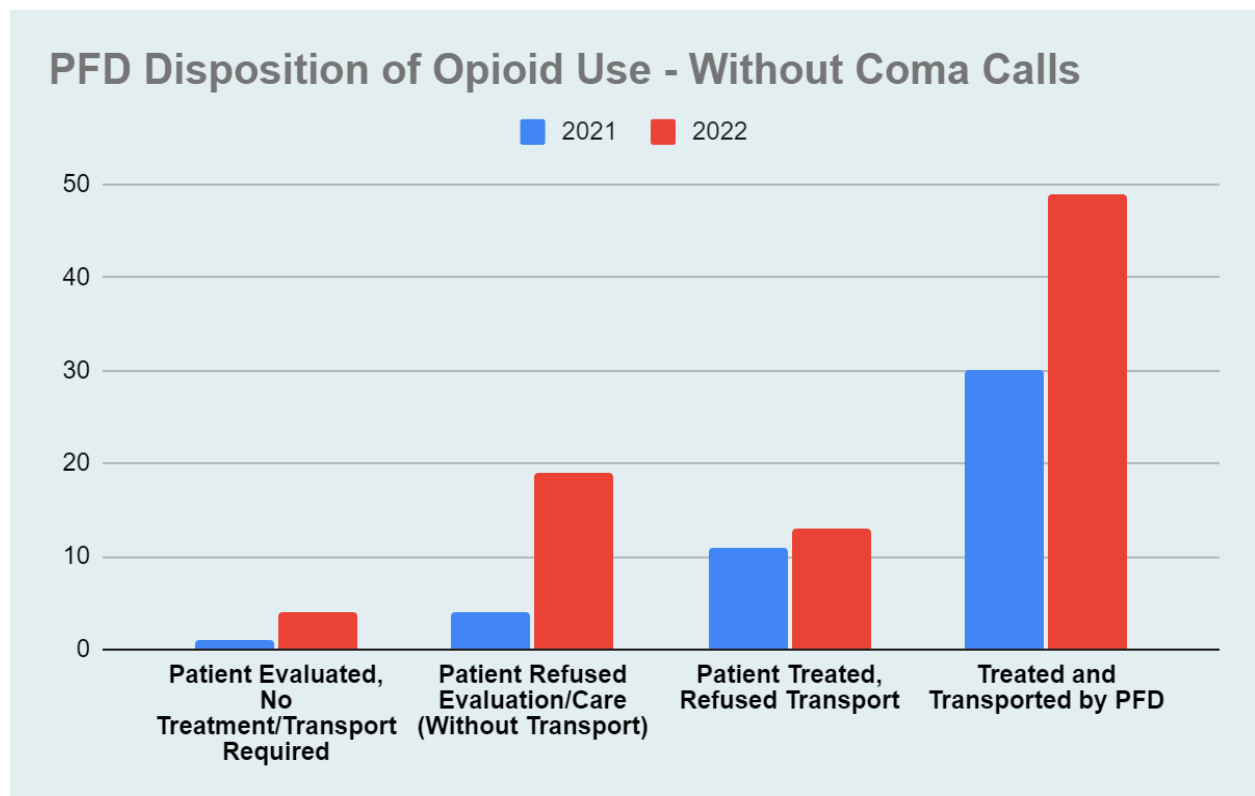


Chart 5



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Gautreau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief
Portland Fire Department

2022 Workplan:

- Advocacy around resettlement of asylum seekers to other communities throughout Maine - in particular towns with large ELL populations or ELL infrastructure
- Advocacy on General Assistance Reform – 211 model – United Way of Greater Portland
- Conference or task force on resettlement – Southern Border experts
- Looking at best practices from other cities that are facing similar homelessness levels – especially asylum seeker populations.
- Educational review of the Police Department best practices – including de-escalation training.
- Needle Exchange Program introduction and communication – what other harm reduction models can city of Portland do.
- Shelter licensing