

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

One City Center

Thursday, January 17, 2019

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Brian Townsend	Amistad	Norm Maze	Shalom House
George Rheault	Bayside	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Peggy Lynch	Preble Street	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Ginny Dill	Shalom House	Wendy Harmon	SMLA
Sara Fleurant	City of Portland	Dave MacLean	City of Portland
Meaghan Void	City of Portland	Colin Ayer	Portland Fire Department
Sara Ewing Merrill	Family Promise	Jeff Tardif	City Of Portland Family Shelter
Jim Divine	HVJ	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors		

Monthly Statistics: The December shelter statistics are available here:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/943>

Resource Guide

*Parks requested a resource guide for citizens and business owners.

- Amy from Portland Downtown has a pamphlet.

HVJ

- Focusing on the relocation efforts of the City Shelter.
 - Meeting with City Manager 1/18.
 - No Meeting on MLK, postponed to Tuesday with David MacLean and Meaghan Void of OSS.

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

- o Outreach to people staying at the shelter.
- Sit down with Janet Mills.

Statistics

- Mid 30s but back up into the 50s in January.
- Families are coming at night (10:30-11:00PM).
 - o No heat in SA warming center so need to stay at 58 and use office.
- Everyone goes to Salvation Army regardless of cumbers to be able to open up 58 for OSS.
- One family is going to family promise from the WC.
- Most families coming in are paroled from the southern border:
 - o Lerado, Texas
 - o Some detention facilities
 - o Reverend is coordinating and sending families here
 - o Contact is Jennifer Long who has promised not to send families here
 - Many know about the shelter and may be on the way regardless
 - o Are there contacts in the Angolan community?
 - Learn what conversations are being had and where else people are going
 - Can other Angolan communities better absorb the population?
 - Leaders to inform people what Portland does and does not offer (shelter is full and describe WC)?
 - Someone working in WC years ago knew of Portland, Maine as a safe place to go
 - Reality of our situation, being able to provide the barest of necessities of a mat on the gym floor, is likely being relayed. This is still likely an attractive option when compared to the threat of violence families are fleeing from.
 - There aren't many General Assistance offices in the country; nor many that offer GA to asylum seekers.
 - A lot of the asylum seekers here want to follow the rules. Maine provides a way to follow the rules and survive via GA.
 - Some stay in southern states due to climate and availability of under the table work.
 - Some families return to Texas to work on oil once they receive work authorization.
 - The asylum process in Portland is a lot faster and has a higher success rate.
 - o Pursuing a legislative initiative to have the entire period of arrival to filing an application be covered in GA eligibility to allow families to settle anywhere versus just Portland (covered by the Portland community support fund).

LTS

- 9 OSS LTS Placements in December

Legislative Update

Federal

- City determining what affect shutdown has on services

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- Partial shutdown is continuing
 - Collins is trying to get everything but homeland security funded
 - This would fund HUD with a more favorable budget
 - Will affect us soon
 - Freeze on Section 8
 - Landlords will not be paid
- None of the bills watched are moving

State

- Governor signed 15 million dollar affordable housing senior bond to allow some senior housing developments
 - Trying to include homeless populations
- Bills
 - Public Hearing on Tuesday 1/22: rep Brennan put in bill general funding bond 15 million dollars to create housing for people experiencing homelessness. Housing first Portland model and be statewide.
 - Rep Farnsworth submitted a bill to create low barrier permanent housing subsidy for individuals experiencing long term homelessness. \$2 million funding proposal to fill the BRAP void.
 - College completion for homeless youth
 - BRAP
 - Homeless Bill of Rights: Dignity of people experiencing homelessness
 - Services for homeless youth
 - Revitalize public housing
 - Create affordable workforce and senior housing
 - Flexibility in affordable housing calculations
- Mental Health
 - Mental Illness
 - Restore community support services for adults with mental illness
 - Make a mental health plan for the state
- Substance use
 - Quality and access to recovery services
 - Substance use rental subsidy
 - Create a department of substance use services
 - Create substance use disorder cabinet
 - Establish cabinet level office
 - Create a substance use Continuum of Care
- Veterans
 - Homeless women
 - Housing in caribou
- General Assistance
 - Amend eligibly and reimbursement
- Create permanent navigator positions in DHHS
- Medicaid waiver (services in conjunction with rental subsidies)

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- o Create a new chapter
- o Make the existing chapter like 13 and 17 be more welcoming to homeless populating
- o Recreate positions within DHHS that are intensive case managers in shelters around the state.

Homeless Services Center

- Model agreed to a single city owned facility and explore partner projects by specific demographics. So far:
 - o Disability
 - o Substance Use
 - o Women
- On 1/22 HHS & PS meeting the location will be discussed
- Size Concerns
 - o 150 beds adequate?
 - PATH is seeing so many people outside now; challenge to get people inside when at capacity.
 - CHOM Supports the original design.
 - Shalom has concerns capping at 150; is there a way to build in an adaptable space that could be used for multiple purposes (beds or other activities)
 - This was in the original mock-up of a larger building.
 - Testimony can be sent to councilors.
 - o Concerned to be at capacity when built, not planning for the future.
 - o Important for the City Council to know these concerns
 - o Has a location or model that combines and houses both the family and adult shelters?
 - Has not been discussed
 - Logistically would be difficult
 - Co-locating with families makes adult shelters high barrier
 - Populations have different needs
 - Potential risks to families with young children
 - o Breakfast is 7:15-7:45 AM
 - o City is serving meals to WC families
 - Dinner served in GA Waiting Room
 - o PSRC Soup Kitchen is at capacity
 - FS is surrounded by good resources
 - There could be cost savings to combine departments and programs in one site.
 - Food
 - Did the conviction of the FS landlord affect terms?
 - No, FS properties are unaffected
 - FBI only went after ill-gotten property
- City is still in the search for a new Shelter Director
- Michael Sauschuck was champion for the new homeless services center and has left to be the Commissioner of Public Safety in the Mills Administration.
 - o He was going to be a major player explaining the center to prospective neighborhoods.
 - o We will benefit to the entire state and locally in his new position.

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- Some people ask for OSS to stay where it is and make it better
 - The building is not meant to be a shelter and needs repairs.

Point in Time

- Amistad/social services ran into a conflict with the Point in Time and the HHS & PS committee to discuss the Homeless Services Center
- Meeting at Lancaster Street to start the PIT
- Email today to folks who have committed to the 22 and the follow up.

Colin Ayer – CTO

- Minutes to be sent out
- Will meet one more time internally before a large stakeholder meeting
- Colin is reaching out to Boston EMS and Boston shelters as well as NYC to learn their processes
- LT MCrary and Anne Torregrossa are trying to narrow down criminal trespass qualifications
- Challenging situation when someone is restricted by the weather is dangerous to remain outside.
 - Liability piece
 - Safety of other guests when someone restricted is let in
 - Safety of CTO'd individual staying outside