

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes February 16, 2012

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
John Shoos	United Way
Dan Coyne	United Way
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Tom McLaughlin	UNE
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Leah Bruns	The Opportunity Alliance
Lori Martin	The Opportunity Alliance
Sarah Lundin	City of Westbrook
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
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Mary Jo Skofield	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jeanna R	Homeless Voices for Justice
Annmarie Rotolo	ADRC-SMAAA
Kathleen Babeu	City of South Portland GA
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Mary Ellen Welch	Police Department – Community Policing
Patty Robinson	Preble Street Florence House
Tom Natalie	Milestone Foundation
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine

I. Introductions

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

II. January Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for January 2012:

	<u>January 2011</u>	<u>January 2012</u>
Adolescents	10 Individuals	12 Individuals
Adults	216 Individuals	259 Individuals
Families	<u>82 Individuals (15 Families)</u>	<u>86 Individuals (16 Families)</u>
Total	308 Individuals	357 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for January 2011 were 307 while the total bed nights for January 2012 were 358. These figures indicate an increase of 17% between January 2011 and January 2012. Three (3) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, which represents.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2667 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in January 2012 as compared to 2545 bed nights in January 2011. This represents an increase of 5% in Family Shelter bed usage between

January 2011 and January 2012.

The Family Shelter placed 14 families for a total of 44 individuals into housing in January. The Family Shelter received 19 new families (intakes) for a total of 60 individuals in January. Based on self-reporting 12 families for a total of 37 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 5 families for a total of 21 individuals were refugees.

Bob stated that with the addition of another apartment unit and converting a dining room in a unit to a bedroom the capacity at the Family Shelter has increased. This was done because of high utilization of hotels.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 20% in January 2012 compared to January 2011. Total bed night usage during January 2011 was 6681 while it was 8029 during January 2012.

During the month of January, there were 132 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 94 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 (23 men and 15 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 42 individuals into permanent housing (32 men and 10 women), with zero (0) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 49 women during the month of January, including 13 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 4 of these 13 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 8 individuals into housing, with 1 woman returning.

There was discussion revolving around the total number of permanent beds at Oxford Street, overflow, and the definition of permanent beds and overflow beds according to the Homeless Rule and HUD. Cindy stated that discussions around this and decisions making should take place at the CoC meetings and should take place soon since MaineHousing is in the midst of compiling PIT data which will be used for the Housing Inventory Charts.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of January 82 individuals, or 38% 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 January.

III. Use of Community Overflow – Update –

Bob stated that it's been very busy. He stated that they've been able to work with Preble Street to keep the overflow space open until 7:30 AM and open breakfast early at 7:30 AM. This has been a great collaboration and has been going very well. Staff have also done a great job on keeping the overflow space clean and assisting with the transition back to the day room.

IV. City of Portland HPRP Final Report – Prepared by Tom McLaughlin

Tom distributed and gave an overview of the HPRP Final Report. (Please see the HPRP Final report, which is attached to the minutes for more information). John asked about whether Tom can conclude that the longer the case management the better the success. Tom stated that they measured case management units, where a quick phone call and an hour long visit are counted equally so according to case management units yes, but this doesn't account for intensity. Cindy stated that the

Engagement and Stabilization outcomes (for those that had less than 500 bed nights) were very similar to the STEP Program. Cullen asked if Tom has any information regarding what would happen to people if they had just received social intervention/case management and not financial assistance, specifically in the Diversion and Prevention Program. Tom stated that he could look further into this. Tom stated that there is a correlation between case management and moving people to self-sufficiency. Betsy asked about specific recommendations based on the program outcomes. Tom stated that on page 18 he provides some conclusions for the program. Leah asked if he's seeing any glaring differences between different HPRPs. Tom stated that he's just beginning to look at the State's data, but it seems pretty well distributed. Cindy stated that she predicts that the recommendations coming out of the State's HPRP will be very similar to the Stable Lives Program, that it will point to case management as being key.

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

Phil stated that things are picking up slowly. He stated that the numbers still aren't large but they're climbing every day. He stated that overall they're in a good place as a community; they're numbers are at the same place as programs in the rest of the country. In addition, they're showing intensive engagement through high numbers of contacts with clients. Phil stated that they're connecting people to mainstream resources and the VA. Phil stated that a lot of the clients are from Portland, but they're gotten a lot of referrals from Westbrook, and they're expanding out to other communities. Phil stated that they are working with the HOME team for front line outreach for those on the fringes. Therese stated that the collaboration between the City staff and Preble Street has been great.

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

Tom Ptacek presented a brief update on the Task Force to Develop a Strategic Plan to prevent and End Homelessness. The Task Force has its second meeting yesterday, Wednesday, February 15th. Jon, Josh and Tom presented shelter data demographics, best practices, and the HPRP report to the Task Force. The next meeting will be scheduled for approximately one month from now. Tom Ptacek stated that it was a continuation of the presentation from the first meeting. He stated that Jon and Josh gathered specific information that the Task Force wants to look at. At the next meeting the Task Force will be breaking off into four (4) small groups. Cindy stated that if they're looking at HPRP as a model they should be careful because HPRP could help those at 50% AMI or below, but the HEARTH Act only allows to aid people under 30% AMI. Bob mentioned that the proposed rule is 30% AMI and all CoCs have recommended to HUD that it be increased to 50% AMI. Tom McLaughlin stated that the first two meeting was to get the Task Force up to date on homelessness in Portland. Tom Ptacek stated that the members on the Task Force seem to grasp the gravity of the situation and the extent of it.

VII. *Update on At-Risk Clients Meeting with DHHS*

Mary Ellen stated that all the right people were included in the meeting. They made a plan to hospitalize one of the men. It took a little time but he did make it to Maine Med. He was hospitalized at Spring Harbor; unfortunately he was released yesterday to the Refugee Services Program. Bob stated that they are in the process of making phone calls and following up on this and will follow up with Jon Bradley.

VIII. *Beds for Intoxicated Females*

Tom stated that HVJ has a few questions, one regarding female detox beds at Milestone. Also, what is happening during the day, what options the HOME team has for intoxicated female during the day. Tom Natalie stated that they have 3 detox beds for females, but they are strictly a male shelter due to the cuts in funding. He added that for males they're open 24/7. Bob stated that on a case-by-case basis the HOME team will contact Oxford Street to use it as a respite. Tom asked where the intoxicated women are going at night. Bob stated that they're going to Oxford Street. Tom Natalie added that during the day the HOME team tries to get intoxicated women into detox. Cullen praised

the City for stepping up to the plate regarding this issue.

IX. Federal and State Legislation

Cullen stated that on the federal level Obama put out his budget. The good news is that Obama included \$1 billion dollars to fund the National Housing Trust Fund. Additionally the budget includes \$2.3 billion dollars in funding for McKinney-Vento. On the State level, last Tuesday the Legislature came up with a compromise: non-categoricals will have funding, but it's capped, and those on the waiting list will not be included. Additionally, 14,000 families will lose their Medicaid coverage. Eligible services are also being cuts. Cullen added that the dilemma is currently the budget needs a 2/3's majority to pass, and if this doesn't pass it's very likely that the alternative would be going back to the Governor's original proposal which would only need a simple majority to pass. John wanted to clarify that this is just for FY12's budget, which only gets us through June 30th; then this process will start all over again for the FY 13 budget. Cullen stated that we have a lot of work to do to shift priorities. Cindy stated that luckily they filled the gap for TCM, however they did so with Home Fund money, which would normally go to shelter funding, home ownership programs, etc.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, March 15, 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.