

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

REFUGEE SERVICES CONFERENCE AREA
190 Lancaster Street

Thursday, June 16, 2016
8:30am – 10:00am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Aaron Geyer	City of Portland
Dave MacLean	City of Portland
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street
Rob Parritt	City of South Portland
Caitrin Smith	City of Portland
Meredith Pesce	CoP OSS
John Shippee	CoP Family Shelter
Nicole Evans	United Way
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street

Name	Organization
Vicky Rand	CHOM
Jim Devine	HVJ
Steve Elis	FPC
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Jan Bindas-Tinney	Preble Street
Claudette Ndayininahaze	TOA
Chris Stewart	VA
Kelly Walsh	Family Crisis
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Brian Townsend	Amistad.

April Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

Rob explained the May2016 statistics ([see statistics](#)); the overall average daily bed nights went down in May by 27. The total city bed nights for May went down from 9,000 in 2015 to 8,600 in 2016. There were many nights that the PSRC overflow was not used and did not reach capacity. TBRA got some more funding and is being accessed again and will be refunded in July at \$136,600.

Shelter Matrix

Rob explained that OSS is down from last month and that the warming center was not used in May. Of the 30 housing placements in February, there were a total of 8 Long Term Stayers (4438 bed nights) and two veterans. Rob said the time it takes to house individuals has increased as staff must find housing further and further outside of Portland due to the tight and expensive market. Inspections used to be quick, but now can take hours as staff must drive as far as Mexico, or Rumford.

John explained the Family Shelter Matrix. The warming center was utilized 4 days and hotel overflow was utilized 14 days in May. John said they are having a hard time housing people because rents in the city are often above the GA guidelines and some landlords don't want to take GA in general. Dave said a complication for the asylum seeking families is that Portland is the only municipality that has appropriated funds to cover individuals who are seeking a lawful process but have not yet submitted their asylum application. Shelter staff are exploring host families to assuage the increase in warming center use as more asylum seekers present for shelter. Aaron described the city pushing back against municipalities that send people to Portland, as they are the municipality of responsibility.

OSS Long Term Stayers Report/Unsheltered Update

From the first list, 6 remain; the second has 38 remaining with 1 on deck. Third list of 30 was created this year that are actively being worked with to secure housing. Ali gave an update in the unsheltered list: of the 85 people originally identified, 16 are no longer homeless (11 housed, 2 left town, 2 are MIA, 1 is deceased). The remaining 69: 49 have a lead worker, 29 have a housing plan, and 12 have stayed at OSS or Florence House

within the last month. Another 25 individuals were identified: 2 are no longer homeless (one housed, one staying with family waiting to move in), 19 have a lead worker, 7 have a housing plan, 4 have stayed in shelter within the last month, 1 is MIA (probably left town). About 60 people who are homeless in the community have not stayed in shelter in the last month.

Homeless Voices for Justice Update

Jim Divine made some announcements: on the 21st, HVJ will have their annual Solstice vigil at Tommy's park. Jim said that a big goal of his group and the coalition for housing justice is to get buy-in from the city leadership and others that homelessness is an emergency regardless of the season.

United Way

Nicole Evans stated that the United Way will announce their 10-year goals at their event on the 21st. The goals reach beyond financial stability.

Federal and State Legislation

The senate passed the THUD bill with a funding level \$891 million higher than last year. The house passed a similar bill. The higher levels are close to returning to FY09 levels. The senate attached their bill to Zika funding. Embers from ESAC will go down to DC next month for the National Alliance to End Homeless Conference. There are some other bills of interest: Ending Homelessness Act, Housing Opportunities and Modernization Act, Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, and a streamline to HOPWA.

Meeting Logistics (Time and Location)

Dave said that as of the next meeting, the Refugee Services space will no longer be available to meet in and the Back Bay room will be undergoing a renovation to be able to accommodate larger groups. Cullen offered the One City Center space which has AV equipment. The United Way, Shalom House and Amistad also offered space. Adam asked if the meetings could start at 9:00 moving forward and the group agreed unanimously. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7/21 at 9:00 AM.

Other Business

Dave introduced the city's new HIRE caseworker. He stated that the HIRE program has saved over \$350,000 from GA expenses by helping GA clients find employment or secure disability benefits. Dave said that the Social Services Division is working with other city entities to improve the look and safety of the Bayside neighborhood; he allocated workfare individuals to pick up trash around PSRC and OSS.