

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 16th, 2013

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
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
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Patty Robinson	Preble Street
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Brian Townsend	Preble Street
Therese Johnson	SSVF/Veteran Housing Services – City of Portland
Kendra Danse	Opportunity Alliance
Shana Pike	Stepping Stones
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Tom Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Dee Clarke	Homeless Voices for Justice
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Jenny Stasio	Family Crisis Services
Christa Haberstroph	The Women's Project
Betsy Whitman	First Parish UU
Heather Rhoda	Frannie Peabody Center
Annmarie Bryce	SMAA
Wendy Harmon	Southern Maine Landlord Association
Paul Murphy	Health Care for the Homeless
Mary Ellen Welch	Portland Police Department- Midtown Community Policing
Joe McNally	Milestone Foundation

I. Introductions

Bob Duranleau, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. April 2013 Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for April 2013 (see attachment). There was brief discussion regarding the substantial increase in unaccompanied minors seen at the Joe Kreisler Shelter, specifically young men (under 18) from African (Sudan and Somalia). Bob stated that this has been a talking point in recent meetings with Catholic Charities, DHHS and the City; this is a known issue and they're attempting to come up with a resolve and working to find housing options. Jon added that DHHS' hands are tied; if they can't provide guardianship than there's little available in terms of supports for this population.

III. Portland CoC Update

Bob stated that HUD announced Tier 2 renewal funding – the Portland CoC Tier 2 renewal projects were fully funded. Information regarding new projects will be announced in the next 30-60 days. Bob stated that the CoC registration could start very soon, according to HUD. Bob stated that HUD announced that due to sequestration the FY 2013 CoC NOFA will instruct CoCs to potentially cut 3.5% or more (possibly up to 5%) of funding. During the FY 2012 process CoCs were instructed to tier applications

and place 3.5% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) into Tier 2, and told that depending on funding Tier 2 projects may be cut (which would've resulted in a 3.5% reduction in overall funding). HUD is now stating that the cuts for FY 2013 will likely exceed 3.5%. Bob stated that we should be thinking about strategies regarding these possible cuts. Possible options including tiering applications highest to lowest, deciding on an overall reduction per program, prioritizing based on type of program and on outcomes.

IV. 2013 Point in Time (PIT) Survey Report

Bob distributed and reviewed the PIT handouts (see attachment). The PIT numbers have gone up compared to last years. This is partially due to increased outreach efforts. The PIT data has encompassed more information and the data quality has increased from previous years. There was a much bigger push for increased outreach efforts this year; the unsheltered numbers have accordingly become much more robust.

V. State of Maine HMIS Advisory Committee – Update

Jeff stated that the Portland CoC voted on a draft that was different than the Maine CoC voted on. The final version of the Governance Charter was voted on and unanimously passed at yesterday's Portland CoC meeting, which includes minor changes made based on feedback received. The Maine CoC will be re-voting on the Governance at today's Maine CoC meeting. Jeff added that the Governance will likely require revisions once HUD publishes the final rules.

VI. Portland Homeless Task Force – Update

Josh provided a brief update on the Homeless Task Force. He stated that Oxford Street was ahead of their projections for housing placements in April, and a bit behind thus far for May. Currently they are in the process of implementing the Task Force recommendations. Jon discussed collaborative efforts and efficient service delivery. Bob discussed additional positions at shelters that the Social Services Division has requested in its FY14 budget. Bob and Jon gave a Home to Stay program update. Jeff discussed tight the housing market. Rob provided a brief update on the housing situation at Oxford Street.

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

Brian gave a program update stating that all is going well. There was group discussion on the benefits and success of the program. The first round of PHA dedicated vouchers will be out very shortly.

VIII. City of Portland ESG Program – Update

Harrison stated that the program has been up and running since February. Thus far 80 cases have been enrolled, with 60 of them housed. He mentioned that there are still funds available for security deposits and arrears. Rob added that these funds will also be used to assist people with security deposits who receive the PHA vouchers.

IX. Mainstream Resources Committee Update

Aaron stated that the TANF Mainstream Resources Training scheduled for today has been postponed. More information to follow regarding the rescheduled date for the training.

X. Federal & State Legislation

Cullen stated that he's hearing there will be no changes with sequestration in the next couple of months. This is the biggest aspect affecting program budgets, homeless persons and low-income persons/families. Cullen added that it would be very helpful to have some stories regarding how this is negatively affecting individuals and families. This would help to qualify and quantify how sequestration will truly impact these most vulnerable populations.

He added that they're hearing there is some likelihood of Section 8 reform happening, which is great news, though there's no clear bill or path that would make this happen as of yet. HUD has estimated that Section 8 reform would produce \$538 million in savings by streamlining the Section 8 Program, allowing for better efficiency. For Maine this would mean a huge increase in Section 8 vouchers. Cullen

stated that they've connected with the Maine delegation rallying for their support in this endeavor.

Cullen discussed the mortgage interest reduction change. He stated that there is a bill proposed that takes the savings by lowering the ceiling of home value to \$500,000 and below; these savings in turn would increase the supply of Section 8, funding for National Housing Trust Fund and trying to make the low income housing tax credit program work better. Unfortunately, this bill will likely not pass, though we are still hopeful.

Cullen stated that our delegation has been very responsive and is in a key position to affect change, but they need support as well.

On the State level, with the help of numerous testimonies, LD 598 (the resolve requiring all State agencies/departments to work together in tandem and align their budgets with the Maine Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness) was voted unanimously to pass in the Health & Human Services Committee. The Governor has put out a change proposal that will affect General Assistance. This will be open for public comment tomorrow. Dee stated that LD 1159 unanimously passed in committee, which changes language and definitions for human trafficking. Some women currently in the shelter system have suffered under human trafficking and this language change will be very beneficial.

XI. Other Business

Jim stated that June 21st is the Summer Solstice. He stated that this is an annual event HVJ organizes. They will be gathering at Post Office Park and advocates/supporters will remain there all day, from sun up to sun down, highlighting the longest day of the year and how it impacts the homeless. Jim and Tom encouraged everyone to stop by the event. Jon stated that this is a great opportunity to educate the public. Tom stated that there will be more information to follow.

Jeff stated that sadly Linda Dinsmore lost her battle with cancer this past Sunday. Jeff provided information on the visitation and funeral arrangements.

Patty mentioned putting the outreach team on the agenda for next month. Jon stated that there will be an extra coordinated effort regarding outreach very soon and having outreach as a standing agenda item would be very advantageous. Bob stated that he would add this to next month's agenda.

***NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, June 20, 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; or Tom Ptacek, HVJ at 775-0026; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.