

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Remote Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2021

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Suzanne Randall	Ha4aLL
Jim Devine	HVJ
Bill Higgins	Ha4aLL
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Donna Yellen	Preble Street
Anna Brewer	Preble Street/HVJ
Dan Coyne	United Way
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Sara Fleurant	City of Portland Oxford Street Shelter
Katy Finch	The Opportunity Alliance

Name	Organization
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Ben Martineau	HVJ
Peter McLaughlin	People's Housing Coalition
Ben Strick	Spurwink
Oliver Bradeen	Milestone
Meredith Pesce	Amistad
Wendy Harmon	Keller Williams Realty
Deb Ibonwa	MEJP
George Rheault	West Bayside resident/homeowner
Sarah Michniewicz	BNA
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Nannette Irabaruta	United Way of Southern Maine

Meeting Summary

ESAC is looking to start in person meetings, Covid permitting, sometime after Labor Day with rotating hosts who can accommodate the long-term stayers meetings. First-time homeless statistics to include a column that shows what percentage of a shelter's intakes were experiencing homelessness for the first time and Adam will mock up a new CTO slide that compares year over year data. \$10 million of funding needs to advocacy for allocation. The ballot initiative will come back for further discussion at a future meeting to determine if ESAC will take a position.

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- **Meeting Minutes**
 - June minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- **In-Person Meeting**
 - Return to in-person meetings after Labor Day.
 - Rotate locations.
 - Hybrid in-person and remote.
 - Rotating spaces would be willing to host long term stayers meetings that follow ESAC would help logistics.
 - Please email the executive committee if you are interested in hosting in-person meetings.
 - One city center is available.
 - August will still be remote.
- **June Statistics**
 - Jenny Stasio of Through These Doors presented the June statistics.
 - Decrease in families
 - Two family units are down to rehab and that those families are in hotels using GA.
 - OSS intakes saw a slight increase from out of state.
 - 28 housing placements.
 - Mostly Section 8/HCV and GA.
 - CTOs are consistent.
 - Still out of the warming center, using General Assistance during Covid.
 - GA Hotels
 - Will funding last through the end of the state of emergency or is there a big change coming?
 - Current contract for the City FEMA hotels runs through the end of September.
 - Likely all FEMA hotels, Preble street's in Portland and Lewiston, will end September 30th.
 - What will happen given the rise of the delta variant is still unknown.
 - Average of 357 individuals in shelter in June.
 - First time homelessness
 - Of the new intakes, these numbers are reporting first time homelessness and break down the percentages within first time homelessness.
 - What do we want from these numbers?
 - Should we have a fourth line of % of the shelter's intakes?
 - Adam to add a column.
 - Will show chronic vs circumstantially homeless.
 - Family shelter statistics are important to monitor here.
 - Numbers were brought down from people not let into shelter due to Covid.
 - "We manage what we measure."
 - Make is meaningful.

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- o CTOs
 - Adam to send mock up a year over year version.
- **City Ordinance Update**
 - o Shelter Licensing
 - DV shelter waiver is for shelters “solely” serving DV clients.
 - Distance will be measured from property line to property line.
 - Public comment will be taken at the September 14, 2021 Health and Human Services meeting (Committee is taking August off.)
 - o Ballot Initiative
 - Initiative limits the number of beds an emergency shelter in the city can have to 50.
 - Can make comments this coming Council Meeting, Monday July 19, 2021. (It is a double meeting that night.)
 - HSC has a contractor in place before the vote in November.
 - Should ESAC take a position?
 - We haven’t taken positions on the homeless services center.
 - This is not A City run meeting.
 - ESAC did take a position on shelter licensing.
 - HSC Planning Board processes being expedited.
 - o Did ESAC weigh in on the 40 bed Preble Street shelter?
 - It’s unclear who was speaking for ESAC in the shelter licensing memo.
 - o Statements should be clear and digestible to the public.
 - ESAC takes positions on big picture items that affect overall shelters and homelessness.
 - Members come to these meetings to examine and solve homelessness in Portland.
 - ESAC doesn’t have staff.
 - ESAC has taken positions on individual organizations actions.
 - It is an 80% threshold to pass motions.
 - o Enough organizations are involved in the referendum or have a financial stake a position as a body isn’t worth it.
 - If we take a position, we should wait for the next meeting.
 - Need to make informed decisions.
 - We have until November.
 - What would the group want to see shared in advance to aid in the discussion?
 - Meeting minutes from the upcoming city council meeting.
 - o Charter Commission
 - Would we want to make a statement?
 - Big issue that would need more discussion and thought; members to think about it.

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- **Legislative Update**

- Federal

- Eviction moratorium ends this month and it was likely the last extension.
 - In the works
 - Budget is not likely to get sorted out until September
 - Boosts HUD funds.
 - Infrastructure has a \$3.5 trillion that would need to be passed through budget reconciliation that could include housing.
 - Affordable Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) Act would increase affordable housing.
 - Possible more McKinney Vento Funding
 - Childcare for working families Act would help children experiencing homelessness and in foster care.
 - Housing is a Human Right – affordable housing and homeless services funding.

- State

- American Rescue Plan funds being planned for use by the legislature.
 - Bills that became law and are in the works are [linked here](#).
 - Bill in the works that would set GA reimbursement at 90%.
 - Appropriations added \$10 million for homelessness support efforts: operating costs, renovating costs, etc.
 - Advocacy on where it goes.
 - On the Maine budget blog.

- **Public Comment and Announcements**

- HVJ gave annual report on crimes against homeless people to the graduating class of police cadets.
 - HVJ will do outreach on LD1294 that would investigate harassment due to housing status on Friday.
 - Coronavirus has really impacted outreach efforts from public spaces closing like the resource center.
 - How will the United Way merger affect services?
 - United will continue to participate in ESAC.
 - United Way in York and Portland merged.
 - Day space was not brought up.
 - There was an RFP put out by the City for \$239,000 that received no proposals.
 - Looking at options moving forward.
 - Is the City taking into consideration that there was not enough time?
 - Feedback was that it wasn't a timing issue.
 - It is unclear if we will receive applicants if we rerelease but it is being considered.

- **August Meeting**

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- o Ballot initiative (possibly in September)
- o First time homelessness will include % of a shelter's intakes that are experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- o Adam to send a mockup of new CTO slide.