

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, May 21, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
George Rheault	Bayside Resident
Dan Coyne	United Way
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ
Margaret LaLachuer	United Way
Tom Natalie	Milestone Recovery
Bill Higgins	HA4A
Kelley Walsh	City of Portland
Heather Zimmerman	Preble Street
Cullen Ryan	CHOM

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Amanda Methot	City of Portland
Elizabeth Jackson	GPH
Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Anna Brewer	HVJ
Suzanne Randall	HA4All
Mia Smith	Preble Street
Jonathan Sahrbeck	Cumberland County District Attorney

- **Introductions**

- Review and approval of April 16, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes.
 - Bill moved to approve the January meeting minutes; Suzanne seconded and the motion passed unanimously as amended.
 - Include that Amistad is not co-locating with the Catholic Church at the Cathedral as previously planned and has signed a lease on Forest Ave that is off the peninsula but on the bus line.
 - We are adding the names, organizations and motions made in the chat box while remaining on mute when not speaking.

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- **Homeless Voices for Justice**
 - Longest Day of Homelessness on the Solstice (not in person)
 - Concerned about unsheltered homelessness and CTOs from Deering Oaks park
 - Sweeps of camps -do not help public health.
 - Support the changes made to shelters during the pandemic (multiple shelters) and see the need for those to continue during as past the pandemic
 - There is a continued need for public facilities.
- **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**
 - Intakes, Placements and first-time homeless statistics are all down due to COVID-19
 - Is there a list of GA clients that would normally have an intake at OOS and stay at the shelter?
 - Yes
 - This group can help connect folks in hotels to more permanent housing options.
 - Is there a way in the GA data to break out GA applicants that are reporting homelessness?
 - To date at 203 individuals since March 13th have presented to GA for shelter.
 - GA is open 7 days a week: 8am - noon on weekends.
 - The After-hours number is posted, the weekend hours are not (the printed hard sign isn't being changed anticipating the situation will.
 - Staff on weekends can field after hours calls, hotel calls,
 - Last Saturday had 5 people present to GA for shelter.
 - Using two hotels for singles and three hotels for families.
- **LTS Update**
 - LTS has not met during the pandemic as key stakeholders are frontline staff needed for the shelter system response.
 - How are LTSers being tracked, are there folks being lost from the 180-day definition.
 - 180 days is cumulative and based on HMIS data; it is cumulative across shelters and path that have 180 days' worth of HMIS entries within a 365-day period.
- **Federal, State and Local Legislation**
<http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/3-State-and-Federal-Legislation-Update-4.16.20.pdf>
 - Federal
 - Stimulus Packages
 - CARES ACT
 - brought 12 million to HUD
 - Time extension youth demonstration
 - Financial Resources that the State is looking

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- Strengthen Homeless Shelters
 - Create units of supportive housing
 - Rapid Re-Housing following the SSVF program.
 - Affordable housing development that includes homeless populations: Land banking and other resources that gets housing off the ground quickly and includes units for people experiencing homelessness.
 - o Looking for solutions for specific populations: Domestic Violence, Homeless Youth, and substance use.
 - o Funding streams through ESG.
- Seeking in next Stimulus:
 - o Seeking a waiver to the RFP so frontline resources aren't supplanted to apply
 - o Rental Assistance
 - Hopefully some section 8; long term solution.
 - o 4% floor on the tax credit program.
- HEROES Act passed by the House and moving to Senate
 - o Follow up and extends CARES Act
 - o Not likely to Pass Senate
 - o Senator Collins and others put out legislation that includes relief for states but it has not gotten traction yet.
- Timing is unclear.
- SNAP Proposed Rule was stalled, keeping people from being kicked off for the time being.
- House and Senate bills pushing for \$100 billion in rental subsidies to get affordable housing off the ground and people into housing and remaining housed.
- o State.
 - Before convening: there was an executive order to halt evictions for tenants who cannot pay rent during the pandemic.
 - BRAP moved to a 40% subsidy instead of 50%
 - \$3 million to support emergency shelter (supported)
 - FUSE (Voted ought to pass).
- **COVID-19**
 - o Maine CDC said 14 people in the Portland shelter system has tested positive (cumulative)
 - 4/90 positive tests at OSS in recent round of testing.
 - Where did the CDC get the 14 number?
 - The people that used the respite shelter at 55 & 56 Family Shelter for people recovering (tested positive) and PUI (person under investigation) at each FFS location respectively.

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- At the shelters where universal testing took place, everyone on site were part of the samples. (Testing done at Florence House, Sullivan Gym Wellness Shelter, the Expo, two rounds at OSS.)
- There is a daily 2 pm call with the CDC, Major medical partners in town and shelter leadership from each shelter in the City.
 - Connects guests to medical care.
- OSS shut down to new intakes since March
 - The 4 positive cases are from people in this population social distancing in shelter but community transmission remains.
 - Concern that there will be heightened stigma against people experiencing homelessness due to COVID-19 when space like the library open up.
- This group will work with the understanding that COVID-19 will last longer for the population we serve.
- As we come closer to reintegrating shelters, is the opportunity for media advocacy.
 - OP ed, TV and social media.
- **Governance sub-committee**
 - No update; scheduled to meet May 29th at 3:00 PM; detail will be emailed to the committee.
- **Other Business**
 - CDBG: City received CARES Act funding and the CDBG application is condensed and will still go through a public scoring process, but on an expedited timeline. The ESG portion will be administered like regular ESG so there is no application.
- **Next Meeting May 18, 2020.**
 - Heather suggested extending the June meeting by 30 minutes.
 - United Way will set up the call for 1.5 hours for those who are able to stay on the meeting.