

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes October 17th, 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>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Home To Stay
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Kelsey Tinning</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Home To Stay
<i>Brian Townsend</i>	Preble Street
<i>Pat McKenzie</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Kendra Danse</i>	Opportunity Alliance
<i>Christa Haberstroh</i>	Opportunity Alliance, Women's Project
<i>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Norman Maze</i>	Shalom House
<i>Jim Devine</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Bob Dodge</i>	LearningWorks
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	CHOM
<i>Vickey Rand</i>	CHOM
<i>Amy Faulkingham</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Shana Pike</i>	SteppingStones
<i>Mary Ellen Welch</i>	PPD Community Policing Midtown
<i>Joe McNally</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Wendy Harmon</i>	Southern Maine Landlord Association
<i>Paul Murphy</i>	Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Kimberly Curry</i>	Goodwill Industries NNE
<i>Carol Hutchins</i>	BNA
<i>Jenny Stasio</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Kathleen Babeu</i>	City of South Portland, General Assistance
<i>Sadie Kitchen</i>	United Way of Greater Portland
<i>Rob Liscord</i>	Pine Tree Legal
<i>John Frederick</i>	Pine Tree Legal
<i>Megan Hannon</i>	Frannie Peabody Center

I. Introductions

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

II. September 2013 Bed Usage Statistics, Oxford Street and Family Shelter Matrixes – Bob Duranleau

See handout. Bob discussed the ESAC data package. He pointed out the 50% increase in bed nights for the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter. Jon Bradley stated that the closing of a state teen shelter may cause a small bump in numbers. Cindy stated that they closed on 9/30, so it may not be noticeable until October numbers are run. Bob discussed the matrixes and commended the list of permanent housing placements with and without vouchers despite the tight housing market.

III. Chronic Homeless Data – Josh O'Brien

Josh distributed the Chronically Homeless data. He used the HUD definition of chronically homeless and by general knowledge of clients to determine numbers. While an individual may have lower bed night numbers at Oxford Street, they may be known to be a regular at another shelter. The individual

would then meet the definition. Cindy stated that once data sharing is underway, the numbers should increase and provide more accurate reporting. Josh agreed and stated that data sharing will help tremendously with the accuracy. Cullen asked that those in the shelter for 180 days or more also tracked, especially with housing placements, since they are a critical population to watch as well.

IV. CoC Update – Bob Duranleau

Bob discussed the CoC meeting on Wednesday (10/16). The government shutdown allowed for the CoC to catch up on housekeeping items of business and get ahead on the application pieces. There is a Bowman telephone conference call at 10:30 after ESAC. There is another TA meeting at Refugee Services on Friday (10/18), where Cullen will be chairing.

Cindy discussed the CoC monitoring and coordinated assessment committees and the need for individuals who are not on receiving ESG funding. Portland and Maine CoCs will each have four total representatives for these committees.

V. Oxford Street Shelter FY 2013 Stats— Josh O'Brien

Josh handed out parts of the year-end report for OSS. He discussed the length of stay breakdown, individuals served, bed nights, chronic homeless numbers and housing placements. He pointed out that recidivism rates are declining. Cindy added that data sharing may present a more accurate number of those returning, as they may be returning to another shelter, just not Oxford Street. Pat McKenzie stated that she works with individuals who are transitioning from the hospital to the shelters, but they are not technically transitional housing. She would like to collect this data she is receiving and send it out to Oxford Street so they can more accurately report recidivism and housing.

Cullen stated that the breakdown in length of stay is helpful, as it shows how many people really need the help. Jon stated that everyone should direct their attention the placement numbers outside of Portland. This information helps when individuals make the argument that the city makes it so easy for people to come to Portland for help, that many of those receiving assistance are being placed out of the city. Kathleen pointed out that the South Portland GA also has vouchers and landlord lists to help clients, regardless of where they come from.

VI. 100,000 Homes National Campaign – Rob Parritt

Rob discussed the 100,000 homes campaign. On November 19th, members of the community, along with Oxford Street and Preble Street, will be canvassing the streets to compile a centralized list of those who are chronically homeless, vulnerable to becoming chronically homeless, and those with barriers. Oxford Street and Preble Street are looking for more help from business leaders, philanthropic organizations, elected officials, or even community members at large in this campaign. Jon stated there will be teams of five, including one outreach or social worker. The biggest problem will be getting those to commit to a 4:30am start time with a training the day before (11/18). They are looking for a place to meet and be available from 4:30 to 11am on the day of the canvas. Jon stated the goal is for homelessness to be addressed as a community issue, not a community provider issue.

Rob also encouraged everyone to check out the website www.100khomes.org

Questions or requests for more information should be directed to Amy Gallant (agallant@preblestreet.org) or Rob (rwp@portlandmaine.gov).

VII. Client Support & Services Plan – Update – Josh O'Brien

Brian introduced Ali Lovejoy as the new CLIP/PATH coordinator. She is positioned to manage vouchers for housing placements. Otherwise, he and Josh indicated the program is moving forward with nothing new to report.

VIII. *Shalom House Shelter Plus Care Program Changes – Norm Maze*

Norm discussed changes to the Shelter Plus Care program. They are now taking those who are considered “Long Term Stayers,” which includes the 180-365 night clients. Norm stated he is also looking at those who have stayed 365 nights in a two-year period. Many of these clients have debt with the program. In order to participate, they need to be out of this debt, so they are looking to allow these people to enter into a payment contract without a payee. Rob expressed his excitement over this program. He believes this will significantly help and Bob expressed his appreciation with Shalom House. Jenny reminded them to direct all HIV/AIDS clients to Family Crisis, as there is funding for them. Rob stated that the biggest obstacle is security deposits, since many larger companies are buying up apartment buildings and requiring deposit with first and last months’ rent.

IX. *STEP Voucher Follow-Up Report – Cindy Namer*

Cindy handed out data for the STEP program before it was Home to Stay. Of those who have left the STEP program, 60% of those exiting leave the program either with or without a subsidy, with a very small percentage not completing the program.

X. *Home to Stay Program Update – Aaron Geyer*

Aaron handed out data surrounding the Home To Stay program. Since its start in mid-August the program has 58 enrolled households (individuals and families). Collaboration will be starting with other area shelters so clients are not being double-served. Cindy stated there will be a supplemental training for all Home To Stay navigators next week with a focus on renters, not just homeowners.

XI. *Federal and State Legislation – Cullen Ryan*

Cullen updated everyone on the government reopening today. The shutdown impacted the economy, which may lead to more cuts. The continuing resolution includes continuation of the sequester, which includes cuts to Section 8 and food stamps.

Cullen updated everyone on HR 2790, which is in the House. HR 2790 will impact the HEARTH act, which would now allow nonprofits to administer rental assistance. Michaud is on board as a co-sponsor, so Cullen urged everyone to contact Chellie Pingree to express your support.

LD 598, has been revived as LD 2869, which requires agencies and towns to work in concert to cut down on chronic homelessness. This is currently in the works to be passed.

Cullen reminded everyone that Amy had discussed cuts to the SNAP program. He added that there were cuts to TANF as well. While modest, it still puts more pressure on families that are already struggling.

Jon discussed a placeholder to talk about housing placement. Cullen clarified it is authorization to give more resources to homeless shelters by adding more resources. It isn’t that much money being asked for, but we will want to push it as the bill is formed. Jon stated the placeholder is so the bill can come up with correct wording and verbiage. Cullen hopes this makes legislatures think about homelessness and its impact on communities. This bill is being sponsored by Margaret Craven from Lewiston.

XII. *Other Business*

Jim discussed the city hall day, where they will receive a tour of city hall and a talk with Mark Rees. He is also trying to coordinate a talk with Senator King. Jim is putting together a symposium on crime on or by homeless. This will include neighborhood associations, police, business leaders, etc.

Jim discussed a community land trust Community Block Grant Application. He asked for letters of support.

Jon announced that Preble Street received a grant to address human trafficking in southern Maine since coerced sex trade related to drugs and refugee/immigrant population is growing in the area. He will learn

more now that the government is open again. This grant will include many partners including Family Crisis, SARS, Pine Tree Legal, ILAP, Catholic Charities Maine, and Mi Casa, to develop protocols and training for everyone. The grant will also create a client fund to help these people move into a safe location so they can feel safer about receiving help and testifying.

Pat announced there has been a retooling of a state grant for providing emergency psychiatric care for those who are uninsured. It has been a great partnership with Preble Street and Ali.

The Housing Liaison System will be working on creating focus groups to find out what the barriers to renting are. The first meeting will be in November, there will be more details sent as they come out.

Bob updated everyone that there will be another six month delay in the application process at the federal level with those working with Asylum seeking immigrants.

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