

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 people 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

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- 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.

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- 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

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- Permanent supportive housing
 - 250 units

Other Business

- Social Services and HHS is under acting/interim leadership
 - o Aaron is acting Social Services Director.
 - o Dawn left and Kristen is Interim Director of HHS and the position is posted.
 - Concern it was not well Publicized.
 - Noted:
 - o Announced to staff six weeks in advance and at a HHS & Public Safety Committee meeting.
 - o 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.
 - o Amanda to email current budget and last year's action plan
 - o Would like feedback for this year's action plan