

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 19th, 2014

Bob Duranleau	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division, Home To Stay
Josh O'Brien	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
Ashley Gorczyca	Preble Street/HVJ
Tom Ptacek	Preble Street
Brian Townsend	Preble Street
Thomas Ptacek	Preble Street
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Norman Maze	Shalom House
Bob Dodge	LearningWorks
Jim Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice
Rebecca Dennison	Homeless Voices for Justice
John Monahan	Homeless Voices for Justice
Jeff Vane	Homeless Voices for Justice
Vickey Rand	CHOM
Amy Faulkingham	2-1-1 Maine
Carol Schreck	Portland Community Health Clinic
Jenny Stasio	Family Crisis
Elizabeth Szatkowski	The Opportunity Alliance
Dawn Pickles	The Opportunity Alliance
Pat McKenzie	The Opportunity Alliance
Kathleen Babeau	City of South Portland, General Assistance
Wendy Harmon	Southern Maine Landlords Association
Marcus Giordano	YCSPi
Barbara Sawyer	Goodwill of Northern New England

I. Introductions

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

II. May 2014 Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the May 2014 statistics (see [statistics](#)). He pointed out that average individuals utilizing shelter services per night has gone up slightly from 2013, with a decrease in adult stays.

Josh discussed the Oxford Street Shelter Matrix. He pointed out the lower average of individuals staying at the shelter nightly, 211 for May. Josh went on to discuss the housing placements and reminded the committee that the housing placement focus has shifted towards LTS population, causing fewer placements, but helping in cutting bednights.

III. Portland CoC Update – Bob Duranleau

Bob updated everyone on the CoC and how they are working on the Planning Grant with Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) and Anne Gass. He will keep everyone updated as planning progresses.

See Handout. Bob discussed the tier funding issues with HUD and the discrepancy in the NOFA and eSnaps. The error resulted in the Continuum looking as though it applied for an additional \$671,000 in funding, which it had not. The new applications for three projects would not allow for a one year application period, but rather two year, and resulted in doubling those three amounts. Bob has sent an appeal to HUD and will be following up with Congressional Delegation on the matter.

IV. *OSS Overflow Shelter Update – Josh O’Brien*

Josh discussed the low nightly average and how the OSS staff reviewed the overflow and warming center usage. OSS has stopped using the GA overflow, and the beds have been moved back to the dayroom, also eliminating the warming center. However, there is still a warming/waiting area, as there is sometimes dormitory configuration issue due to the male-to-female ratio. June numbers are slightly up, however, they still have not opened the GA overflow. He promised it will be open, if needed, but stressed that it has not been necessary so far.

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

Aaron briefly discussed Home to Stay and how the program has spent their original allocation. They are currently working on the additional vouchers from MaineHousing (approximately 27 between HCV and STEP) through the end of December 2014.

VI. *Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program – Aaron Geyer*

Aaron stated that the program has housed 26 households for 56 individuals so far, using approximately \$18,000. He stressed that they are taking referrals and are helping with security deposit and rent, not to exceed \$1,200.

VII. *Project to Identify High-Risk Homeless Women in the Community – Jennifer Stasio*

Jenny stated there is a group of individuals working in shelters to identify gaps and how to fix them for those women in need of services. The group has identified 68 women who are considered high risk: Over half are considered chronically homeless, as well have medical and/or substance abuse issues. Jenny stated the group is looking for a place for women who are under the influence during the day, as well. She asked for ideas from the committee. Florence House takes women, but they only have one dedicated “wet” bed.

Jenny also offered anyone interested in joining the group to contact her for the next meeting time. Jim stated HVJ is also working on a similar objective.

VIII. *Homeless Voices for Justice*

Jim updated everyone on the summer solstice vigil in Post Office Park, stating it is an opportunity for outreach.

There is a monthly rally at Marginal Way DHHS regarding their moving to South Portland. Anyone looking to be involved should contact Ashley Gorczyca.

IX. *Federal and State Legislation – Vickey Rand*

Federal: The Senate is voting on T-HUD bill. The Senate bill isn’t as bad as the House’s, but still does not fully restore the 10,000 Section 8 vouchers from sequestration. Shaun Donovan was the president’s nomination to office mgt and budget, with San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro being the nominee to take over at HUD.

State: Vickey reminded everyone that this is the time to contact representatives to visit shelters and agencies during the break, before mid-term elections.

Local: Maine Equal Justice Partners is conducting a survey on poverty. It is very simple, with no identifying information required. Vickey asked for people to send information to her, as did Ashley Gorczyca.

X. *Other Business*

Bob discussed the state DHHS General Assistance guidance to stop all funding to undocumented non-citizens on June 15. The Maine Municipal Association later released a memo stating they will fight this decision. Bob explained the need to pull information on visa expirations, as well as the expiration dates of I-94 forms. Welpac currently does not track this, so IT is working to add this information. 327 cases

would be affected, totaling approximately \$240k per month, primarily rent for 613 people. Kathleen clarified that this is may not a full denial, only those illegally here in the family. This may eliminate only one person per family. Bob pointed out that Portland, South Portland, and Bangor have stated they will not be following these orders, and Lewiston has given a date of July 15 to continue funding through. Kathleen stated that at this point, we are scheduled to be audited by DHHS in October, and the AG has notified them they cannot penalize the municipalities for continuing assistance.

Bob announced that the General Assistance office is moving towards a new system, where recurring clients can schedule appointments for regular monthly applications. He offered to send more information out as it comes available.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 17, 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.

2013 New Application Request:

New PSH- Preble Street	\$469,588	
Youth Alternatives, MaineStay	\$312,949	One Year
Youth Alternatives, Morrison Place	\$ 83,925	One Year
MAPS, StepUp	\$ 72,714	One Year

Bell Street RRH, LearningWorks	\$ 83,925	
Bell Street Transitional, LearningWorks	\$ 83,925	One Year

22 Park Ave, Morrison Place	\$129,354	
22 Park Ave RRH, Opportunity Alliance	\$129,354	One Year

No transitional funding has been reallocated to permanent housing programs.

In the NOFA, nothing is stated surrounding a *required* 2-year term for projects created through reallocation under page 20, Section IV-2b. However, it is stated that all new project applications could be for 1 – 5 years.

eSnaps only allowed for 2-year application terms in the dropdown selection for new applications. During which, all 1-year amounts were automatically doubled to match a 2-year request for these applications only.

Tier 1

Project Name	Organization	Amount Requested	Ranking	eSnaps
S+C Portland 13-13	State of Maine	\$3,956,332	1	\$3,956,332
Logan Place	Avesta Housing	\$310,118	2	\$310,118
Florence House	Avesta Housing	\$36,723	3	\$36,723
S+C Portland 5-13	State of Maine	\$24,086	4	\$24,086
S+C Portland 6 Chronic	State of Maine	\$20,647	5	\$20,647
New PSH	Preble Street	\$469,588	6	
22 Park Avenue*	Opportunity Alliance	\$129,354	7	
Bell Street RRH*	LearningWorks	\$71,998	8	
CoC Planning Grant*	City of Portland	\$39,547	9	
HMIS*	Maine State Housing Authority	\$28,502	10	
Employment Assistance*	City of Portland	\$71,350	11	
				\$939,176
				\$258,708
				\$143,996

Tier 2

Project Name	Organization	Amount Requested	Ranking	HUD
Job Training Fund*	City of Portland	\$15,737	12	\$15,737
Collaborative*	City of Portland, Preble Street	\$161,137	13	\$161,137

<u>Total</u>		<u>\$3,335,119</u>		<u>\$4,006,269</u>
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Difference: \$670,940

Due to the loss of \$670,940, the following Tier 1 programs are at risk of losing funding:

- 22 Park Avenue
- Bell Street RRH
- CoC Planning Grant
- HMIS
- Employment Assistance

As well as the Tier 2 programs:

- Job Training Fund
- Collaborative