

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

**Thursday, May 16, 2019
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
 - a. Review and approval of April 18, 2019 Minutes
 - b. Announcements
- 2. HVJ Update**
- 3. Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics & New Slides**
 - a. April 2019 statistics.
- 4. LTS Update**
- 5. Federal, State and Local Legislation**
 - a. May policy update.
- 6. Other Business**

Next Meeting

**Thursday, June 20, 2019
Time: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Location: One City Center**

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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Social Services Division
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Social Services Division
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Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, April 18, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
George Rheault	Bayside Resident
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown
Jim Divine	HVJ
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Nora Flaherty	Maine Public Radio

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Sara Fleurant	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
Sarah Michniewicz	Resident

Announcements & Minutes

- George Rheault expressed concern on how the leadership changes were captured in the minutes and contested it was announced publicly.
 - the six-week announcement wasn't said in the meeting and should be marked as 'noted.'
 - David MacLean is still listed as Director on the City website
 - Aaron is acting director of Social Services.
- Motion made to approve the minutes as amended.

Amendments:

- Clarifying Kristen Dow is interim director if HHS and Aaron Geyer is Acting Director of Social Services.
- Noted: Announced six weeks in advance and at an HHS meeting prior to Dawn stepping down.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

HVJ

- Act to Improve the Lives of People experiencing homelessness
- 4/20/2019 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM outreach and informational meeting at the Irish Heritage Center
- Homeless Services Center Location:
 - Narrowed to Riverside Industrial Park and Angelo's Acre
 - Serious Concerns
 - Distance and accessibility of Riverside
 - Angelo's Acre is preferred among the two
 - Many locations seemed to be eliminated quickly.
 - Event similar to the candidates forum
 - HHS Committee members are invited to discuss them
 - June Summer Solstice Vigil
 - Location TBD
 - Past locations Tommy's Park and City Hall

March Statistics

- Available Here: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/986>
- Overall numbers are down
- OSS intakes appear normal with fewer out of country intakes.
- Overall intakes are slightly.
- Housing placements are down compared to last year.

Warming Center

- Down compared to last year
- Have not seen the high numbers of the 150 individuals warned by to be coming north.

Overall Statistics

- People sit in chairs and later get a bed; they are counted to have a bed night.
- People who start in a bed and then leave early are not counted as a bed night.
- People are considered by check-in
 - People are only checked-in once and are not counted twice.
- Leah Bruns of MaineHousing noted how high the permanent housing statistics are for the Family Shelter and the Oxford Street Shelter.
 - Jeff said it is mostly thanks to General Assistance. Operating within guidelines allows them to place families into permanent housing.
 - It appears other shelters are underutilizing this resource.
 - The money policy at the Family Shelter where all funds must be exhausted to try and mitigate homelessness first sets people up to comply with General Assistance guidelines on misspent funds.
- OSS housing placements: 7 Long Term Stayers housed and 4 non-LTS
 - Mostly housed in Portland.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- Family Shelter
 - PCSF funding the gap between duration of stay and I-589 receipt influencing housing placements
 - There are some donations that can be authorized.
 - Families from Al-Paso have A numbers but are not paroled.
 - City of Portland has considered them in the GAP
 - Have ankle monitors but are not considered paroled.
 - Maybe no I-94
 - These can be looked up.
 - Possible due to staff not understanding?
 - GPPF meeting with City Councilors to discuss.
 - PCSF may be more flexible

Preble Street 40 Ben Healing Center for Women

- The center is in the early planning stages
- Focus group results will be sent to the group
 - The brain storm session happened March 20th.
- Florence House is not closing.
- It will be located at 55 Portland Street in the former Public Works administration building.
 - Mark or Fiona will have more information.
 - Reiche bought the building
- Is the vision leaning to more transitional housing or emergency shelter?
 - It is preliminary but may include treatment.

LTS

- 244 housed in 4 years
 - 94.35% success rate

Legislative Update

<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/GenFile.aspx?ad=1624>

Federal

- No new updates from last month

State

- LD1201: Low Barrier perm. Rental subsidy for LTS
 - MaineHousing opposed it
 - Combined with LD613
 - Improvements to BRAP
 - DHHS. MaineHousing and the bill's sponsor support it.
 - 250 subsidies from BRAP will be targeted to Long Term Stayers.
 - 125 will be low barrier
 - Easier for PATH workers to house people sleeping out

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o Paper work would be needed 30 days after being housed.
 - Many voted “ought not to pass”
- LD1318: increase access to housing and support services
 - o Waiver to support services
- LD1523: Act to insure quality and increase access to recovery services
 - o Not past last time
 - o Recovery residences up to standards
 - o \$500,000 note for rental subsidies for people with substance use disorders.
 - Recover houses do not have normal leasing due to the expediency of move-ins and move-outs.
 - o Many in homeless community do not have the money to access recovery residences.
 - o Cullen asked is ESAC would like to be listed support LD1523
 - Norm made a MOTION and Christina seconded; MOTION PASSED.
- LD1294: No Updates

Next Meeting is May 16th at 9:00 AM

PORTLAND HOMELESS SHELTERS

Average Total Number of Individuals Residing in Shelters per Night:

	April 2018	April 2019
ADOLESCENTS	14 Individuals	21 Individuals
FAMILIES	209 Individuals 64 Average Families	177 Individuals 58 Average Families
ADULTS	301 Individuals	304 Individuals
Total	523 Individuals	502* Individuals

30 Days in the Month of April

*502.7 nightly average; appears as 503 on slide 7.

OXFORD STREET SHELTER

April 2019

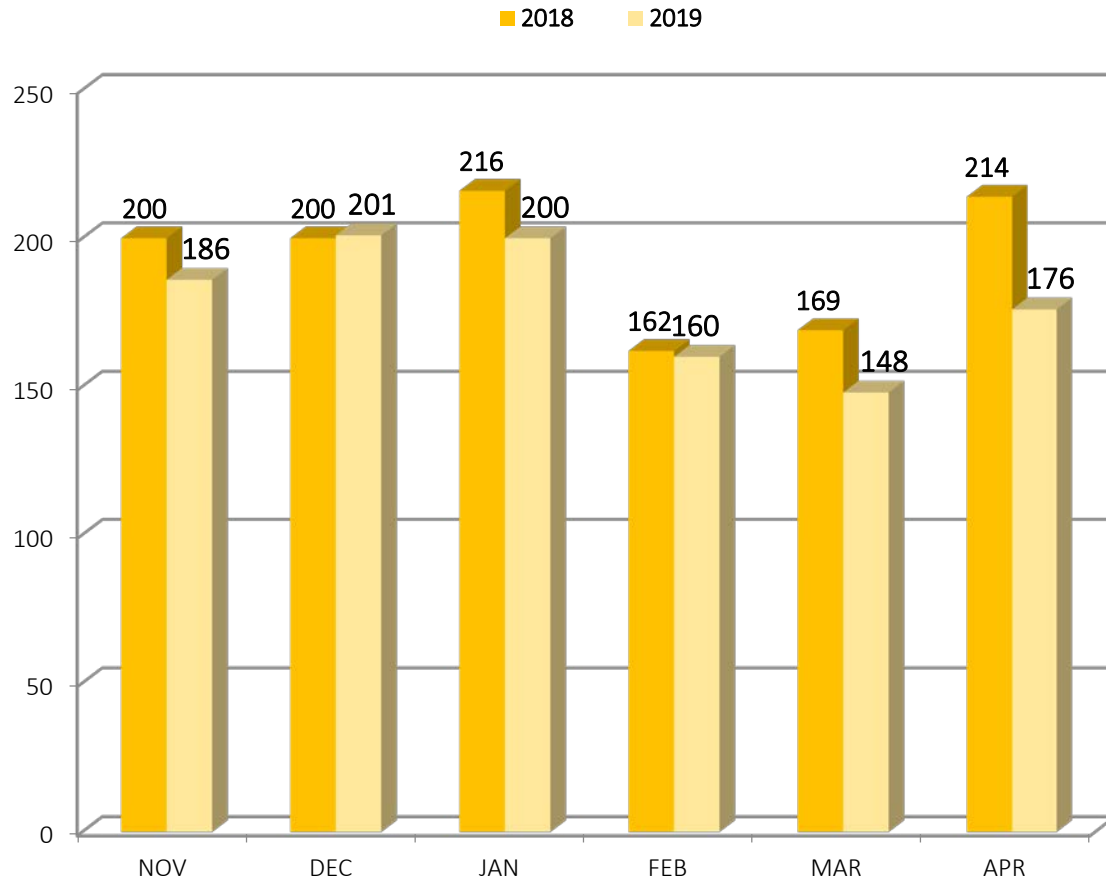
Intakes by Residency

MAINE TOWN						OUT-OF-STATE				OUT-OF-COUNTRY				
Auburn	1	Gorham	1	Rockland	1	AZ	5	NY	1	Angola	8			
Bangor	7	Hallowell	1	Rumford	1	CO	2	PA	2	Brazil	1			
Belgrade	1	Hiram	1	Sanford	1	CT	1	TX	3	DRC	5			
Berwick	1	Holden	1	Skowhegan	1	FL	3	VA	1	Gabon	1			
Biddeford	3	Indian Island	1	South Portland	5	IN	1	WI	1	Rwanda	1			
Brunswick	2	Lewiston	2	Springvale	1	LA	1			South Africa	1			
Chesterville	1	Lincoln	1	Warren	1	MA	3							
Eagle Lake	1	Lyman	1	Waterville	1	MD	1							
Ellsworth	1	New Vineyard	1	Wellington	1	MI	1							
Falmouth	1	OOB	2	Westbrook	3	MO	2							
Fryeburg	1	Perry	1	Windham	1	NC	3							
MAINE TOWN:		51	OUT-OF-STATE:		31	OUT-OF-COUNTRY:		17	PORTLAND:	25	Unknown:		TOTAL:	124

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

April 2019

SHELTER INTAKES BY MONTH



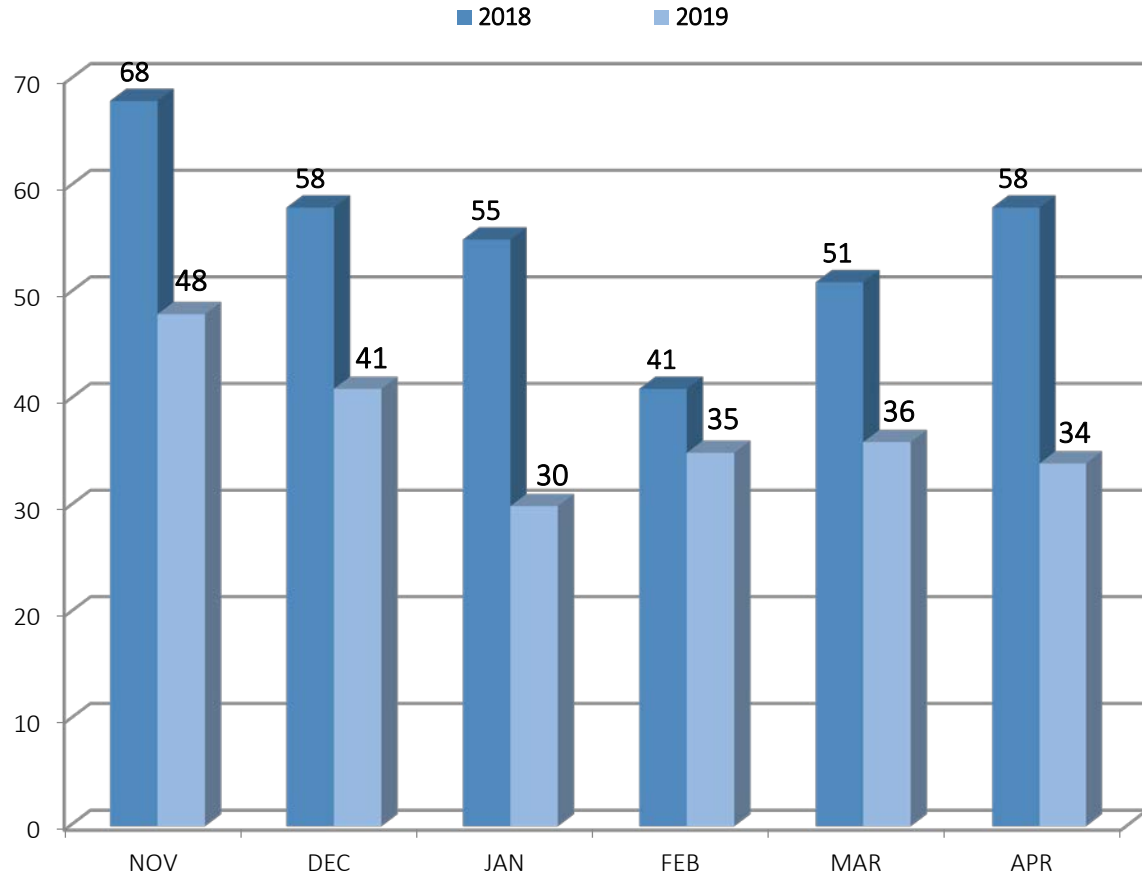
	APRIL INTAKES
Through These Doors*	0
Family Shelter*	17/53
Joe Kreisler	9
Milestone	9
Oxford Street (Men)	90
Oxford Street (Women)	34
Florence House	17
TOTAL	176

*Family statistics are written by the number of families followed by the number of people those families represent: cases/individuals

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

April 2019

HOUSING PLACEMENTS BY MONTH



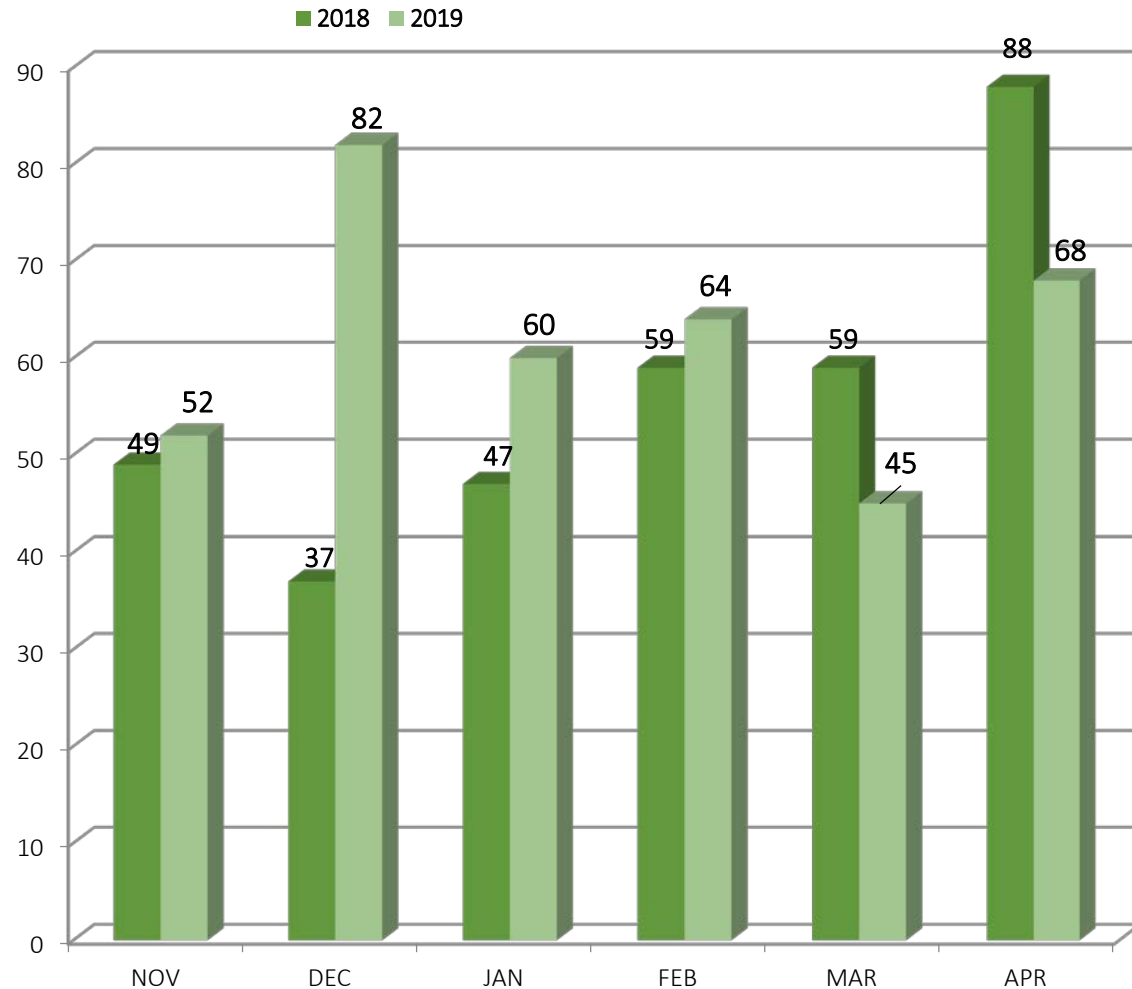
*Starting November, 2013, Oxford Street Shelter shifted prioritization of housing placements to their 30 longest-term stayers.

	TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	TRANSITIONAL	PERMANENT
Through These Doors	1		1
Family Shelter	15/50		15/50
Joe Kreisler	7	2	5
Milestone	3		3
Oxford Street (Men)	7		7
Oxford Street (Women)	0		0
Florence House	1		1
TOTAL	34	2	32

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE

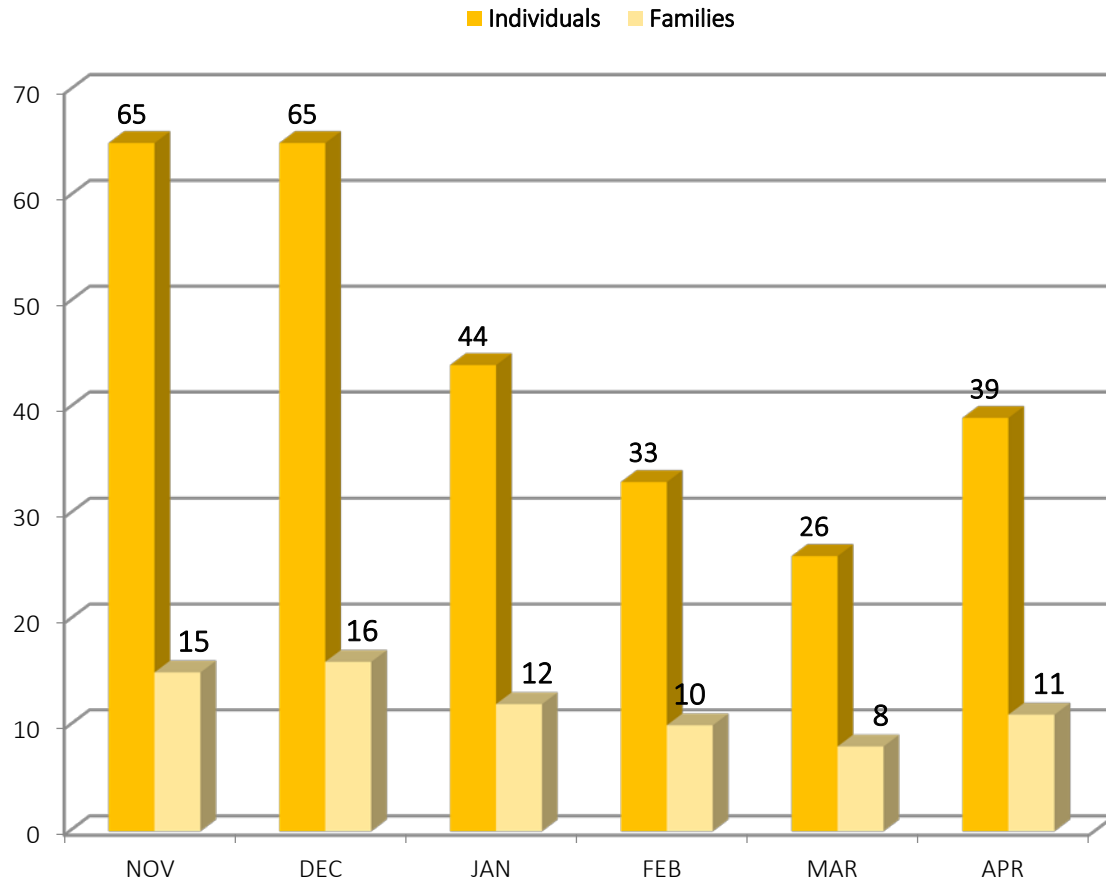
April 2019

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%
Family Shelter	16/51	24% (50%)
Joe Kreisler	6	9% (6%)
Milestone	2	3% (2%)
Oxford Street (Men)	32	47% (31%)
Oxford Street (Women)	8	12% (8%)
Florence House	4	6% (4%)
TOTAL	68 (103)	100%

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



Warming Center Location	Nights Used
Family Shelter only	2
Salvation Army only	28
FS & SA	
FS & Yarmouth	
FS & Preble	
FS & GA	

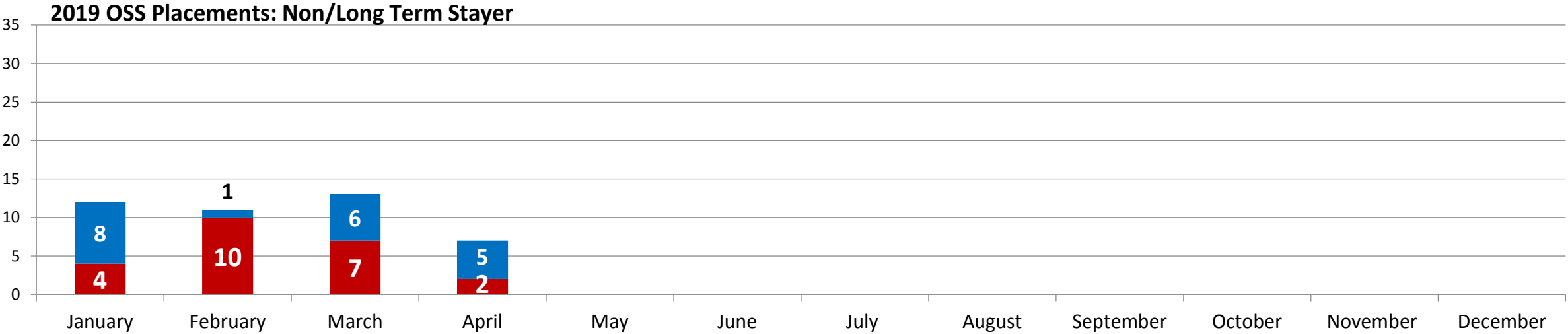
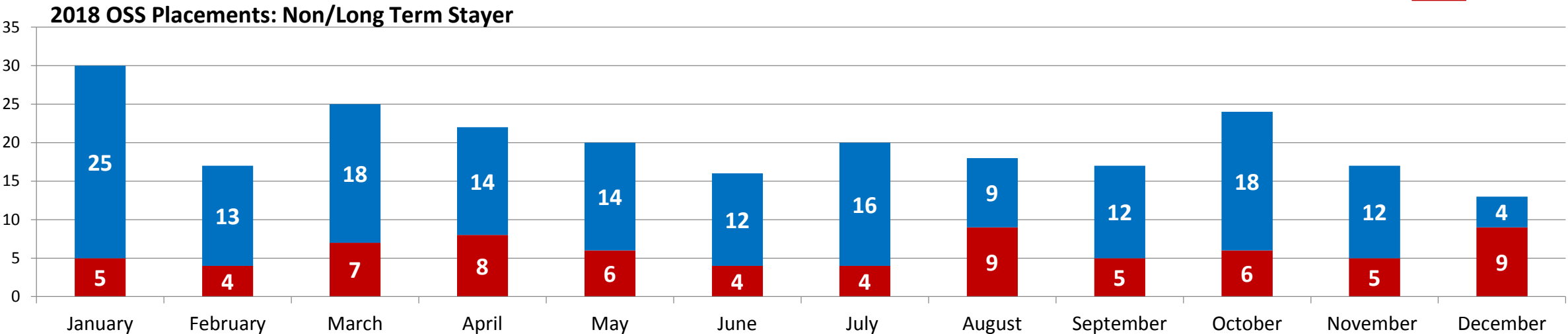
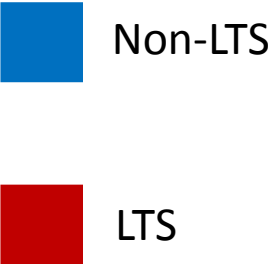
Date	Families	Individuals
1	16	46
2	15	44
3	15	38
4	15	38
5	12	34
6	12	34
7	12	34
8	13	36
9	8	22
10	9	27
11	8	25
12	7	21
13	6	19
14	8	27
15	9	31
16	9	31
17	8	31
18	9	33
19	8	31
20	9	35
21	11	41
22	14	55
23	15	59
24	14	53
25	12	50
26	12	50
27	13	53
28	13	53
29	14	55
30	15	57

PORTLAND, CITY-WIDE April 2019 SHELTER COUNT BY NIGHT

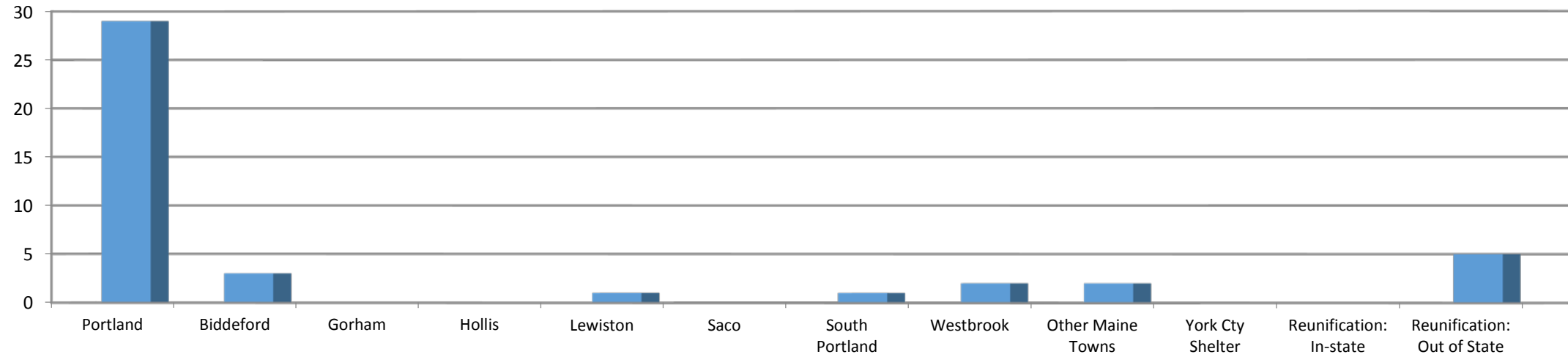
On April 23:
534
individuals
(including families)
were utilizing shelter services in
Portland

Calendar Day	Through These Door	Family Shelter	Florence House	Joe Kreisler	Milestone	OSS Beds	OSS Chairs	Total Bed Nights
1	11	182	39	24	27	236	0	519
2	10	180	40	24	39	236	0	529
3	10	175	40	20	36	216	0	497
4	10	170	40	24	38	227	0	509
5	10	153	40	15	44	214	0	476
6	10	153	39	16	42	207	0	467
7	10	153	40	20	43	232	0	498
8	10	155	40	22	40	249	0	516
9	10	146	39	23	43	231	0	492
10	10	147	39	24	42	244	0	506
11	10	150	38	22	38	226	0	484
12	10	148	41	23	41	229	0	492
13	10	148	38	18	25	220	0	459
14	10	156	40	21	31	247	0	505
15	10	160	39	24	38	257	0	528
16	10	157	39	21	35	235	0	497
17	11	158	40	20	40	231	0	500
18	12	161	39	21	39	228	0	500
19	10	161	40	23	37	215	0	486
20	10	165	38	18	32	208	0	471
21	10	173	40	19	34	204	0	480
22	10	183	40	22	42	231	0	528
23	10	187	40	21	38	238	0	534
24	10	182	40	24	44	233	0	533
25	10	183	40	21	41	233	0	528
26	10	183	38	18	41	209	0	499
27	10	186	40	17	42	211	0	506
28	10	186	40	21	37	213	0	507
29	10	188	40	24	42	211	0	515
30	10	186	38	22	39	225	0	520
Total*	304	5,015	1,184	632	1,150	6,796	0	15,081
Avg/night*	10	167	39	21	38	227	0	503
Highest*	12	188	41	24	44	257	0	534
Lowest*	10	146	38	15	25	204	0	459

OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA

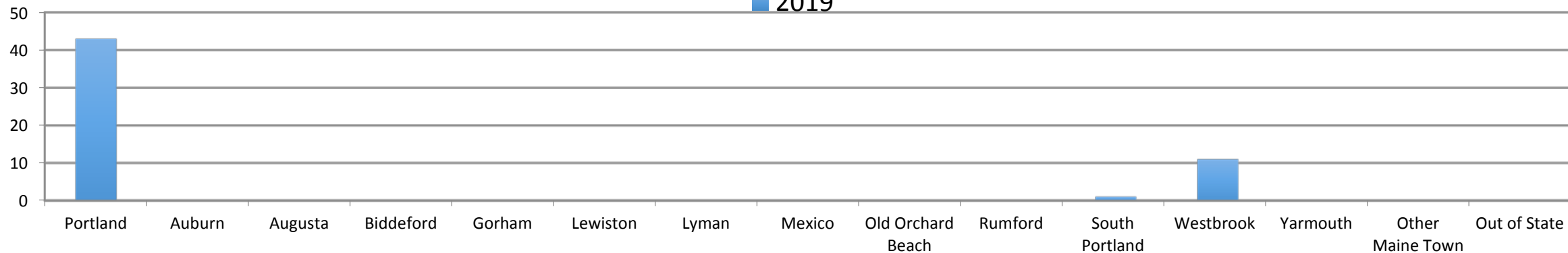


OXFORD STREET SHELTER & COMMUNITY OVERFLOW PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL 2019 HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	%
TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS	12	11	13	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	100%
Portland	8	8	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	67%
Biddeford	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7%
Gorham	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Hollis	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
Lewiston	0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2%
Saco	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%
South Portland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2%
Westbrook	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5%
Other Maine Towns	0	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5%
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	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12%

FAMILY SHELTER
PERMANENT AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA
■ 2019

[illegible]

Policy/Advocacy Update – 5/14/2019

Federal Legislation Update:

FY20 Budget & Appropriations – Update – Congress is working on the FY 20 allocations and 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. The House Appropriations Committee is in the process of releasing subcommittee allocations, which will allocate overall funding with which each subcommittee will have to work for their individual FY 20 appropriations bills.

House Appropriations Labor, HHS, & Education Allocation Would Increase RHYA Funding – New – On 5/7, The House Appropriations Committee released its fiscal year 2020 subcommittee allocations and its report accompanying the fiscal year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, ahead of a scheduled 5/8 markup. With this bill RHYA would be funded at **\$147 million in FY 2020--- a 15% increase from FY 2019**. This would also fund the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (EHCY) at \$100 million---a 7% increase from FY 2019.

HUD Proposed Rule amending implementing of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended (Section 214) – New – The proposed rule, published on 5/10 in the Federal Registrar, would bar U.S. citizens and eligible immigrants from receiving federal housing assistance if they share a home with an immigrant family member who's ineligible due to their immigration status. The proposed rule would also specify that individuals who are not in eligible immigration status may not serve as the leaseholder, even as part of a mixed family whose assistance is prorated based on the percentage of members with eligible status. The current rule allows for mixed-status families; under this new rule, every single member of a household must be of "eligible immigration status." HUD acknowledged that this rule could displace more than 55,000 children, all of whom are legal U.S. residents or citizens. Approximately 25,000 households, representing about 108,000 people, now living in subsidized housing have at least one ineligible member, according to the HUD analysis. Per Diane Yentel with NLIHC: "Tens of thousands of deeply poor kids, mostly U.S. citizens, could be evicted and made homeless because of this rule, and – by HUD's own admission – there would be no benefit to families on the waiting list." There is a 60-day comment period, which closes on 7/9/19. To view the proposed rule and submit comments go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/10/2019-09566/housing-and-community-development-act-of-1980-verification-of-eligible-status>

President Trump's Poverty Policy Proposal – New – Per CBPP: The Trump Administration yesterday [floated a proposal](#) to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. This policy would over time cut or take away food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to. If the [poverty line is altered](#) in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages.

HR 1856: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – No new 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 – No new update – 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 – No new update – 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 – No new update – 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 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers. Content of bill and bill summary not available.

S. 8: Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act – No new update – 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 – No new update – 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. Comments were due 4/2/19.

H.R. 1724: The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019 (HEASHFY) – No new update– 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:

Bills of note: → = change since last report. Upcoming public hearings, if any, are highlighted.

Affordable Housing

- 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. Not reported out by Committee.

Rental Subsidies

- **LD 1523**, An Act To Ensure the Quality of and Increase Access to Recovery Residences – Sen. Bellow. This bill adds definitions of "person recovering from substance use disorder" and "recovery residence" to the laws governing the substance use disorder programs of the Department of Health and Human Services and directs the department to establish a voluntary certification process for recovery residences. It also directs the Maine State Housing Authority to create a pilot project to provide a short-term rental subsidy to a person recovering from substance use disorder to reside in a certified recovery residence that provides medication-assisted treatment. This bill also adds "recovery" to "substance use disorder prevention and treatment" in the context of activities and services under the laws addressing alcohol and drug use. The bill also adds an appropriations and allocations section. **Referred to the HHS Committee. Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee held 4/26; Work Session held Thursday, 5/9, in which the Committee voted OTP as amended.**

Support Services

- → 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, held on 4/9; Work Session held on 4/22 in which there was a divided report. The bill will technically be considered dead; however, there will be a resolve directing DHHS to create a new rule around Section 17 eligibility which will focus more on functionality and less on diagnosis.**
- → **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 held on 4/17; Work Session held 4/25, in which the Committee voted OTP.**
- → **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 held on 4/12; Work Session held 4/25, in which there was a divided report from the Committee.**
- → **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. **The bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House on 5/2, and by the Senate on 5/7. The bill now goes for the Governor's signature.**
- → **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, held on 4/9; Work Session held on 4/22 in which there was a divided report - the majority report is OTP as amended.**

- → **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 held on 4/12; Work Session held 4/25, in which the Committee voted OTP as amended.**
- → **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 held on 4/17; Work Session held 4/25, in which the Committee voted OTP as amended.**

Combination of Housing, Subsidies, and/or Support Services:

- → 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 held 4/8; Work Session held 4/25, in which there was a divided report from the Committee.**

Food Security and Basic Safety Net Assistance:

- → **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 held on 4/12; Work Session held 4/25, in which there was a divided report from the Committee – the Majority Report was OTP as amended.**
- 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 held on 4/2. Work Session held on 4/11, in which there was a divided report from the Committee.**

Other Homelessness Related Bills:

- → **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 was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- **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 held on 4/12; Work Session held 4/25, in which there was a divided report from the Committee – reports are that this bill will be dead but it has not officially been reported out by Committee.**
- → **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 held on 4/1; Work Session scheduled held 5/10 in which the 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 bill was voted passed to be enacted by the House and Senate. The bill is now on the Special Appropriations Table pending passage to be enacted.**
- → **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 held on 4/17; Work Session held on 4/22, in which the Committee voted OTP as amended.**

- → 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. **Public Hearing in front of the Committee held on 5/6; a Work Session has not been scheduled.**
- → 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. **Public Hearing in front of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety held 4/26; Work Session held 4/29, in which the Committee voted OTP as amended.**

Bills voted ONTP in Committee:

- → 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. **There was a work session in front of the HHS Committee on Tuesday, 5/7, in which the Committee voted ONTP at the request of the bill sponsor.**
- 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. **Public Hearing in front of the HHS Committee held 4/8, in which the Committee voted ONTP.**

Bills that are now dead:

- LD 80, An Act To Create the Department of Substance Use Disorder Services – Rep. Perry.
- LD 964, Resolve, To Study Housing Options for Persons with Mental Health Challenges and Substance Use Disorder – Rep. Beebe-Center.
- LD 447, An Act Regarding the Substance Abuse Disorder Continuum of Care – Sen. Geoff Gratwick.
- LD 578, Resolve, To Create a Pilot Program to Assist the Transition to Recovery of Persons Suffering from Opioid Use Disorder – Rep. Patty Hymanson.
- LD 591, An Act To Create Flexibility in Affordable Housing Calculations – Rep. Mike Sylvester.
- LD 683, An Act to Provide Social Workers to Persons with Mental Illness to Help Them Avoid Incarceration – Rep. Craven.
- LD 730, An Act To Create the Substance Use Disorders Cabinet – Rep. Patty Hymanson.
- LD 808, An Act to Create a Youth Wage – Sen. Timberlake.