

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 17th, 2014

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Home To Stay
<i>Josh O'Brien</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
<i>Rob Parritt</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Oxford Street Shelter
<i>Henry Tarlow</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>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Ali Lovejoy</i>	Preble Street- CLIP
<i>Ashley Gorczyca</i>	Preble Street/HVJ
<i>Tom Ptacek</i>	Preble Street
<i>Norman Maze</i>	Shalom House
<i>Bob Dodge</i>	LearningWorks
<i>Jim Devine</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Vickey Rand</i>	CHOM
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	CHOM
<i>Amy Faulkingham</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Mary Ellen Welch</i>	PPD Community Policing Midtown
<i>Tom Natalie</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Peter Driscoll</i>	Amistad
<i>Melissa Skahan</i>	Mercy Hospital
<i>Katie Kerr</i>	Mercy Hospital
<i>Carol Schreck</i>	Portland Community Health Clinic
<i>Jenny Stasio</i>	Family Crisis
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	The Opportunity Alliance
<i>Dawn Pickles</i>	The Opportunity Alliance

I. Introductions

Bob Duranleau, ESAC Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and made introductions.

II. March 2014 Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

See handouts. Bob reviewed the statistics in the ESAC packet for March. He pointed out that the average bed nights were lower for 2014 v. 2013, specifically the lower number of bed nights staying at the family shelter overflow hotel. Bob went on to discuss the shelter matrixes. He opened the floor to questions for shelter representatives.

Bob stated that the two CoCs, in working with TA Cloudburst, are asking that everyone complete the HMIS users survey that was sent out in an email on April 16 and on the MaineHousing website. He asked that it be completed in the next two weeks. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MaineHMIS>

All statistics discussed are located on the city's website: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/ssesac.asp>

III. Point in Time Survey – Bob Duranleau

Bob discussed the Point in Time surveys for both Portland and Maine as a whole. He pointed out that numbers have not been significantly different from 2013 to 2014, with an approximate 7% difference.

IV. CoC Update – Bob Duranleau

Bob updated everyone on the Tier 1 renewals awarded:
Florence House; Logan Place; Portland 5-13; Portland 6 Chronic; Portland 13-13.

Bob discussed a possible error in the awards announcement. He is waiting to hear back from HUD on the two Tier One projects missing funding (HMIS and Employment Assistance). HUD will make separate announcements on Tier Two and New Projects, which include all the reallocated programs.

V. *Revisions to Client Support and Services Plan – Rob Parritt*

Rob reviewed the Client Support and Services Plan (CSSP) and explained what the plan entails. While this new plan moved 660 individuals, it did not move the needle on bed nights. Rob discussed the plan for 2014, where they are focusing more on Long Term Stayers and specifically those with income. The state is telling Oxford Street Shelter that 50% of their consumers have income. Josh stated that the new CSSP will require those with income to focus on using their financial resources for housing. Rob clarified that the shelter will not be charging clients a per night basis, but rather will work with them on how to best use their resources. Elizabeth asked for the updated plan to be sent out so they can give a unified message to clients throughout the area. Josh stated that, once complete, it will be up at Oxford Street Shelter and sent out to area agencies. Ali asked about those with income but with severe substance abuse or mental health issues. Rob discussed how each plan is individualized and there are those with exceptions. They will still meet weekly to discuss the most severe cases.

VI. *Portland Community Health Center (PCHC) – Carol Shreck, Lelise Brancato*

Carol has been hired by PCHC as the transitional coordinator. She welcomed everyone to the new PCHC site located at 63 Preble St tomorrow (Friday, April 18) for an open house. So far, 180 Park Ave is serving approximately 900 homeless individuals. They have transitioned approx 90 from Homeless Health, thanks to their new case manager. PCHC is looking to start seeing clients at 63 Preble Street on Tuesday, April 22. Hours will be 8am – 2pm to start, but may expand as need increases. Carol opened the floor to questions. Jim asked about adequately seeing the numbers needed. She stated everyone should be served between the two sites, with adults being seen at 63 Preble Street and families at 180 Park Ave, but these needs can be addressed as they arise.

VII. *Federal and State Legislation – Cullen Ryan*

Cullen discussed current legislation, starting with Federal:

He reminded everyone that Section 8 was cut during sequestration. Sen. Collins is on the T-HUD committee and Cullen asked for support to send her a letter to restore the missing 500 vouchers lost during sequestration. This would fix the bar set for future budgeting. He asked that everyone sign on with the letter from Maine Housing Coalition. To do so, please contact Greg Payne at Avesta Housing: gpayne@avestahousing.org. Bob motioned that ESAC sign on this letter as a committee, unanimously agreed.

On the State level:

Cullen went on to discuss appropriations and their determination of an interim budget. This passed with only eight (8) votes shy in the House to make it unanimous, and it passed unanimously in the Senate. Governor LePage could still veto due to the two-week provision for payments to hospitals.

Cullen discussed the waiting list for comprehensive waivers for those aging out of special education, but with no help afterwards. Currently, about 3200 people are without services. They have MaineCare, but no other support services. With the new waiver program, those in need of services would have one-third covered by the state, and the remaining two-thirds with federal funds.

In more on the state budget, the passing discusses the TANF and Food Stamps issues, as well as the Parents of Scholars program.

Cullen, Ashley, and Jim addressed various state proposals:

- LD 1717 required the funds from the closing of the Skowhegan shelter to stay in Region 2, not put back into the general fund. It was vetoed by the Governor.
- LD 1751 Taxpayer Fairness Credit. This should go through fine, allowing individuals a tax credit or lenience on their property taxes.
- LD 1819 Taskforce to end student hunger passed and is now law.

VIII. Home to Stay Program – Update – Aaron Geyer

Aaron stated that the city was fortunate to receive another \$175,000, equating to approximately 20-22 STEP vouchers for individuals and 12-14 for families. This is in addition to an additional five (5) HCV vouchers, three (3) individuals and two (2) families. Aaron stated that they are looking to reach out to other individuals, and encouraged referrals.

IX. Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program – Aaron Geyer

Aaron stated that the program has had a slightly slow start, but has helped six (6) households. He explained the requirements for the vouchers, including the rent be under \$1,200/month and the household must be homeless.

X. Other Business

Jon Bradley discussed a Mercy-led grant to work with chronically homeless substance abuse users. This will tie in with Milestone and offer more options through substance abuse help and case management. He asked for ESAC to serve as the advisory board, like CoC, where this would be a subcommittee. Bob Dodge moved, unanimously approved. Melissa pressed that Mercy could be one of 25 nationally-funded programs.

Bob discussed the low general assistance numbers. He asked for feedback from other agencies on what they have heard. Bob offered guesses as to why the low numbers, but feels it is not due to a lack of ability to get in.

Ali offered to send referral packets to agencies, if needed, for the Homeless Legal Clinic. She suggested agencies contact her for more information.

Jim discussed the rally against moving DHHS out to South Portland. This rally will be held every third Wednesday of the month. Jim asked for ESAC and other community support at these rallies.

**NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, May 15, 2014
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 if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.