

# PORTLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

## MEETING MINUTES

Present:

|                |                                                                                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aaron Geyer    | City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Division, Home To Stay   |
| Jeff Tardif    | City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Division, Family Shelter |
| David MacLean  | City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Division                 |
| Vickey Rand    | CHOM                                                                                     |
| Carol Kulesza  | VA                                                                                       |
| Chet Barnes    | SAMHS                                                                                    |
| Joanie Klayman | Preble Street                                                                            |
| Norman Maze    | Shalom House                                                                             |

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### **I. Introductions**

Aaron welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made. The group recapped on the HMIS meeting held on August 17.

### **II. HUD Application**

HUD's NOFA is not out yet; the guess is somewhere in September or October since HUD is set to release new data standards in October.

Aaron discussed the loss of Anne Gass as the point person for the consolidated application. Jeff recommended Vickey Rand, Chet seconded. Vickey expressed interest in the task. The topic of how to fund the new person was addressed and Norman offered to go to the organizations independently and work out the financial details of payment for services.

Aaron stated the City will work on the contract, similar to Anne's. How to get payment to Vickey was discussed. Once the contract is approved by legal, Aaron will bring it back to the committee to vote and approve.

### **III. HMIS Funding**

Cindy could not be at the meeting today. The emails surrounding the topic were discussed and nothing was finalized.

### **IV. Other Business**

Dave and Jeff discussed the Family Shelter overflow cap officially to four (4) hotel rooms, which was the budgeted amount for FY 2016 as of August 1. This directive came from the City Manager to meet budgetary restraints. Dave applauded Jeff's team on their ability to mitigate any new intakes. This has been useful since it places responsibility back on other municipalities, as well as the clients to not leave their current secure housing to enter a shelter. The new policy will also be addressed at ESAC.

Dave addressed the Maine Welfare Directors Association meeting on August 31 to discuss the municipality of responsibility with other local agencies. Another topic to be discussed will be the statute interpretation that homelessness is not deemed an emergency during the months of April-October. He stressed that MEJP, PTLA, HVJ, and MSHA will all be there

to give presentations or viewpoints on how this statute is an issue and that municipalities need to take it on.

Carol suggested bringing in faith-based organizations to help, as they sometimes sponsor families. It isn't a solution, but another partner to approach. Aaron stated that Dave has been spearheading the process of ensuring those who do not qualify for the Community Support Fund can reach out to other organizations for help, such as Wayside and Good Shepherd for food and MedAccess for medical needs. Dave stated the one area they are short on is utilities, which may be a fundraising effort.

Norm asked if local congressional delegates are aware of this issue. Dave stated he does not know if they are aware, but that it is a great idea to get them involved. Vickey stated Peter Stuckey has been working hard on this topic, so he would be a good one to approach. There was discussion surrounding LD 369 and the possible peoples' referendum.

Carol discussed the issues with veteran LTS (approx. 41 individuals state-wide). They are either at Bread of Life or OSS. They are working with SSVF partners to divvy up the clients based on location and getting those clients in to best meet their service needs. The VA is now shifting focus to a Functional 0, by ensuring that all clients are set up with services and making progress. If you look at other areas claiming Functional 0, they are all urban areas and not states. The VA is confident they can reach Functional 0 in Portland and Bangor, but not statewide. Carol stated there is an issue with at least one client that is actually staying at a location where they pay per night to stay at a sober house, but they are listed as homeless on the list. Chet stated this may be more common than you think.

Vickey announced that on August 31, Brooke Barron from Pingree's office will be down to tour shelters and HUD-funded housing. This is to show the importance of funding.