

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes February 21st, 2013

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
<i>Rob Parritt</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
<i>Harrison Deah</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Brian Townsend</i>	Preble Street
<i>Phil Allen</i>	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services
<i>Marshall Archer</i>	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
<i>Therese Johnson</i>	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
<i>Sarah Dietz</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Jenny Stasio</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Mary Ellen Welch</i>	Community Policing
<i>Linda Janson</i>	MAPS/Step Up
<i>Susan Sloane Felix</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Tom Ptacek</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Jim Devine</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Chet Barnes</i>	Office of Adult Mental Health Services
<i>John Shoos</i>	United Way
<i>Sherrin Vail</i>	Avesta Housing
<i>Kathi Fortin</i>	Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Paul Murphy</i>	Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Matthew Peters</i>	Avesta Housing
<i>Steve Hirshon</i>	Bayside Neighborhood Association
<i>Carol Kulesza</i>	VA
<i>Wendy Harmon</i>	Southern Maine Landlords Association
<i>Kendra Danse</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Amy Faulkingham</i>	2-1-1 Maine

I. Introductions

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

II. January 2013 Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for January 2013 (see attachment). Bob stated that we are trying to document our visa holder/refugee statistics with greater detail. Bob added that January's shelter numbers are among record high shelter numbers for Portland.

Rob reviewed the handout featuring warming center statistics. Rob stated that the warming center was used on a regular basis in January; this is the most it has been used since we started keeping statistics.

III. General Assistance Warming Center Changes

Rob stated that beginning this month the GA waiting room is being used as a secondary overflow location with up to 17 mats on the floor and this conference area is being used as a warming center if needed. Bob stated that Oxford Street is still looking for additional Per Diem Shelter Attendants.

IV. *Point in Time (PIT) Survey Update*

Rob stated that the weather this year was much more conducive for performing outreach and being able to look for camp sites; they had a lot of success finding people. They found eleven (11) unsheltered individuals as well as evidence of other camp sites that were unoccupied when they arrived the night of the PIT. He added that they found individuals/sites farther away than they previously have; they found a large site off of Brighton Ave. Rob thanked everyone involved. Bob thanked Rob for coordinating again this year.

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

Phil stated that they're getting a lot of referrals from Oxford Street in an attempt to help with the ever-growing shelter numbers. Phil added that they aided the unsheltered PIT count in York county and they found twice the number of homeless veterans than last year with this increased outreach effort.

VI. *State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee*

Phil stated that they have finalized their draft of the Governance Charter. Comments on the Governance itself are due Wednesday, March 20th (the date of the CoC meeting). At the next CoC meeting they will be presenting the next piece for review and comments. Materials presented at yesterday's CoC meeting will be disseminated with the CoC and ESAC minutes. Phil stated that comments/questions can be emailed to him, Jeff or Therese.

VII. *Shalom House – Subsidized Housing Update*

Ginny stated that Shelter Plus Care is not frozen, and she wanted to get the work out to combat rumors and to continue to send referrals. She stated that there are a few grants that don't have a lot of mobility because of money, but some do. Ginny stated that the Portland area is awarding BRAP vouchers to the homeless population; it is not limited like it is throughout the rest of the state. She stated that they are encouraging people to apply, so that there is an accurate picture of the need so that Shalom House can advocate for more vouchers to meet the need. Phil stated that the wait time has been extended that in the past; he asked what wait times look like. Ginny stated that it is very difficult to predict waiting times; because so many people are homeless the wait list is slowing down. Chet emphasized how important it is to still apply and get on the wait list to depict the need because it is governed legislatively and this is the best way to successfully advocate for more resources. Ginny added that any help that can be provided to help locate an apartment once they've received their voucher would be greatly advantageous.

VIII. *Preble Street Clinical Intervention Program (CLIP) - Update*

Brian stated that the program is currently operational at Oxford Street, Florence House and the Resource Center; they will begin to work with Milestone in the very near future. He stated that they've very excited about the content of the team. It's an integrated team with Preble Street and Opportunity Alliance, and they're also integrated with the shelters to provide very effective triage on site. Thus far the program is going very well. Rob stated that the CLIP presence in the evenings is great; they've been very active with outreaching at the shelter. Brian stated that the nature of the work is outreach at the shelters, but they're finding that with the teams' flexibility they can forge relationships where otherwise most wouldn't be able to. If anyone who wants to get in touch or find out more about CLIP they should contact Brian or Ali Lovejoy at the Resource Center. Jon added that this is an evolving model, focused on community outreach and support. Jon stated that PHA is working on making the dedicated vouchers available.

IX. *New – City ESG Program*

Rob provided a brief overview of the methodology used, and agreed upon, for the ESG money. He stated that the program is up and running and doing some great work in the shelter. Harrison stated that they have 12 people enrolled already, 4 have been housed, and 3 are actively looking for housing. He stated that they're also looking at identifying resources outside of Portland as well, such as family, friends etc. Harrison added that they're goal is rapid re-housing out of the shelters; however they also

provide some prevention services. There is a small, one-time pot of money for very specific needs such as rental application fees, back utility fees, etc. Rob stated that the ESG program will be working very closely with the CLIP program. Rob stated that they will continue to provide updates and that he anticipates the program to pick up a lot of momentum going into the spring and summer months. Matthew recommended that people call Avesta.

X. *MaineHousing Update*

Cindy stated that there was a public hearing on January 31st to discuss MaineHousing's proposed Substantial Amendment for the Emergency Solutions Grant funds; the comment period ends Friday, March 1st. She encouraged anyone who wishes to make comments to do so by sending comments to Mike Martin mmartin@mainehousing.org; Cindy added that if people would prefer they can also send comments to her via email. Cindy provided a brief overview of their proposed ESG plan, which involves rapidly re-housing people directly out of the shelters. Cindy stated that she was able to get Housing Choice vouchers to go along with the program (which to be used in areas that do not have public housing authorities), as well as STEP coupons which will be allocated based upon total individuals served. Once HUD approves their plan they will put out their RFP. Cindy added that there is a Supportive Housing RFP out; there is an informational meeting at MaineHousing next week. The Housing Choice Voucher department is revamping and there is a public hearing regarding this on Tuesday, March 19th. Cindy stated that HMIS has fixed some of the visibility issues with the Collaborative. In the coming months providers will begin to share universal data elements via ServicePoint. Bob added that Preble Street and the City of Portland have been working on this process for quite some time. Cindy stated that this is moving us towards what HUD wants which is a truly coordinate assessment system.

XI. *Mainstream Resources Committee Update*

Aaron stated that there is a Mainstream Resources presentation today immediately following ESAC at 10:30 featuring Eric Grainger from Shalom House and the Maine Hoarding Task Force presenting Hoarding 101. March's presentation will feature Phil Allen and Marshall Archer from the SSVF/VHS program. April's presentation will feature Pine Tree Legal for Fair Housing month.

XII. *Federal & State Legislation –*

Cullen asked Bob to ask the group if they would approve sending another letter to Maine's delegation regarding sequestration. A vote was taken and all were in favor. Bob stated that Cullen has drafted templates and that we would work on getting these letters out today – copies will be disseminated to ESAC via email.

XIII. *Other Business*

Jim stated that he has joined the Board of Directors of Pine Tree Legal Association (PTLA) as a consumer. Due to a lot of cuts PTLA can only help about 20% of the people requesting assistance. They have developed a questionnaire for consumers/providers to provide feedback/suggestions. Vickey stated that she would scan the questionnaire and email it along with the ESAC minutes.

John Shoos asked if an update for the Homeless Task Force could be added to next month's agenda. Bob stated that he would add it to the agenda.

***NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, March 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.