

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, April 18, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
George Rheault	Bayside Resident	Sara Fleurant	City of Portland
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Leah Bruns	MaineHousing
Ginny Dill	Shalom House	Sara Ewing-Merril	GP Family Promise
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Jeff Tardif	City Of Portland Family Shelter
Jim Divine	HVJ	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
Cullen Ryan	CHOM	Sarah Michniewicz	Resident
Nora Flaherty	Maine Public Radio		

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.

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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.

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- 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

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- 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