

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, June 18, 2020

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
George Rheault	Bayside Resident
Beth Campbell	United Way
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Jim Divine	HVJ
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
Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland
George Flores	MEJP
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors

- **Introductions**
 - Review and approval of April 16, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes.
 - Brian moved to approve the May meeting minutes; Norm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Homeless Voices for Justice**
 - Longest Day of Homelessness on the Solstice is June 19, 2020.
 - Will be virtual.
 - Looking for allies to give input during the vent.
- **Monthly Shelter Bed Usage Statistics**

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o 184 unduplicated individuals assisted with hotels across
 - Five hotels for singles.
 - 3 Hotels for families
- o CTO VS Restrictions around positive test results may have caused the jump in CTO numbers.
 - 8 OSS CTOs accurate.
 - Milestone numbers seem high.
 - Close contact restrictions are not CTs
 - CTs will be amended to reflect about to about 45 total CTOs.
- o Sullivan Wellness Shelter numbers are included.
- o Bill asked if there is a plan to open up OSS?
 - There's is a plan that adapts as guidance from the CDC comes out.
 - People presenting for shelter continue to be assisted with GA Hotels.
- o George asked about the Intake process at GA and what hotel shelter stays look like.
 - GA intakes are done with typical eligibility screening, with shelters, food and nonfood issued.
 - Hotels are determined by the IDs available as some hotels have different ID requirements.
 - Preble Street delivers meals.
 - Hotels use key cards like a normal hotel stay.
 - Some hotels have removed and restricted guests; in most cases, alternate hotels have been found for guests.
- o Now that vouchers are available, when will placements go up?
 - OSS continues to work on housing.
 - LTS is meeting to increase momentum.
 - Housing placements are made as units become available.
 - From the family shelter perspective, there has been some success thanks to STEP from MaineHousing and the Portland Housing Authority.
 - One family placed with PHA in less than 2 weeks.
 - City has opened up inspections so 3 families are moving out today.
 - Shalom is open and able to take BRAP and S+C applications.
- **LTS Update**
 - o LTS has started meeting again in a slightly smaller group due to the Covid response taking them away.
 - o Placements have housed some folks that were on the list for a long time.
 - o Anyone interested can contact Cullen to be a part of the meetings.
 - o Some landlords have grown frustrated with tenants with no ability to pay due to loss of income and are turning to people with rental subsidies.
 - o Work in progress without a list, coordinating among the agencies who are present.
- **Federal, State and Local Legislation**

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o Federal
 - CARES ACT
 - Request from shelter network of the statewide homeless council to see if part of the money (\$1.25 billion) can go to a comprehensive package:
 - o \$20 million to shelters to increase capacity with staffing
 - o \$10 million for RRH for victims of DV, youth, and people in recovery.
 - o \$20 million to increase the supply of supportive housing targeted to LTS and chronically homeless
 - o \$10 million for groundwork to develop more affordable housing inclusive of folks experiencing homelessness.
 - Land banking
 - Building banking
 - Predevelopment money
 - Possible fourth stimulus package.
 - Senate is likely to come up with a package out in early August or after the election.
 - o SMART Act.
 - o \$500 billion direct aid to state and local governments
 - \$2 billion to Maine
 - o \$1.25 already allocated to Maine from CAREs would become more flexible.
 - HEROES Act passed in house but it does not gain traction in Senate.
 - o These numbers were shared at the last meeting.
 - o Pressure to include 100 billion of rental assistance to be included in a senate version.
 - Recognizing how much homeless increased due to section 8 cuts.
 - Phase 4 stimulus on Youth homelessness asking for a \$300 million for runaway homeless youth, and \$500 million increase in McKinney Vento and \$2 billion for family stabilization fund
 - o Dear colleague letter sent and gaining traction.
 - Bill Asked how the ESG funds will be spent.
 - Round one allowed the wellness shelter and other needs met for people tested positive.
 - It is funding hotel placements.
 - Second round is part two of that.
 - Looking for resources to go to shelters, hotels but mainly focus on rapid rehousing to get people out of hotels.
 - Can go up to 120% in paying for people who have a disability (requires a disability form)

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- City ESG
 - Every year the City receives about 160,000 in specifically allocated funds among OSS, FS, HMIS.
 - Council Voted on it.
 - First round of funding about \$500,000 approved by council for COVID response.
 - Second round of funding has been released and will be reaching out for input from community and providers.
 - As updates are available, Community Development will send out notifications.
- USICH Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Public Comment Period
 - Public comment due by July 11th with specific questions to be answered:
 - If you were to propose one new initiative that the federal government is not doing now what would it be?
 - Outside of prior USICH federal strategic plan focuses, what else might the federal government do to prevent and/or reduce homelessness?
 - What is one activity the federal government is doing that you believe should be deprioritized?
 - What is one activity that the federal government is doing well and that should be prioritized?
 - Overall, what would you say the top 3 federal priorities should be as they relate to preventing and ending homelessness?
 - In terms of homelessness, what areas are in need of greater attention at the federal, state, and local levels?
 - Anything else you wish to add?
 - <https://www.usich.gov/public-input/>
 - Biggest point of commenting is that Trump administration has appointed a new head on interagency council on ending homelessness and the new head seems to be moving away from housing firsts.
 - Housing first is a successful model and should not be moved away from.
 - Individual or organization level comments: both including bodies like ESAC.
 - Aaron asked if there is a motion for ESAC to support. Cullen moved for ESAC to comment in support of housing first, George seconded and Cullen will draft a comment for the tri chairs to approve.
- HR6724: ESG Funding Bill in the Senate.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- May not go anywhere.
 - Position paper for the next stimulus package, although it is unclear when that will come.
- o State.
 - Legislature is working toward reopening with committees meeting
 - Funding proposal for shelters: \$3 million
 - FUSE (No fiscal note)
 - Housing the 200 most frequent users of emergency services.
 - Is there a Maine Specific eviction moratorium?
 - Yes, via Governor's executive order. Renewed for 30 days each time the executive order is renewed.
 - No evictions from nonpayment of rent.
 - Courts are not open for evictions.
 - George asked if people are hearing about non-legal or "back door" evictions?
 - Some states have been taking action against landlords shutting of utilities and any such action in Maine should be reported.
 - There is a backlog in the courts and will take a while for evictions to get through, possibly in Winter.
 - Stimulus packages would help with evictions, such as the expanded unemployment insurance and stimulus checks however some people have not received their unemployment yet; when people do receive, they may be able to stop evictions by paying back rent.
 - Tomorrow the appropriation and financial affairs committee will be meeting.
 - Session 2 at 11:00 am has community input from healthcare and other nonprofits responding how the government can support them during the pandemic.
 - Can listen in as they discuss cares act funding.
- **Governance sub-committee**
 - o Discussion about participation in ESAC and membership versus people who attend the meeting.
 - Longstanding organizations versus people attending for the first time.
 - Report out coming next month.
 - Pros and Cons of having ESAC being related to the City Council in an official capacity
 - Could come with benefits but there are very specific protocols with being related to the city council.
 - Voting rights and membership among participating agencies.
 - ESAC meeting length.
 - Not go back to 8:30 start time.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- How to have a meeting length that is adequate but does not interfere with other standing meeting.
- Formation of an executive committee
 - Agenda forming
 - Membership approval semi regularly.
- Next month is when the committee will bring official recommendations; 1 for a vote to adopt and another to vote on continued work.
- George spoke about core goals of ESAC
 - ESAC could have addressed Shalom house program ending.
 - He said that he expected getting into the weeds of emerging or important issues such as CTOs would have happened more.
- **Other Business**
 - o Can HVJ make a Facebook event for the Solstice; will answer after the meeting.
- **Next Meeting July 16, 2020.**