

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Doug Gardner	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
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
Heather Rhoda	Frannie Peabody Center
Elizabeth Szatkowski	The Opportunity Alliance
Lori Martin	The Opportunity Alliance
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Linda Janson	StepUp! Family Resources
Christa Haberstroh	Mercy Recovery Center
Phil Allen	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Therese Johnson	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Besty Whitman	Homeless Voices for Justice
Leanna Bruce	Shalom House
Annmarie Rotolo	ADRC-SMAAA
Kathleen Babeu	City of South Portland GA
Karen Hindall	City of South Portland GA
Mary Ellen Welch	Police Department – Community Policing
Pat Konon-Carroll	Family Crisis Services
Joe McNally	Milestone Foundation
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
PatMcKenzie	The Opportunity Alliance

I. Introductions

Bob Duranleau, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made. Bob mentioned that the final HPRP report is still going through final edits and it will be presented at the next ESAC meeting.

II. December Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for December 2011:

	<u>December 2010</u>	<u>December 2011</u>
Adolescents	10 Individuals	13 Individuals
Adults	223 Individuals	259 Individuals
Families	81 Individuals (26 Families)	84 Individuals (27 Families)
Total	314 Individuals	356 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for December 2010 were 296 while the total bed nights for December 2011 were 408. These figures indicate an increase of 38% between December 2010 and December 2011. Three (3) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, which represents 43% of intakes for the month.

Jon stated that they're starting renovations and will hopefully have a new teen shelter sometime this summer.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2595 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in December 2011 as compared to 2517 bed nights in December 2010. This represents an increase of 3% in Family Shelter bed usage between December 2010 and December 2011.

The Family Shelter placed 22 families for a total of 79 individuals into housing in December. The Family Shelter received 20 new families (intakes) for a total of 68 individuals in December. Based on self-reporting 10 families for a total of 35 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 8 families for a total of 30 individuals were refugees.

Bob stated that they're rented an additional two-bedroom apartment and have an increased capacity which will help with overflow for families at the Family Shelter and reduce or eliminate the use of hotels.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 16% in December 2011 compared to December 2010. Total bed night usage during December 2010 was 6922 while it was 8039 during December 2011.

During the month of December, there were 158 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 126 men and 32 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, 36 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (28 men and 8 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 44 individuals into permanent housing (31 men and 13 women), with two (2) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 47 women during the month of December, including 9 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 5 of these 9 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 8 individuals into housing, with 0 women returning.

Bob stated that they're seeing a large increase in the number of people with disabilities or physical ailments that require them to use cots instead of mats. Doug asked if there was a particular reason why there were so many intakes from Westbrook at Oxford Street. Josh stated that though this month it was slightly higher than usual it's pretty much par for the course. Elizabeth asked if the women at Oxford Street and the Women's Shelter could overlap. Josh, Bob, and Jon stated that it's possible but it would be very minimal. Bob mentioned that they're working with HMIS to work on data sharing in order to report unduplicated numbers. Cindy mentioned that there are reports that exist with de-duplicated numbers. She mentioned that she's going to start bring more of these reports to the group. Pat asked if they're seeing more elders. Josh stated that this number has remained fairly consistent. Cindy added that there are reports for this as well that Doug can run. Cindy stated that today in August begins the process for the Qualified annual Allocation Process (QAP) for the tax credits for the state of Maine. Cindy stated that the group has expressed the need for more three-bedroom units, in addition to one-bedroom units. If anyone in Portland wants to comment on the community's need you can email Dan Brennan, dbrennan@mainehousing.org, because if there is a need in the community he wants to hear about it.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of December 79 individuals, or 33% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.

2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Calls

Amy did not have data to provide the housing/shelter calls update for December.

Bob distributed and reviewed a Portland Homeless Shelters - Shelter Data Snapshot report.

III. *Use of Community Overflow – Update – Winter Hours –*

Josh stated that they have extended hours for winter starting this week to allow the people in overflow to stay right until breakfast starts; people in overflow are staying there until 7:30 AM and breakfast now starts at 7:30 AM to close the gap. Josh added that the numbers in overflow have been very high this week. Jon stated that the biggest concern is what happens when we can't fit everyone in the overflow space, which we're getting very close to. This is an issue we're going to have to start thinking about. Jon stated that the work that the City staff is doing to cover this area and the shelter every night is incredible. Mary Ellen stated that there are approximately 5-6 guys with severe mental illnesses who have been criminal trespassed at Oxford Street, Preble Street and the library, who are now sleeping on the street. The Police Department is getting more and more concerned because they are breaking into buildings to sleep. Pat stated that we need to think of new solutions. The group agreed that this issue needs to be pushed to the top at DHHS and with health officials. Doug asked who is going to take the lead. Jon stated that you have to get everything in place, which will take a lot of different organizations represented around the table. Doug suggested a smaller group take a look at this issue. Jon stated that someone from Homeless Health, Maine Med ER Department, Mercy ER Department, the Police Department, DHHS, Adult Protective Services, the Portland Crisis Team, Social Services, and Preble Street should be at the table. We will need to have representatives from DHHS and top officials from both Maine Medical center and Mercy Hospital. Jon stated that he will contact individuals from these organizations today. Tom stated that he would also like to be there as well. Tom stated that he is happy that this is the response that was generated by this issue and thanked the group.

IV. *Preble Street Veteran Housing Services Program – Updates –*

Phil stated that they're trying to promote the program and get the word out throughout Cumberland County to make connections with agencies that might be serving veterans in some capacity. They've started having a representative at Oxford Street in the mornings two days a week, and a City representative there two nights a week. They're really trying to expand the outreach efforts and sharpen the point of efforts here in Portland. The numbers are growing and hope to see them grow more. Phil added that the Regional Director that was here at the last ESAC meeting was blown away by the conium of care and the community response to homelessness in Portland. Jon added that she was really impressed by the program itself. Joe asked about getting outreach at Milestone. Phil stated that this could be arranged. Pat suggested connecting with the LIHEAP program to educate them about the program and the difference between asking someone if they're a veteran or if they've ever been in military service.

V. *MaineHousing Updates – STEP Program Changes*

Cindy distributed information on the STEP Program. Cindy stated that they've had a lot of input and have decided to modify the program. The program will be extended to twelve (12) months so that more people will be eligible. All of the other requirements still apply, but now when deciding if someone will be able to remain stably housed it will be after twelve months instead of six. MaineHousing has received a 40% hit on HOME funds; Cindy stated that they re-allocated funds so that they'll only take 12% hit but this may cause a reduction in vouchers. In May or June they're going to really look at utilization and re-organize funds based on this to ensure the funds get used and used well.

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

Bob stated that there was a PIT training at yesterday's CoC meeting led by Scott Tibbetts. Scott wanted to let everyone know that could not attend the training yesterday and would like to that the Balance of State is having a training today and people can call in call 866-316-1519 code 88007890# and ask for the go-to link to view the training. The annual PIT will take place on Wednesday, January 25th (the last Wednesday in January). Based on the changes and making the survey process completely electronic (with the exception of the unsheltered count) for ServicePoint users, this year's count should go very smoothly. Rob is coordinating the unsheltered count which will be a collaborative effort by Oxford Street, Preble Street, HVJ and Milestone and will run similarly to the way it did last year. If anyone is interested in doing the unsheltered count please contact Rob by mid-day tomorrow via email, RWP@portlandmaine.gov.

VII. *Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*

Bob distributed and reviewed a handout on the Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Please see the attached handout for more information. Bob stated that there will be lots of opportunities for members of this group to be involved. More to follow. Betsy and Tom mentioned that they would like someone from HVJ to be involved in the task force. Discussion was centered on committee slots and advocacy's role in the task force. Jon and Bob mentioned contacting the tri-chairs and Doug regarding this. Betsy recommends having an HVJ member as a community member on the task-force. A motion was made by Betsy, the motion was seconded by a few members of the group, and a vote was taken for ESAC's support for a member of HVJ being appointed to the task force. The majority of the group was in favor (all City of Portland staff abstained from voting, all others were in unanimous agreement).

VIII. *Other Business*

Ginny stated that the BRAP waitlist has recently been cleared in Portland.

***NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, February 16, 2012
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.*