

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes November 15, 2012

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
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
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Amanda Kyajohnian	Shalom House
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
Patti Robinson	Preble Street
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Phil Allen	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services
Therese Johnson	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Mary Ellen Welch	Community Policing
Linda Janson	MAPS/Step Up
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Nick Nicholson	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Sarah Dietz	The Opportunity Alliance
Elizabeth Szatkowski	The Opportunity Alliance
Pat McKenzie	The Opportunity Alliance
Jenny Stasio	Family Crisis Services
Sherrin Vail	Avesta Housing
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Evelyn Blanchard	Milestone Foundation
Carol Hutchins	Bayside Neighborhood Association
Melissa Skahan	Mercy

I. Introductions

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

II. October Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for October 2012:

	<u>October 2011</u>	<u>October 2012</u>
Adolescents	12 Individuals	14 Individuals
Adults	255 Individuals	300 Individuals
Families	<u>104 Individuals (41 Families)</u>	<u>120 Individuals (47 Families)</u>
Total	371 Individuals	434 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for October 2011 were 367 while the total bed nights for October 2012 were 431. These figures indicate an increase of 17% between October 2011 and October 2012. Three (3) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Jon stated that the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter will open in the beginning of January, which will have a higher capacity than the Lighthouse Shelter currently does.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 3729 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in October 2012 as compared to 3215 bed nights in October 2011. This represents an increase of 16% in Family Shelter bed usage between October 2011 and October 2012.

The Family Shelter placed 16 families for a total of 59 individuals into housing in October.

The Family Shelter received 23 new families (intakes) for a total of 80 individuals in October. Based on self-reporting 10 families for a total of 42 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, of these 7 families for a total of 29 individuals were refugees.

Bob stated that the Family Shelter has seen a large increase in visa holders (B1/B2). Bob stated that due to the increase in demand the Family Shelter is expanding its capacity and adding two additional units beginning Monday. He added that November has been extremely busy with very high numbers, numbers usually seen in the summer months.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 18% in October 2012 compared to October 2011. Total bed night usage during October 2011 was 7903 while it was 9294 during October 2012.

During the month of October, there were 204 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 153 men and 51 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, 60 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (37 men and 23 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 39 individuals into permanent housing (30 men and 9 women), with two (2) individual returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 54 women during the month of October, including 14 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 7 of these 14 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 6 individuals into housing, with 1 woman returning.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of October 112 individuals, or 36% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, based on self-reporting.

Rob reviewed the handout featuring warming center statistics and praised Oxford Street Shelter staff for their amazing job managing beds and minimizing the need to utilize the warming center. The General Assistance waiting room was used as the warming center ten (10) times in October. Rob reminded everyone that the "Warming Center High" column is the highest number of people at the warming center at any given time during the night; however, the "Warming Center All Night" column represents the individuals that were at the warming center all night and weren't placed at the shelter.

Bob stated that the CoC NOFA was released on Friday, November 9th. The CoC application is due January 18th, 2012. Project Applications are due in e-snaps by December 14th so that they can be reviewed and ranked by the prioritizing committee. Bob stated that he will send out meeting notifications for upcoming CoC meetings.

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

Phil stated that their numbers have increased in part due to increased outreach in York County. He added that they have brought on Peggy Lynch to provide aggressive street outreach in York County, which has been very beneficial. Phil stated with the increased numbers comes an increase in spending. The VA capped the program's ability to spend; they cannot exceed 35% of funds in the first quarter which they

have already reached so they do not currently have financial assistance available. Case Workers have been reaching out to other sources primarily in the Veterans community for these financial resources. Jon stated that they are funded for another year. Additionally, the new NOFA is out and they will be able to increase their funding and possibly their reach state wide. They will be reevaluating funding/spending in the next funding process.

IV. *State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee*

Therese stated that they're moving along well, most of the work has been done and they're still on target to finish the work by January. Therese stated that there will definitely be a need for individuals to continue to meet even after the work is done to continue to update it as new information and regulations come out. Phil stated that the process has been worthwhile looking at the draft product. The goal is to have everything in a draft form by the next time they meet. This needs to be voted on by both CoC's and approved prior to January 18, 2013 when the HUD CoC application is due.

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

Tom stated that the Task Force recommendations are on the City Council's agenda this coming Monday, November 19th, at 7:00 PM with the opportunity for public comment/testimony. Tom and Jon stated that it's important for people to be at the meeting to respond to/debunk the myths and untruths regarding the homeless population. Jon stated that the chairs and the group want to be clear about the original purpose of the Task Force and what they were and were not charged with doing.

VI. *Family Crisis Shelter – Bed Increase*

Jenny stated that the Family Crisis Shelter has increased its capacity from 14 to 16 beds. Jenny stated that 16 beds is the highest they can go within their zoning restrictions.

VII. *Projects for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness (PATH) Grant*

Jon stated that the tentative start date is still January and there is clearly a structure forming statewide. They're waiting for meetings with subcontractors. Jon stated that they're in the process of hiring for the program. There is plan within the team to target 40 of the most challenging, long-term chronic individuals at the shelters; as a programmatic idea they're very hopeful that this will make a difference at the shelters. Additionally, PHA will be setting aside 40 housing vouchers for this program which they hope will make a large difference. Pat added that the PATH Peer Navigator position has been posted.

VIII. *Client Support and Services Plan Proposal (former Client Engagement Policy)*

Josh provided an overview of the plan. The plan states that the goal is engagement and permanent housing; there is an expectation that everyone will work together to achieve these goals. Tom asked if there is a plan to have a formal presentation of the plan. Josh stated that the group that worked on the plan is still meeting on a weekly basis and this is something that they are determining. They are discussing outreach, feedback, and implementation measures. Jon added that this is all made possible by resources and collaborative work that has been going on for a long time, such as working towards a centralized intake process, coordinated assessments and the PATH program. Once all of these processes come together resources will be maximized and duplication of services will be reduced. Copies of the Draft Client Support and Services Plan will be attached to the minutes.

IX. *Federal & State Legislation –*

Cullen reviewed the results of the election and how it impacted the State Legislature. Cullen stated that Sequestration is now making headlines. The good news is that people are predicting that it will be almost impossible to leave things as is since it doesn't benefit either party. Jim added that at the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition conference yesterday there was discussion of how the cuts would impact housing services; he passed around a handout that was presented at the presentation. Tom asked if there was any compromise that would be worse than what Sequestration would do (across the board 8% cuts). Cullen and Jon stated that any compromise reached would likely be better than the severe cuts that would occur if Sequestration were to go through. Cullen added that even if the compromise was half of the cuts that would be imposed through Sequestration it would still be devastating. Jon added that there is a lot of

incentive not to allow Sequestration to go through.

X. Other Business

Elizabeth stated that at the City Council meeting there will be a proclamation presented at the beginning of the meeting to honor Steve Huston.

Jon stated that the GA Work Group is winding down. This was originally a legislative demand and with the change in the legislature after the election it is unknown what this will mean for the group. Jon provided a brief update on the GA Work Group. Jon stated that there is some work that has been approved, as well as some recommendations that will be brought to the Continuums. Jon stated that there is only one more meeting scheduled regarding funding/savings. Many recommendations were voted on yesterday, some were unanimous while there were many others that were very tight (4-3/3-4) votes. When the full committee finishes meeting they will have to come up with a final report to bring back to legislature. The overall outcome of this process will depend on the new legislature. Bob added that uniformity/consistency throughout the state (definitions, applications, etc.) was a very large aspect of this process.

Pat gave a brief MaineCare, Adult Mental Health Services PNMI update, including the progress made on a definition to be sent to the federal government.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, December 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 482-5124; John Shoos, United Way at 874-1000, or Tom Ptacek, HVJ at 775-0026; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.