

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 21st, 2013

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
<i>Josh O'Brien</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>Ali Lovejoy</i>	Preble Street
<i>Patty Robinson</i>	Preble Street
<i>Phil Allen</i>	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services
<i>Christa Haberstroth</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Sarah Dietz</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>David Zysk</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Jenny Stasio</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Mary Ellen Welch</i>	Community Policing
<i>Shana Pike</i>	Stepping Stones
<i>Tom Natalie</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Amanda Kyajohnian</i>	Shalom House
<i>Ashley Gorczyca</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Tom Ptacek</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Jim Devine</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Kathleen Babeu</i>	City of South Portland
<i>Paul Murphy</i>	Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	CHOM
<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. Tom stated that we are going to try to end the meeting early so that people who wish to attend the press conference in South Portland can.

II. February 2013 Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for February 2013 (see attachment). Bob stated that the February Family Shelter Statistics better document our visa holder/refugee statistics, as they are all now properly documented in the Out of Country statistics. Bob added that February's shelter numbers are among record high shelter numbers for Portland.

Josh reviewed the handout featuring warming center statistics. Bob and Josh discussed the utilization of the GA waiting room as yet another overflow site, which began in late January. Vickey stated that she will be revising ESAC stats for January and February in order to illustrate the GA overflow usage accurately.

III. CoC Update

Bob distributed the Tier 1 funding announcement from HUD. All Portland CoC Tier 1 programs were fully funded. Information regarding Tier 2 awards will be forthcoming from HUD.

IV. State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee – Update

Phil stated that the committee has been meeting regularly. Phil stated that at yesterday's CoC meeting the group unanimously voted in favoring of accepting the HMIS Governance Charter as it is currently written. The next section out for review/comment is the privacy policy governance; comments will be taken on this section through the next CoC meeting in April. After the privacy section the data quality management governance will be out for review with comments accepted through the May CoC meeting. Sections will be disseminated via email to all CoC and ESAC members for feedback. Phil encouraged everyone to read the documents because they will affect everyone receiving funding (CoC and ESG). Please contact one of the members from the HMIS governance advisory committee with any questions.

V. Portland Homeless Task Force – Update

Josh stated that the Health and Public Safety Committee will meet in April and move forward with the public comments/feedback from the last public meeting. Jon stated that there are some aspects that have been prioritized. One big priority seems to be some kind of sober shelter/house so that people who go through recovery/detoxification don't end up back in the shelter system. Doug Gardner spearheaded a group to get together to discuss this possibility. Additionally, at the Housing Committee there was a lot of interest in using HOME funds for additional supports such as security deposits. Jon added that medical respite has been seen as a priority as well. Jon stated that the two committees are very serious about coming up with solutions to these problems.

VI. Preble Street Clinical Intervention Program (CLIP) – Update

Ali stated that the program is up and running. They have been working in the shelters in Portland and developing case plans. Jon stated that they have been doing incredible work in some very challenging situations; this team has been able to connect and work with the population of people that thus far no one has been able to work with. Jon added that they have received praise from DHHS for their work thus far. Jon stated that they haven't started the Community Support Team but anticipate they will be able to start in the near future. They will be working with PHA dedicated vouchers, which should be available in April. Cindy stated that their involvement in PATH has been with HMIS and be sure that the system fits the program. She stated that they've made the adjustments necessary and everyone is up and running. MaineHousing put up the licenses for the program as the cost for them were not factored into the program by the State.

VII. City of Portland ESG Program – Update

Harrison stated the program has been up and running for about a month; thus far 40 people have been enrolled in the program, with 25 housed thus far.

VIII. Mainstream Resources Committee Update

Aaron stated that immediately following ESAC (10:30 AM – noon) there will be a mainstream resources training featuring Phil Allen and Marshal Archer presenting on the VHS program and veteran's benefits. The mainstream resources training in April will feature Patricia Ender from Pine Tree Legal Assistance for Fair Housing Month. As discussed at yesterday's CoC meeting the mainstream resources committee will be meeting with the Region 1 balance of the state to collaborate and host co-sponsored trainings in the future.

IX. Federal & State Legislation

Cullen stated that sequestration went through as congress could not decide upon another solution prior to the deadline. The federal budget is being worked on and there is legislation in the works and if it goes through as written would undo the effects of sequestration. In order for this to happen Congress would have to agree, which isn't likely. As it stands now sequestration will gravely impact programs serving

homeless individuals and the most vulnerable populations in Maine – ESG and CoC programs beginning in FY 2013 will receive across the board 5% cuts, as well as deep cuts to Section 8. Cullen stated that there is a glimmer of hope as there is a good chance that we will see productive Section 8 reforms this year. Cullen asked about support to send a letter urging the Maine delegation to reverse the affects of Sequestration.

On the state level, hearings will start on March 28th and go through April 5th in Augusta for the Governor's proposed biennial budget. The Governor has proposed capping shelter bed night reimbursement to a flat \$10 per night, which would drastically impact the Portland shelter system as well as a flat 50% reimbursement rate which would cause a dramatic cost shift to the City of Portland. Cullen encouraged people to go testify at the hearings opposing these cuts. Tom stated that they will be taking a van up to Augusta and are looking for people to testify, specifically people who will be affected by the proposal that people who have timed out of TANF will be ineligible for GA. Jon encouraged everyone to spread the word as well. Cullen stated that there is a 3 minute time limit for verbal testimony but there isn't a limit for what you can send in via letters. Letters should be directed to the Appropriations and the Health and Human Services Joint Standing Committee.

X. Other Business

The MaineHousing Home to Stay Program RFP is due March 28th. The City of Portland Family Shelter and Oxford Street Shelter, Preble Street Joe Kreisler and Florence House, Milestone, Stepping Stones and Family Crisis will be applying for funding. A brief overview of Home to Stay Program was provided. The collective group of agencies applying requested that ESAC support their proposals for the MaineHousing Home to Stay RFP. All were in favor of supporting all ESAC agency applications for the MaineHousing Home to Stay RFP.

Mary Ellen distributed a flyer for Take Back the Night to take a stand against sexual violence on April 26th at 6 PM in Monument Square.

Jon stated that there was an effort recently to get more understanding on panhandlers. Jon stated that it was a collaborative effort with Oxford Street, Preble Street, and the Police Department to collect information on panhandlers; this effort was very informative. Jon thanked Rob for his good work on this project. Interviews were conducted with 45 panhandlers to determine if they were known to the shelter community. The majority were already connected with services. There is a draft report being put together. Jon added that this information will be helpful for outreach purposes, especially this summer.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, April 18, 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.