

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, January 16, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Dan Coyne	United Way	Josh Ruitto	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ	Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland	Elizabeth Jackson	GPH
Deb Ibonwa	MEJP	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Emma Halas-O'Connor	MEJP
Donna Yellen	Preble Street	Henry Tarlow	City of Portland
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook	Amanda Menthott	City of Portland - HCD

- Introductions
 - Arron asked for a motion to approve the minutes, Jim moved to approve the minutes, Henry seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- HVJ
 - HVJ attended the city council workshop this past Monday and will be at the February 3rd City Council meeting where a vote on the shelter policy resolution may be possible.
 - Dylan Monahan became a case worker and Anna Bruher is the new organizer.
- Monthly Statistics
 - Florence houses issued none and they currently have current active
 - Say current active not current total.
 - 1/3 at the family shelter, it is one family of three.
 - If it was a two parent family, one parent could stay with the kids in the shelter and restrict the one offending parent.
 - In this case, a single parent was restricted which effectively restricted two children along with it.
- LTS

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- o Short list/ CTOs across multiple shelters has a fairly large overlap between the two groups at the first meeting of the month.
 - These are the more complex cases
 - The decision makers at the agencies that are needed to remove barriers for this population are invited (DHS, etc.)
- o Housing placements have been lower due to a combination of data not being sent to OSS for who has been housed and there have been long term stayers housed but they were not tracked on those lists.
 - These are people staying in shelter that become long term stayers during their stay and are housed.
- Legislative Update
 - o State
 - FUSE: Frequent User Engagement collaborative. A bill with no fiscal note that convenes decision makers in remote areas that bounce between hospitals, shelters, and criminal justice.
 - Workgroup that would work through statewide homeless council
 - House 20 people, analyze data and then move onto another cohort to house the 200 most expensive to serve people.
 - ESAC supported it in October.
 - Sara moved for ESAC to write letter of support, Norm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Act to create money not from HOME funds to supplement ESHAP.
 - \$30 million fiscal not outside of the homeless solutions rule to be limber for operations and capacity funds.
 - Attached to the general fund.
 - Summer and fall news articles from all over the state on people camping out; is a small fiscal note considering need.
 - In labor and housing and public hearing is Wednesday January 29th in the morning.
 - Norm moved to write a letter of support, Emma seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - It says low barrier but it is looking to be amended to be general shelter for providers around the state so it increases low barrier access but is not exclusive.
 - LD1645 state tax credit program.
 - Increase supply of affordable housing by about 50%
 - Preference for homeless population (chronic, LTS, high users)
 - Approved through legislature last session but is being considered early this session.
 - Dan moved to write a letter of support, Heather seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - People with rental subsidies now are having trouble finding units, this would help.
 - Maine affordable housing coalition helped put this through

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- LD38 \$15 million Bond for Homeless Housing.
 - Would go through referendum
 - We already voted in support last year and was carried over.
 - Will continue to support.
- LD775 Act to extend Support for certain Members of MaineCare Program: S
 - Section 17 and BRAP were minimized last year and this would reverse those.
 - Region 2 and 3 Homeless Councils endorsed this.
 - Norm moved to write a letter of support, Vickey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- LD1403
 - Rep Brennan Bill to amend General Assistance
 - Carry over but not set in stone in light of GA work group.
 - Last year proposed to bring service centers back to 90/10 but likely won't be included.
 - Group just finished.
 - 90% reimbursement not endorsed by state.
 - Homeless Law: reimburse municipalities providing GA to homeless individuals at 100%; not endorsed by state.
 - Suggested increase in staff capacity for GA at the State.
 - Trainings for GA administrations in municipalities across the state.
 - Cullen moved to write a letter of support, Donna seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Monday night workshop on new homeless services center planned to vote on proposed policy resolution on February 3rd.
 - Most conversation came down to capacity.
 - As written, capacity based on previous year's average bed night: 209.
 - There would continue to be as needed overflow at the site.
 - Likely a tight vote.
 - Councilor Cook asked for a budget for a 75 bed shelter.
 - Heather said a 75 bed shelter does not fit this community and is not a sound recommendation.
 - Heather said the resolution is probably a best-case scenario and encouraged people to continue to contact City Councilors, and commended the HHS&PS Committee and City staff noting the HUD representative voiced support of its best practices.
 - Discussion if there should be a motion supporting the shelter policy resolution being voted on February 3, 2020:
 - Tri chairs sent a letter asking to slow down the process until data is provided.

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- Dan asked that data has been shared? He is not comfortable endorsing something he has not read and does not like the perception of credibility if we asked to delay and not delivering.
 - Heather responded data wise, we do not have as much as we would like but would bring forward what we do have.
 - We can provide the number TOA/Path gathered, giving a picture of two different points of unsheltered.
 - ESAC Data.
 - Preble and Amistad Staff.
 - Atlantic Charitable fund's unsheltered study will uncouple from the PIT and will proceed pushed out to a later date with the help of UNE and USM students: possible March.
 - Donna things follow up to the letter is important and sending the two counts is an indication of the picture with more data to follow.
 - Heather will connect with Christine and write a letter with the data included.
- Norm moved to write a letter providing unsheltered data ahead of the shelter policy resolve, Heather seconded and the motion passed with City staff abstaining.
- Jim said there is new group called the people's housing coalition.
 - People asked what influence ESAC has and responded a suggestive influence.
 - Governance work may influence that.

○ Federal

- Budget passed a minibus that funded HUD at good levels for 2020.
 - It includes an increase of \$5 million to the runaway homeless youth.
- Lack of federal revenues because of tax cuts.
- SNAP is still looking at being cut three ways.
 - Time limits going through in April.
 - Utility allowance changes,
 - Broad based eligibility changes.
- Affirmatively fairer housing rule of 2015 is looking to be reversed by the trump administration under guise of streamlining the process.
 - It cuts the steps taken to make sure people were not discriminated against under fair housing act.
 - ESAC may want to weigh in on.
 - Norm moved ESAC to write a letter and Elizabeth seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - Wanted a 4% boost but was not included.

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- Family voucher for pregnant women and children under six, homeless, unstably housed or at risk of homelessness but is on hold.
 - o Harrison asked about the proposed trump administration policy to change immigration policy on asylum seekers.
 - Increase in the length of time people must wait to apply for work authorization from 150 days to 1 year.
 - The GA limit is 24 months and this would eat up more of that.
 - Not official yet and must go through Congress, not a rule change.
 - Maine delegation against it.
 - Opposite of the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act Senator Collins is working on.
 - It is just a policy change the administration would like to see happen.
 - o A proposed rule that would bar family members access to assistance if one person is found to have a person with a non-eligible immigration status.
 - This would displace 65,000 children who are US citizens.
 - 25,000 Households.
 - Would only affect public housing, not homeless assistance programs.
 - Would this affect USDA homes?
 - Not funded through HUD so it would not affect USDA RD but any subsidy from HUD could be affected.
 - o HUD proposed rule on disparate impact.
 - Dismantle important enforcement tool combatting discrimination.
 - o Donna thanked Heather as the veterans group at Preble Street was asked to submit testimony on SNAP and hunger.
- Meeting Length
 - o The extended meetings on the needs of clients and the new shelter ended.
 - o Jim is ok with a shorter or longer meeting.
 - o Vickey suggests tabling the length of time discussion until the smaller group meets to make recommendations in the scope, mission and structure of ESAC.
 - Aaron agreed.
 - Donna likes a permanent solution coming out of the governance group meeting and all of those meetings were over the 2 hours.
 - Do we want to try to say an extended meeting next month before governance comes back?
 - Vickey said If there is something going on in the community this group can respond with a longer meeting as this group as done when there are extenuating circumstances.
 - Norm said there have been some updates since the last meeting such as the projects at the Barron center or the numbers presented by HUD that are not consistent with what's seen on the ground or the CoC awards. Things of that nature could be
 - Does there need to be a formalized process for accepting agenda items.
 - Quick thigs can be on the agenda under other business.
 - Important items can be sent to Adam to be added to the agenda.

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- Larger items that will need time can be addressed as needed.
- HCD Consolidated Plan – Amanda Menthott
 - o The City gets \$2.1 Million Block grant funds, HOME funds and lead abatement money. They City automatically receives it but must submit a consolidated plan every 5 years that dictates how monies will be spent. A new 5 year plan must be submitted in May, 2021 and the process must be community (providers and users) driven.
 - o A community development taskforce is made and 9-12 residents of Portland are needed.
 - Resume and applications due next Friday
 - Anyone who lives in Portland and is a provider or uses services (PHA residents).
 - Want diverse voices.
 - o Donna asked if a resume is mandatory, thinking about PHS residents.
 - It is not and is optional but the checklist is required with a few sentences on why someone wants to join.
 - Is not mandatory but does not clearly state that a resume is optional.
 - o Donna asked if the meetings will be during working hours or evenings.
 - The meetings are twice a month and Amanda will work to create the best schedule for the group.
 - o Amanda will send the checklist to the listserv.
- PIT count is coming up and will likely meet at TOA the night of.
- United Way's investment process is open and is accepting applications and offering training on performance evaluation tomorrow; email Dan for information.