

**Remote HHS and Public Safety
Meeting Agenda**
October 17, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Remote Meeting



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, At-Large, Chair
Councilor Anna Trevorow, District 1
Councilor Victoria Pelletier, District 2

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.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 17, 2023 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Remote HHS and Public Safety Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/89183011223?pwd=WkpQS1FGcVZlMFdGa1pSSTljQ3RwZz09>

Passcode: 914990

Or One tap mobile :

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Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

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Webinar ID: 891 8301 1223

Passcode: 914990

1. Announcements
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2023
 - a. September 19, 2023 Draft Minutes
3. Cold Weather Plan for Winter
 - a. Staff presentation
4. Encampments
 - a. ECRT Updates
 - b. Preble Street Recommendations
 - c. Review what the committee can do in longer term planning.
5. Committee Work Plan Review
 - a. Public Health
 - i. Education around Crisis Pregnancy Centers
 - ii. Chapter 35
 - iii. Safe Injection Sites
 - b. Social Services
 - i. Opening the HSC
 - ii. Encampments
 - c. Public Safety
 - i. Camping and encampments
 - ii. Dispatch Center
Staffing
 - d. Staff Priorities.
6. Next Meeting



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance: April Fournier, Chair (At-large), Anna Trevorrow (District 1), Victoria Pelletier (District 2).

City Staff:

Kristen Dow, Director of HHS; Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Social Services; Amy McNally, Associate Corporation Counsel; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Jessica Hanscomb, Director of Permitting and Inspections; Mark Dubois, Police Chief; Nicole Albert, Associate Corporation Counsel

Announcements

- Councilor Fournier announced the rules for public comment.
 - One comment per item.
 - State name, address, and organizational affiliation.
 - Must pertain to the item at hand.
 - 3 minutes per comment.
 - Will receive one warning.
- Review and approval of minutes.
 - Counselor Trevorrow and seconded by councilor Pelletier.
 - The minutes were approved unanimously 3 – 0.

Draft Resolution for Psychedelic Plants and Fungi

- Proposal brought to committee last year to deprioritize law enforcement of Psychedelic Plants and Fungi.
- Amendments
 - Add non-psychedelic mescaline containing cacti.
 - Change to plant centered language not chemical centered language.
 - Adds back language that decriminalizes cultivation and sharing.
 - Discourage from entering the black market to obtain substances.
 - Encourages safer, cultural and communal use.
- Public Comment
 - In support:
 - Mark Barnett of Auburn and owner of Higher Grounds, a regulated medical cannabis store: amendments sound great and we need to recognize people are using these substances already. They support decriminalization before commercialization to help people understand the products and avoid regulatory capture.
 - Selma Holden, MD of Freeport, represents the Riverbird Clinic and is a professor at UNE: They offer Ketamine-Assisted Therapy at the Riverbird Clinic. People are already illegally using naturally occurring psychedelics to treat various conditions. The social risk is much greater than medical or addiction risk. When administered in the right set and setting they do not cause lasting psychosis and have a health benefit when not operating in the shadows of fear.
 - Aaron Parker, Interim Director of Decriminalize Maine: Decriminalization support harm reduction; threat of prosecution increases risk of harm. Bringing it out of the shadows supports a supply that is safe and local and support adding the sharing and cultivation amendments. The medicalized model is out of reach for poor people and the decriminalization model also benefits the well.
 - Weny Chapkis, Parkside resident and Sociologist at USM, and board member of Decriminalize Maine thanked HHS&PS for taking this issue. People in Portland are already taking plant medicines like mushrooms. While not dangerous for addiction they are powerful and should be taken in the right environment. There are people who should be using these plants but aren't like older adults facing end of life anxiety. They are proud of the leadership the City has shown on various issues such as this that the City is leading on. The grow, gather, and give model is better than commercialization and asks that this pass out of committee.
 - No comments against.

Committee questions and discussion.

- Councilor Trevorrow

Committee action

- Councilor Trevorrow moved the resolution as amended out of committee to the full council. Councilor Pelletier seconded.
 - Discussion
 - Councilor Fournier support moving it forward and thanked the community for their patience.
 - Councilor Pelletier agreed and said how it pairs with our racial equity goals. She thanked Decriminalize Maine for their patience as it has been in the committee for 1 year.
 - If this is voted on the full council, Director Dow would like Corporation Counsel to research of the resolution has language that would jeopardize federal funding.
 - Vote
 - The resolution passed unanimously as amended 3 – 0.

Chapter 35

- Law went into effect in July that changed state Cannabis laws.
 - Provides that a municipality may not prohibit delivery of adult use cannabis.
 - Changes proposed will allow us to come into compliance with State law and follow the previous item's timeline with an emergency action on the second read.
- Councilor Trevorrow moved to take up the item and seconded by Counselor Pelletier
 - Public comment
 - Mark Barnett of Higher Grounds supports the general approach to addressing delivery. This would affect the businesses who are current licensed to deliver in Portland and hopes that it fixes what's broken without adding new complexity and does not like the rule that licensed delivery require 2 people; unlicensed delivery from outside of Portland can deliver in Portland without a second person. It is uneconomic to compete with outside businesses that do not need a second person. There are thousands of delivery every day in Maine with no danger or crime. The states rules for adult use are wild and the council should lessen the impact of them such as the invasion of privacy.
- Councilor Trevorrow asked if there is a time crunch on this item to go into state

compliance or can we spend time addressing the concerns brought up in Public comment.

- Is it possible to bring this to the next meeting then pass on an emergency basis at the council?
 - Yes, if the council chooses.
- Can the meeting be moved to October 3, 2023?
 - The meeting is already rescheduled on the 17th.
 - The committee could vote those out of committee and the amendments addressing the other concerns could be addressed by amendment on the 10/16 council meeting.
 - If moved forward it would go for a first read on October 2nd,
 - Second read and emergency action would be on 10/16
 - State law goes into effect 10/25
- Vote
 - Approved unanimously 3 – 0.
- The committee will prepare amendments for the full council meeting.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2023

- Cold Weather plan for winter
 - Warming Centers
- Encampments
 - ECRT Updates
 - Preble Street Recommendations
 - Review what the committee can do in longer term planning.
- Committee Work Plan Review
 - Public Health
 - Education around Crisis Pregnancy Centers

- Chapter 35
- Safe Injection Sites
- Social Services
 - Opening the HSC
 - Encampments
- Public Safety
 - Camping and encampments
 - Dispatch Center
 - Staffing
- Staff Priorities.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:28 PM.

DRAFT



Portland's Homeless Winter Emergency Response Plan

NOVEMBER 2023-MARCH 2024

Homeless Winter Emergency Response Plan

The City's Cold Weather Operations and Shelter process includes outreach services and warming stations with activation of key partners with a specific threshold for the months of November to March when daily high apparent temperature is 20 degrees and below or snow accumulation of more than 10 inches.

Warming Shelters:

Main Location:

Information will be added once funding is approved/received from MaineHousing

Outreach Efforts

Through partnerships with nonprofit agencies, volunteer groups, and various departments within the city, cold weather operations efforts include increased outreach activities, additional day space and warming stations.

Participating Organizations:

- Greater Portland Peer Services
- The Opportunity Alliance
- Commonsense
- Police Department
- Spurwink
- Mobile Medical Outreach
- Greater Portland Health
- Milestone
- MMC-PS Learning Collaborative
- Grace Street Ministries
- Preble Street
- Portland Health & Human Services
- First Parish Church

Shelter Access

Shelter Name	Population Served	Contact Information
City of Portland Family Shelter	Family	207-482-5205
City of Portland Homeless Services Center	General - Adults	207-761-2072
Milestone	General - Men	207-775-4790 x117
Preble Street - Florence House	General - Women	207-775-0026
Preble Street - Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter	Youth	207-874-1197
Through These Doors	Survivors of Domestic Violence	800-537-6066
Elena's Way	Unsheltered men & women	207-956-6550

For information on other shelters or resources in your area, dial 2-1-1

If an Emergency, Call **911**

Winter Emergency Response Activation and Communications Plan

Activation Threshold	<i>Daily High Apparent Temperature of 20 degrees or Snow Accumulation of More Than 10 inches</i>
Alert Schedule	<i>Alert will be shared 48 hours in advance of the Winter Emergency</i>

Initiating Emergency Response

Activity	Agency	Contact	Email
<i>Monitoring inclement weather events</i>	City of Portland	Caity Hager	chager@portlandmaine.gov
<i>Declaring/ending cold weather advisory</i>	City of Portland	Caity Hager	chager@portlandmaine.gov

Communications Plan: The City of Portland Emergency Management Coordinator will send e-mail notification to the following partners at least 48 hours before the plan activation criteria are forecasted to begin

Essential Partners	Communication Method	Lead (Name/Email)
Homeless services providers	Email	will use contacts in list below
Police and fire departments	Email	Fire Chief Gatureau and Police Chief Dubois, kng@portlandmaine.gov, mdubois@portlandmaine.gov
Emergency management	Email	Cumberland County EMA, ccema_eoc@cumberlandcounty.org
Public health department	Email	Bridget Rauscher , bridget.rauscher@portlandmaine.gov
Health centers	Email	GPH, Preble Street Learning Collaborative, Portland Public Health clinic (using contacts below)
Warming center location	Email - TBD	TBD
General public	Local radio stations Press release Social media	Jessica Grondin

Roles and Responsibilities

Activity: <i>Shelter</i>	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
HSC	City of Portland	Josh Ruitto	jjr@portlandmaine.gov
Florence	Preble Street	Emma Donnelly	edonnelly@preblestreet.org 775-0026 x 1424

Emergency Warming Shelter	Greater Portland Peer Services	Ben Skillings	ben@gppsme.org 807-0257
Milestone	Milestone	HOME Team	838-8904
Teen Shelter	Preble Street	Kiersten Mulcahy	874-1197
Elena's Way	Preble Street	Henry Myer	hmyer@preblestreet.org 615-5412
Activity: Food Access	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
PS Food Program	Preble Street	Donna Yellen	dyellen@preblestreet.org
Activity: Transportation	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
Home Team Van	Milestone	Joe McNally	jmcnally@milestone-recovery.org
Activity: Behavioral Health Outreach	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
PATH	The Opportunity Alliance	Karen Turgeon	590-3379
Spurwink ACT	Spurwink	Megan DuEast	615-5875
Activity: Medical Outreach	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
Street Medicine	Greater Portland Health	Kevin Sullivan and Anna McInerney	874-2141 Ksullivan@greaterportlandhealth.org Amcinerney@greaterportlandhealth.org
LC Outreach	Learning Collaborative	Lindsay Gammon	Lindsey.Gammon@mainehealth.org 661-4705
Activity: Peer Support	Agency	Contact	Email, Phone
Peer Support	Commonspace	Keith Arvanitis	773-1956
Peer Support	Greater Portland Peer Services	Ben Skillings	ben@gppsme.org 807-0257
Peer Support	Church of Safe Injection	Jess Falero	550-7274

Small spaces for warmth during the day

Location	Individuals Served	Agency	Contact
The Perry Center at 103 India St	All adults	Commonspace	773-1956
PATH Conference Space	Path clients/those unconnected to care	The Opportunity Alliance	409-3355

Spurwink Waiting Room	Current Spurwink clients	Spurwink		773-7811
Milestone	Shelter clients	Milestone		775-4790 x117
Bayside Clinic	GPH patients	Greater Portland Health		874-2188
Learning Collaborative	LC patients	MMC-PS		661-4705
Preble Street Outreach Office	PS clients	Preble Street		775-0026 x1880
Library	All	Portland Public Library		874-1700