

**Remote HHS and Public Safety
Meeting Agenda**
November 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM
Remote Meeting



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, At-Large, Chair
Councilor Anna Trevorrow, 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.

Hi there,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Nov 14, 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/87426110970?pwd=ZnR3bVNUbnhWaWxXODBXdWdkY0xnUT09>

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International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/kdKxWvh44n>

1. Announcements
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 10, 2023
 - a. October 17, 2023 Draft Minutes
3. Warming Centers Updates
 - a. Homeless Winter Emergency Response Plan
4. Harborview and Other Encampment Updates
5. Next Meeting: January 9, 2023



Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

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

City Staff:

Adam Harr, Executive Assistant for Social Services; Counsel; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Dubois, Police Chief; Caity Hager, Emergency Management Coordinator

Announcements

- Review and approval of minutes.
 - Counselor Trevorow moved to approve the minutes and seconded by councilor Pelletier.
 - The minutes were approved unanimously 3 – 0.

Warming Center

- Location is to be determined waiting on funding to be approved from MaineHousing.
 - Should be space for 150 people.
- The warming center plan mirrors the plan from two years ago but has a temperature trigger of 20 degree apparent temperature; this is a the apparent temperature which includes wind chill data that would not be available before 2 days in advance.
- Grace Street Ministries and Greater Portland Peer services have applied for funding to staff the warming centers.
- Notification will go out to all partners to initiate their staffing and food.

Committee questions and discussion.

- Is there a public notification across social media platforms that would reach the unsheltered members of the public?
 - Staff will follow up on notifications for the general public and any thresholds for further targeted notice.
 - Councilor Pelletier asked if there can be flyers posted to let people and businesses know there are warming shelters available.
 - Civic Plus can create notification groups for targeted alerts and staff can create flyers.
 - Is there someone we should advise people to call when the public sees someone lying down outside in severe cold weather.
 - 911 should be called and both Police and Fire would respond for the immediate safety of the individual and longer term emergency shelter if the severe weather will last several days.
 - Can the Hospitals be added to the warming center trigger to divert people to the emergency shelters if they only need shelter and not medical intervention? With the threshold increased to 20 degrees we will see them activated more frequently.
 - Give emergency departments notice of warming centers so they are used appropriately and not for emergency shelter.
 - This plan will be updated with the life safety capacity number per site.

Encampments

- HUD Technical Assistance, Hannah Roberts, will be here tomorrow and Thursday.
- Will follow up on the State's involvement.
- Attempting costing were the ECRT to continue outside of existing staffing.
- There has not been a change in crime levels with increased patrols.
 - Responding to many overdoses with Narcan administered.
 - Patrols are noon to midnight.
 - Mobile medical outreach is there.

Committee Questions and Discussion

- Noon to midnight patrols are across encampments.
- Preble Street recommendations.
 - The after action report addresses many of the recommendations.
 - What are the funding items we should be advocating for in the budget?
- How can the committee be helpful?
- Can we get detailed information on barriers to shelter: What are we responding to, how are we responding and what is that doing?
- Encampments: detailed information on barriers to coming into shelter. Committee and HHS&PS staff leadership Including City Manager West to meet before the November committee meeting to discuss what this committee can do and pass that along to the full Council.

- Update on discussion for finding additional capacity.

Committee Workplan

- Public Health:
 - Education round Criss Pregnancy Centers; did good work with Public Health and Corporation Counsel.
 - Chapter 35: passed last night. A larger discussion is still to come but was able to include recommendations from local providers and staff to put the needs of local businesses and patients first.
 - Considering Safe Injection Sites; unable to tackle specifically.
 - De-prioritizations of psychedelic medicines.
- Social Services:
 - Opening the Homeless Services Center in March.
 - Public Listening Session at Ocean Gateway.
- Public Safety
 - Camping Policy
 - Dispatch Center: is there a way this committee can support the staffing and funding?
 - Staffing
- Staff Priorities
 - Responded to Corporation Counsel and staff well.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.



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:

***First Parish Church 425 Congress St. Entrance red door "freshman alley" by PHS
Capacity 75 Persons Max***

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

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	GPPS, Ben Skillings, ben@gppsme.org , 807-0257
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 McNerney	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