

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, April 16, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Norm Maze	Shalom House
George Rheault	Bayside Resident	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Dan Coyne	United Way	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland	Amanda Methot	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ	Ken Capron	MicroRail
Katie Seelen	United Way	Katie McGovern,	Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Tom Natalie	Milestone Recovery	Rob Liscord	Maine Equal Justice
Bill Higgins	HA4A	Brian Townsend	Amistad
Kelley Walsh	City of Portland	Anna Brewer	HVJ
Sarah Michniewicz	Bayside Resident, BNA	Suzanne Randall	HA4All
Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street		

- **Introductions**

- Review and approval of January 16, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes.
 - Brian moved to approve the January meeting minutes; Norm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- We are adding the names, organizations and motions made in the chat box while remaining on mute when not speaking.

- **Homeless Voices for Justice**

- In-person meetings have been suspended.
- They are working on a statement supporting the suspension of evictions.

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- **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**

- o Spike in CTOs: 4 CTOs were COVID-19 positive individuals who refuse to quarantine.
- o Rob said there is a downturn in veteran placement and asked if there is information on when placements were made in the beginning of the month when there was more freedom of movement.
- o Sarah asked for clarification on who can stay at the USM shelter.
 - Andrew Bove said at a BNA meeting that the USM shelter will be taking CTOed people.
 - Will people CTOed from Oxford Street be tracked?
 - While people in the shelter are known, the Oxford Street staff are identifying folks as well as Preble Street.
 - George said the USM gym is for anyone who needs it.
 - Sullivan Gym Shelter opened in April and stats will be included next month.

- **LTS Update**

- o 246 total people housed with a 93.2% success rate.

- **Federal, State and Local Legislation**

- o Federal
 - CARES Act
 - HUD funding component
 - Mainers who did not file 2018 or 2019 taxes will need to file online: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>
 - A new round of funding is being proposed that includes money for people experiencing homelessness.
 - SNAP proposed rule for unemployed and under employment blocked by a judge
 - It would have limited SNAP benefits to 3 months.
 - There is a push to delay the NOFA; CoC is sending a letter to Senator Collins to delay the NOFA while providers are responding to pandemic related work.
 - Coronavirus relief fund gave at least \$1.25 billion to each state.
- o State.
 - There will not be the time or financial capacity for many of the bills when sessions resume.
 - FUSE
 - State Litek already signed into public law.
 - LD 75 signed into public law.
 - LD1294: Pilot program to monitor instances of harassment based on housing status.

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- Bills targeted to the pandemic passed.
 - o George is concerned the City will end up needing to pay for a large portion of the COVID-19 response. Vickey explained the funding streams and the executive order for going above GA maximums in an emergency will help people experiencing homelessness. Rob explained that nationally, there is advocacy on using hotels and prioritizing FEMA money before ESG.
 - Title 32 is the request Governor Mills made that would allow the federal FEMA dollars to pay before state.
- **COVID-19**
 - o State push for supportive housing.
- **Other Business**
 - o March 13th was the last day in Amistad's old peer center location. The process for opening their new space is stalled due to the COVID-19 emergency.
 - An official opening date and any change of services will be announced.
 - Brian confirmed that Amistad is not co-locating with the Catholic Church at the Cathedral as previously planned and have signed a lease on Forest Ave that is off the peninsula but on the bus line.
- **Governance sub-committee**
 - o Group looked at the history of ESAC.
 - o Scope
 - Planning
 - Coordination
 - Advocacy
 - o Based on the scope, the group is looking at updating mission statement and how the following items support it:
 - Membership
 - Agenda Making
 - Minutes
 - Voting
- **Next Meeting May 21, 2020.**