

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes January 17th, 2013

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
Harrison Deah	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Brian Townsend	Preble Street
Patty Robinson	Preble Street
Phil Allen	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services
Marshall Archer	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Therese Johnson	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Sarah Dietz	Opportunity Alliance
Jenny Stasio	Family Crisis Services
Mary Ellen Welch	Community Policing
Shana Pike	MAPS/Step Up
Tom Natalie	Milestone
Susan Sloane Felix	Milestone
Angela Sequeira	Shalom House
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Betsy Whitman	Homeless Voices for Justice
MaryJo Skofield	Homeless Voices for Justice
Sherrin Vail	Avesta Housing
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Kathleen Babeu	City of South Portland GA
Steve Hirshon	Bayside Neighborhood Association
Carol Kulesza	VA
Wendy Harmon	Southern Maine Landlords Association
Annmarie Bryce	Southern Maine Agency on Aging

I. Introductions

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

II. December Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for December 2012:

	<u>December 2011</u>	<u>December 2012</u>
Adolescents	13 Individuals	12 Individuals
Adults	259 Individuals	292 Individuals
Families	<u>84 Individuals (27 Families)</u>	<u>123 Individuals (40 Families)</u>
Total	356 Individuals	427 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for December 2011 were 408 while the total bed nights for December 2012 were 365. These figures indicate a decrease of 11% between December 2011 and December 2012. Eight (8) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 3810 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in December 2012 as compared to 2595 bed nights in December 2011. This represents an increase of 47% in Family Shelter bed usage between December 2011 and December 2012.

The Family Shelter placed 14 families for a total of 49 individuals into housing in December. The Family Shelter received 27 new families (intakes) for a total of 68 individuals in December. Based on self-reporting 11 families for a total of 39 individuals stated they had never been homeless before, all 11 families (for a total of 39 individuals) were refugees.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 12% in December 2012 compared to December 2011. Total bed night usage during December 2011 was 8039 while it was 9038 during December 2012.

During the month of December, there were 148 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter, 123 men and 25 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, 35 individuals stated they had never been homeless before (32 men and 3 women).

Oxford Street Shelter Support Services team placed 35 individuals into permanent housing (25 men and 12 women), with two (2) individual returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 43 women during the month of December, including 8 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 4 of these 8 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 2 individuals into housing, with 1 woman returning.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of December 86 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 eleven (11) times in December. 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. Rob stated that the warming center is starting to become part of the regular overnight routine. Rob stated that they are looking to bring on a few more per diem Shelter Attendants.

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

Phil stated that they're into a new quarter so they are able to begin offering temporary financial assistance to clients again. Phil distributed flyers for agencies to display for the program.

IV. *State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee*

Jeff stated that they finalized the Governance draft this Tuesday. It has been sent to the Maine CoC and will be sent to the Portland CoC this week for review and comments. The draft will be updated to reflect comments received and will be redistributed to the Continuums. Review of the HMIS Governance will be on the February CoC agenda.

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

Jon stated that there have been talks regarding setting up meeting times for the legacy committees.

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

Rob stated that the Client Support and Services Plan went into full effect this week; Tuesday they had all clients complete surveys to get a baseline. Staff will sift through the survey data to determine who they will be exempting and to determine first steps. The feedback overall has been largely positive at Oxford Street. Rob provided a brief overview of the plan.

VII. *Lighthouse Shelter – Update*

Jon stated that the new Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter opened on January 6, 2013, and has increased capacity to 24 beds and has a lot more flexibility. Jon stated that since they opened they've already expanded the guys' side to include more beds. Jon stated that everything is going very well and there has been great feedback from consumers and staff.

VIII. *CoC Update*

Bob thanked everyone who was part of the CoC process. We will most likely be submitting early this afternoon. HUD will be awarding Tier 1 projects first and then if there is still money available award projects from Tier 2.

IX. *Federal & State Legislation –*

Cullen stated that there is a resolve being put forth that would direct all aspects of government to work in conjunction with Maine's Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness. Cullen gave a brief overview of the Curtailment and the Supplemental Budget. Curtailment means that all unspent money will be held and not spent through the rest of the fiscal year. In turn the Legislature has to create a supplemental budget to get us through the end of the fiscal year and can offset those cuts. Curtailment just happens, but it takes a while for the supplemental budget to go through. Our voices will be necessary to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations aren't negatively affected by these cuts. Bob distributed statistics on how the Portland shelter system would be negatively impacted if the bed night rate were to be reduced to a maximum of \$10 per bed night, as proposed in the Governor's budget proposal; this would mean more than a \$770,000 decrease in GA Shelter Reimbursement to Portland shelters. Bob provided a brief overview of some of the proposed GA cuts and how it would impact Portland, including the proposal to eliminate the upper-tier reimbursement which would cause over a \$2 million cost-shift to the City of Portland tax payers. Jon stated that pretty much everything that was in the GA Working Group final recommendations was ignored by the Governor in his budget proposal. Annmarie provided a brief update on Medicare/MaineCare changes/reductions.

X. *Other Business*

Rob added that there is currently a freeze on S+C and BRAP vouchers. He added that without these programs moving people into permanent housing will be extremely difficult. Patty added that the need is great but the availability isn't there.

Jon stated that they finally have a contract with the State to go forward with the PATH grant. Brian provided a review/update of the PATH program, which is termed the Clinical Intervention Program. There will be three (3) case workers and four (4) or five (5) peer navigators all working collaboratively with the Portland adult shelter system. Jon reviewed the 40 vouchers committed by PHA for chronically homeless individuals that will be used in conjunction with this program.

Bob stated that MaineHousing is holding a public comment meeting for the FY 2012 ESG Substantial Amendment on Thursday, January 31st.

Rob stated that the ESG Rapid Re-Housing Program is up and running at Oxford Street and they're very excited.

Betsy stated that they will be doing their annual HVJ State House Day on Wednesday, February 13th. If anyone knows of anyone in their programs that would be interested please contact Betsy.

Rob reminded everyone that the annual Point in Time (PIT) survey will take place the night of Wednesday, January 30th. Rob stated that Scott came last night to provide a training/planning meeting; overall the process hasn't changed from last year. There will be another PIT planning meeting next Wednesday.

Cullen provided a brief update on new housing opening at Danforth/High Street and the McAuley Residence program.

Aaron provided a brief Mainstream Resources update. There is Mainstream Resources Training led by Annmarie immediately following today's ESAC meeting. On February 21st there will be a Mainstream Resources training on hoarding immediately following the ESAC meeting; on Thursday, March 21st there will be a Mainstream Resources training on Veterans led by Phil Allen and Marshall Archer; and in April Aaron is hoping that Pine Tree Legal Assistance will return to provide a training on Fair Housing as they have in past years, as April is Fair Housing month.

Vickey asked the group if there would be any opposition to remove the section from the ESAC Meeting Minutes that details the shelter statistics. She proposed eliminating the Shelter Statistics section and instead emailing the ESAC Shelter Stats when the minutes are sent so that the shelter data is still readily assessable to everyone whilst eliminating double-duty work/preparation for her. All were in agreement for this method of documentation/distribution in the future. A reminder that both the ESAC Meeting Minutes and the ESAC monthly Shelter Statistics are available on the Social Services Division, ESAC section of the City's website: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/ssesac.asp>

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, February 21, 2013
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.