

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes December 15, 2011

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Alicia Martinez	City of Portland, HPRP
Rob Parritt	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Josh O'Brien	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Abdirahman Osman	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Lori Martin	The Opportunity Alliance
Shana Pike	StepUp! Family Resources
Sandra Foley	Supportive Services for Veteran Families - Regional
Beverly Robbins	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Cathy Saari	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Alice Corson	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Phil Allen	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Laura Kelliher	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Therese Johnson	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Katie Riley	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Marshall Archer	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Kendra Danse	The Opportunity Alliance
John Shoos	United Way
Patty Robinson	Preble Street – Florence House
Annmarie Rotolo	ADRC-SMAAA
Cullen Ryan	Community Housing of Maine
Leanna Bruce	Shalom House
Beth Haywood	Shalom House
Chomba Kaluba	Pine Tree Legal
Mary Ellen Welch	Police Department – Community Policing
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Pat Konon-Carroll	Family Crisis Services
Aaron Shapiro	Cumberland County
Tom Natalie	Milestone Foundation
Joe McNally	Milestone Foundation
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
Tom McLaughlin	University of New England – Social Work
Kathy Pratt	DHHS
Paul Coleman	DHHS
Sarah Donlin	City of Westbrook – GA
Kathleen Babeau	City of South Portland – GA

I. Introductions

Bob Duranleau, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. Homeless Voices for Justice Annual Holiday Wish Event –

Bob stated that Dee has to leave early so she will report out on HVJ first.

Homeless Voices for Justice is holding its third annual Holiday Wish Event on Friday, December

16th. HVJ's wish this year is for the creation, availability and accessibility of more truly affordable housing for homeless and poor people. Come participate in the "Home for the Holidays" event by becoming a volunteer "housing advocate" and search for housing for your housing search partners on our "Portland Path to Housing". The path will be set up in Monument Square this Friday, December 16th, and open to walk from 10:30 to 11:30. Stop by and walk the housing search path with Homeless Voices for Justice.

III. November Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for November 2011:

	<u>November 2010</u>	<u>November 2011</u>
Adolescents	11 Individuals	13 Individuals
Adults	233 Individuals	246 Individuals
Families	<u>94 Individuals (38 Families)</u>	<u>95 Individuals (38 Families)</u>
Total	338 Individuals	354 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for November 2010 were 337 while the total bed nights for November 2011 were 394. These figures indicate an increase of 17% between November 2010 and November 2011. Four (4) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, which represents 27% of intakes for the month.

Jon stated that they're moving ahead with the new Lighthouse Shelter, which will have a capacity of 24. Hopefully by next summer/fall they won't be turning people away at all. Jon stated that only individuals age eighteen (18) and up are turned away and referred to Oxford Street/Community Overflow.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2841 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in November 2011 as compared to 2805 bed nights in November 2010. This represents an increase of 1% in Family Shelter bed usage between November 2010 and November 2011.

The Family Shelter placed 15 families for a total of 57 individuals into housing in November. The Family Shelter received 17 new families (intakes) for a total of 66 individuals in November. Based on self-reporting 9 families for a total of 34 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 6 families for a total of 23 individuals were refugees.

Bob stated that the Family Shelter number are beginning to drop and the City Family Shelter is no longer utilizing GA hotel placements.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 5% in November 2011 compared to November 2010. Total bed night usage during November 2010 was 7003 while it was 7383 during November 2011.

During the month of November, there were 160 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 122 men and 38 women. An Intake or New Arrival is defined as an individual that has not stayed at the Shelter for a period of three (3) months or longer. Based on self-reporting, 38 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (31 men and 7 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 29 individuals into permanent housing (24 men and 5 women), with five (5) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 51 women during the month of November, including 13 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 0 of these 13 intakes stated that they were experiencing

homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 4 individuals into housing, with 1 woman returning.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of November 76 individuals, or 30% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.

2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Calls

Amy was unable to attend the meeting so Vickey gave the 2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter calls update for November 2011. There were 1,823 total calls in Cumberland County; of these 163 calls were for housing/shelter. There were a total of 6,517 calls statewide; of these 435 calls were for housing/shelter. Amy stated that they've had turnover and no stats to report.

IV. Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) - Updates –

Bob presented the Portland HPRP stats for the month of November. In the month of November the Portland HPRP Program housed 26 households, for a total of 38 individuals. These housing placements represent 1211 bed nights at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men, and 602 bed nights at Florence House.

Alicia thanked the Preble Street resource Center, Florence House and Oxford Street for their cooperation during their final push to house people and spend down the funds. Bob thanked Alicia for all her hard work while with the City and announced that her last day of work with the City will be next Friday, December 23rd. Rob thanked Angela Havlin and Jennie Soares and the entire HPRP team for all their hard work.

Lori presented the Cumberland County HPRP stats for November 2011. In the month of November 2011 the Cumberland County HPRP Program had served 4 individuals, composing 2 households (including 1 child). In the month of November 2 households attained permanent housing without a subsidy.

V. Preble Street Veteran Housing Services Program – Updates –

Phil welcomed Sandra Foley from New Jersey, who is a regional Site Coordinator visiting the program today. Phil stated that they're full staffed, with the exception of one part-time City position. The Preble Street and City VHS staff introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what they're doing in the program. Phil stated that thus far having a Housing Coordinator (Katie Riley) has been very beneficial even in the infancy stages of the program; two households have already been housed. Cindy mentioned mainehousingsearch.org as a resource for the Housing Coordinator. Phil stated that Marshall's position is very unique to this grant; performing work with clients from a budget standpoint will utilize benefits/resources to their maximum capacity. Additionally, Phil stated that Marshall is a veteran himself and has been an invaluable resource with VA knowledge. Phil stated that they've been able to take the aspects of the HPRP program that worked well and implement them into the program. They've found what each organization does best and work that into the plan, with Preble Street providing case management and the City being able to monitor and track the data. Phil stated that they are up and running and ready for business. For referrals there are outreach hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays with appointment at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 PM. VHS staff will be meeting clients where they are physically throughout Cumberland County. Outreach efforts about the program will be very creative and thorough. Phil stated that as you go into the community educating people out this program, ask people if they've ever performed military services, *not* if they are a veteran; this program can work with anyone so long as they did not have a dishonorable discharge and many people do not associate themselves as a "veteran" even though they could be eligible for the program. Sandra stated that how veterans are defined in this grant is very unique; they're looking at people who many have been activated under National Guard

and have crossed stated lines, people who have served the country but are not eligible to be served under the VA. Additionally, the referral doesn't have to come from the veteran; the veteran just has to be the head of household. Cindy asked if they're doing any outreach in shelters, i.e. in Brunswick. Phil stated that right now they're concentrating locally while they get the program up and running. He mentioned that he will be doing this in the very near future now that the mechanisms of the program are in place and working. Jon stated that asking about service is imperative; this is typically not a question asked at intake but it's important to start asking since this resource is now available. Jon stated that the biggest challenge with advertising about the program is that it is a much more narrow focus for this program; finding out the best places to start talking about this is crucial, which is why they began with ESAC and will be outreaching at the shelters. Jon added that Pine Tree Legal is also a partner in this grant. Phil stated that the telephone numbers on the flyer are not currently working. For now please call Phil at 874-1100 ext. 1290 for all referrals.

VI. *Use of Community Overflow – Update*

Rob stated that the community overflow is very busy; they hit over 60 people in overflow last week. They're running out of room even at the overflow. Rob added that the cot dynamic is a new struggle they're dealing with due to the increase in ADA requests. Bob stated that they're going to start really educating healthcare providers, as many of the requirements are near impossible to meet and healthcare providers do not have a clear grasp on the shelter atmosphere/environment.

VII. *Annual Point in Time (PIT) Survey*

Bob stated that HUD requires all continuums to do an annual Point in Time (PIT) survey. The PIT will take place on the night of Wednesday, January 25th. The count will be HMIS/Service Point oriented. Bob stated that there was a detailed discussion at yesterday's CoC meeting (please see CoC minutes). Rob stated that the unsheltered count will run very similarly to last year. Rob stated that he's looking at having a planning meeting for the unsheltered count in early January. If you're interested in participating please contact Rob via email at RWP@portlandmaine.gov. Jon stated that homeless youth providers really want to emphasize trying to get more accurate numbers of youth. Jon asked other providers that serve youth to connect with him. Cindy stated that you could use those auxiliary numbers collected as the new homeless definition (which will be changing January 4th) will be in effect prior to the PIT. Cindy stated Scott will be planning PIT trainings between January 9th and January 20th; she asked that this be figured out prior to the training dates so that everyone is on the same page. Bob stated that he will let everyone know when the local PIT training will be. Cindy stated that they're hoping to get much more accurate veteran numbers for the PIT.

VIII. *Annual Homeless Memorial Vigil –*

Josh stated that the Annual Homeless Memorial Vigil is next Wednesday at 4:00 PM. (SEE CoC Minutes) Once at Monument Square they will have the traditional ceremonies. Josh stated that they've made up and distributed flyers. Josh stated that he will forward Vickey the flyer to disseminate to the group.

IX. *Federal and State Legislation*

Cullen stated that on the federal level nothing has changed since the last meeting. On the State level, Cullen stated that currently there are hearings in Augusta for testimony for the proposed budget cuts. The proposed budget includes extreme cuts to MaineCare including PNMI, non-categorical, the Medicare buy-in program, and TCM. Cullen stated that the legislature needs to hear why these cuts will be devastating. Yesterday around 100 people testified. Cullen stated that it's going to take a lot more than this to get the message across. The hearings in Augusta began yesterday and continue today and tomorrow. Jon stated that many of the agencies are going up there but it's equally important for individuals to respond as well, even if only by email. Patty stated that these hearings are not enough, and a large portion of the group of people affected can't get up to

Augusta. She stated that getting consumers who will be affected to write letters. Cullen stated that we have the obligation to speak on behalf on these people who can't speak for themselves. Anne Marie stated that Maine Equal Justice will try to help consumers get transportation for the hearings. Jon suggested also calling HVJ if consumers have an interest in attending the hearings.

X. Other Business

Dee mentioned that HVJ has been getting complaints regarding Milestone and laundry not being done and consumers being turned away. She hopes that in bringing this to the group and Milestone's attention that this can be resolved. Tom and Joe responded to these complaints. Milestone's loss of PNMI funds resulted in a 50% loss of shelter staff and thus reduced services.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, January 19, 2011
8:30 – 10:00 AM
Refugee Services Area
190 Lancaster Street

Please contact Robert Duranleau, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division at 775-6315, extension 224; John Shoos, United Way at 874-1000, or Tom Ptacek, Preble Street at 775-0026; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.