

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2012

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Josh O'Brien	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Rob Parritt	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Cindy Namer	MaineHousing
Scott Tibbitts	MaineHousing
Dan Coyne	United Way of Greater Portland
John Shoos	United Way of Greater Portland
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Amanda Kyajohnian	Shalom House
Chet Barnes	Office of Adult Mental Health Services
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
Wendy Harmon	Southern Maine Landlord Association
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Patti Robinson	Preble Street
Phil Allen	Preble Street Veteran Housing Services
Carol Hutchins	Bayside Neighborhood Association
Mary Ellen Welch	Community Policing
Shana Pike	MAPS/Step Up
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Sara Daniels	The Opportunity Alliance
Elizabeth Szatkowski	The Opportunity Alliance
Pat McKenzie	The Opportunity Alliance
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Betsy Whitman	Homeless Voices for Justice
Robin House	Community member/Neighbor
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Tom Natalie	Milestone Foundation
Joe McNally	Milestone Foundation

I. Introductions

Tom Ptacek, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. July Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for July 2012:

July 2011

Adolescents 14 Individuals
Adults 247 Individuals
Families 101 Individuals (40 Families)
Total 362 Individuals

July 2012

15 Individuals
304 Individuals
125 Individuals (50 Families)
444 Individuals

Bob stated that these are the highest numbers on record, surpassing last month's record high numbers.

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for July 2011 were 424 while the total bed nights for July 2012 were 453. These figures indicate an increase of 7% between July 2011 and June 2012. Five (5) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 3887 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in July 2012 as compared to 3137 bed nights in July 2011. This represents an increase of 24% in Family Shelter bed usage between July 2011 and July 2012.

The Family Shelter placed 20 families for a total of 82 individuals into housing in July.

The Family Shelter received 34 new families (intakes) for a total of 140 individuals in July. Based on self-reporting 21 families for a total of 99 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 13 families for a total of 72 individuals were refugees.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 23% in July 2012 compared to July 2011. Total bed night usage during July 2011 was 7668 while it was 9410 during July 2012.

During the month of July, there were 175 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 144 men and 31 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, 52 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (46 men and 6 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 33 individuals into permanent housing (26 men and 7 women), with one (1) individual returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 55 women during the month of July, including 17 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 5 of these 17 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 2 individuals into housing, with 0 women returning.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of July 168 individuals, or 47% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, based on self-reporting.

Rob reviewed the new handout featuring warming center statistics. Jon mentioned that a lot more people are sleeping out. He stated that this was a topic of discussion at a recent BNA meeting. Jon mentioned that it's amazing what the staff at Oxford Street is doing and they deserve a lot of credit.

Patti stated that Florence House is seeing more women with wheelchairs and walkers and it's getting challenging trying to find placements. The challenge of trying to house someone is getting much greater.

Oxford Street Shelter FY 2012 Statistics

Bob distributed and reviewed copies of sections from the Oxford Street Shelter FY 2012 Year End Report. There was a brief discussion regarding the Oxford Street Shelter FY 2012 statistics.

There were a few questions regarding the Family Shelter intakes and reasons for homelessness. There was a brief discussion regarding this. Cindy provided some stats from last year regarding this. Bob stated that they're in the process of putting together the Family Shelter FY 2012 Year End Report and it will be presented at a future meeting.

III. *Overflow Shelter Report*

Josh stated that they're still in the process of looking for a different overflow space. Rob stated that the spaces they've been looking at are cost prohibited. Additionally, zoning issues have made the process much more difficult. Phil mentioned looking at the seasonal peaks, and getting a seasonal waiver for zoning. Jon stated that the Task Force is nearing its final recommendations, which includes making zoning changes and including the greater Portland community. Josh added that this past year numbers increased for the first time going into the colder months which is generally the slowest time of year.

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

Phil distributed a handout with program data/statistics. He stated that they're about a month into they're expanded outreach to York County.

V. *State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee*

Jeff stated that the committee is updating the HMIS policy book for the CoC in be in accordance with HUD regulations which requires a formal, written governance to be in place. The committee is working with Kat Freeman, who is providing technical assistance. The work with Kat has to be completed before the NOFA for the CoC is released, so there is a very quick turnaround. Jon mentioned that it's important to note that this phase is about policies and procedures; there will be another phase with performance measures and outcomes.

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

Jon stated that the goal is to be completed very soon and present to the City Council in the beginning of October. The overall process is winding down. Tom McLaughlin has agreed to draft the final report based on the four sub-groups' reports. The final report should be completed fairly soon. Josh added that there will be another public forum for feedback prior to presenting the final report to the City Council.

VII. *Federal & State Legislation – GA Proposed Regulations*

Cullen stated that there isn't much going on right now on either the federal or state levels. Cullen mentioned that a group of people attended the annual NAEH conference in Washington, DC and were able to meet with members of Maine's delegation to illustrate the current climate in Maine, the important of streamlining Section 8 and asking for their support in fully funding the McKinney-Vento Act. Cullen added that they spent extra time thanking Senator Snowe for her support of legislation that has helped house our most vulnerable citizens; throughout her tenure as Senator she has been a champion for the homeless and without her continued support we could not have accomplished what we have for Maine's most vulnerable population. Cullen added that both Senator Snowe and Senator Collins have sponsored or co-sponsored homeless-related legislation that otherwise wouldn't have been heard; they are the only republicans that have championed for homeless issues in this way which is imperative when legislation requires bipartisan leadership/participation. Senator Snowe's presence in Maine's delegation will be deeply missed. Bob mentioned that ESAC had previously agreed to write a thank you letter to Senator Snowe, which has already been sent to her office.

VIII. *Other Business*

Cindy provided a Stable Lives update. Jeff stated that they're stepping up interaction and early intervention with landlords in order to prevent evictions.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, September 20, 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.