

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, June 20, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

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	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Ginny Dill	Shalom House	Josh Ruitto	City of Portland
Amy Geren	Portland Downtown	Steve Mortimer	Amistad
Jim Divine	HVJ	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Henry Tarlow	City of Portland	Chelsea Hoskins	City of Portland
Brian Townsend	Amistad	Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Christina Cook	PATH / TOA	Harrison Deah	Westbrook GA
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland		

Introductions

- Approval of Minutes
 - o Vickey moved to accept the minutes, Sara seconded and the minutes were approved without discussion.
- Announcements
 - o HVJ will have the summer solstice event at City Hall with speakers from 12-1:00 PM
 - o Portland Downtown has a resources sheet

HVJ

- Mixed response to selecting Riverside for the Homeless Services Center
- HVJ looking to support the people at the expo

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- Dylan Monahan has decided to become a case worker; Heather Zimmerman will step in to be the HVJ organizer during the search
- The mayoral candidate forum is being planned.

May Statistics

- <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1001>

Warming Center

- Downward trend in May before a spike in mid-June.
- Currently operating a warming Center in the Expo Center.

LTS

- Made progress last month and re-strategized into looking deeper t the hardest to house people.
 - o Today's meeting will focus on the people who remain from the first list (more time dedicated to the hardest to house)
- Huston Commons
 - o Have LTS placements been successful?
 - o Yes, the turnover for people at Huston Commons has been due to death.
- Not just homeless services but many kinds of providers that can wrap around and identify the best option for an individual situation.

Legislative Update

- Federal
 - o FY20
 - Budget begins October 1st
 - Lifting budget control act caps
 - Sequestration if not assed
 - Fannie Mae, Freddie mac need caps released
 - o THUD house bill has increases across the board.
 - o Poverty legislation
 - Fewer people would qualify for aid each year using a lower measure of inflation.
 - Would have a 60 day comment period; will be notified if it comes out.
 - o Equal access rule diminishing LGBTQIA+ access and disproportionately affect homeless youth.
- State
 - o A lot of bills have been passed and on the way for signature
 - 1523- recovery residences: compliance with standards;
 - \$500,000 project based housing subsidy
 - 775 - Act to expand community support services; expands the diagnoses under section 17 with less paperwork to qualify for BRAP
 - 613- BRAP fairness and establish a working working group.
 - 1404 – resolve to provide support services and prevent homelessness
 - Not voted off the table; may carry over to next session

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- 195 youth Maine Care federal funding for parents and families of youth experiencing homelessness trying to reunify.
 - Section 17 looking to be carried over
 - Homeless Youth resolved to increase access to housing under Medicaid waivers passed to be enacted.
 - Billing at Logan Place and other housing who are not currently billable
 - Mental health working group to assess needs and recommend a comprehensive behavioural health response.
 - HBLD1337 Act to save lives establishing a homeless opioid users engagement passed to be enacted.
 - As amended
 - 1317 act to restore services to non-citizens to meet their basic needs
 - Likely to be carried over
 - 795 establish a right to food carried over
 - Hunger passed to be enacted
 - Invest in tomorrow package
 - Help reduce MaineCare, snap and TANF benefits cliffs.
 - Veterans homes passed to be enacted
 - Emergency General Assistance; residency and municipality of responsibility passed in house but senate status unknown.
 - 246 and 510 on table
 - 866 has become law (homeless higher education)
 - LD1294 Maine human Rights Commission to investigate harassment due to housing status became law
 - 1 family dwellings fire code.
- Updated policy sheet to be uploaded later today.
 - Does ESAC want to put together language for comment on HUD Equal Access or Poverty Line.
 - o Brian moved for ESAXC to draft language, seconded and passed.
 - NAEH: 13 person delegation and facetime with representative Golden.

Public Bathroom

- George Rheault asked if there has been an evaluation of the outdoor storage and bathroom at OSS?
 - o Staff log of bathroom use?
 - o Storage use log?
 - o Is there something to be learned planning for the homeless services center.
- Added to the September meeting.

Summer Month Off

- Should July or August be taken off?
 - o July will be taken off.

Family Shelter Response to Expo

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- Brian thanked Chelsea, Jeff and the Family Shelter staff for their excellence in responding to the increase in asylum seekers.
- Vetting of volunteers and keeping everyone focused on the issue are the biggest needs.
- Westbrook is looking to support and help house people.
 - o Waiting on GA interpretation however if an asylum seeker encounters border patrol and they are released, they are here legally as the US government is aware of their presence.

Portland Community Support Fund

- Conversation on pause and an emergency meeting is scheduled for Monday June 24th, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Next Meeting July 18th at 9:00 AM