

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

Thursday, July 21, 2016
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Dave MacLean	City of Portland
Sunday White	City of Portland
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street
Rob Parritt	City of South Portland
Tom Natalie	Milestone Foundation
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street

Name	Organization
Vicky Rand	CHOM
Jim Devine	HVJ
Steve Elis	FPC
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Norm Maze	Shalom House
Cullen Ryan	CHOM

June Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

Rob explained the June 2016 statistics ([see statistics](#)); the overall average daily bed nights went down in June by 45 to an average of 414 individuals served each night. The total city bed nights for June went down from 13,764 in 2015 to 12,431 in 2016. The Overflow at the Family Shelter was utilized heavily. Currently in July, the warming center has been used by 30 people for over two weeks. In its current form, adults must sit in chairs due to fire code not allowing for mats that could accommodate so many people. People are frustrated with the chair policy and the city is searching for larger accommodations for the warming center that would allow people to sleep on mats. The city is looking to use space at the Salvation Army. Most people coming into the Family Shelter are visa holders/asylum seekers.

OSS has seen a decline in bed night usage largely attributed to chronically homeless people finding stable housing.

Shelter Matrix

Rob explained that OSS housing placements are slightly up from last month with 15 housing placements, 6 of whom were long term stayers. The Family shelter had 5 housing placements and was in the warming center every day in June.

OSS Long Term Stayers Report/Unsheltered Update

From the first list, 9 remain due to a couple returns; the second has 29 remaining with 2 on deck. Third list of 30 was created this year that are actively being worked with to secure housing with 2 on-deck. Cullen stated that one impact of the LTS initiative was a 63% decrease in the average length of stay compared with last year. Ali gave an update in the unsheltered list: of the 85 people originally identified, 23 are no longer homeless (12 housed, 4 are staying with family/friends, 4 left town, 2 are incarcerated, 1 is deceased). The remaining 62: 48 have a lead worker, 27 have a housing plan, and 12 have stayed at OSS or Florence House within the last month. Another 59 individuals were identified: 6 are no longer homeless (2 housed, 2 appear to have left town, 1 left the state, 1 is incarcerated). Remaining 53: 29 have a lead worker, 10 have a housing plan, 12 have stayed in shelter within the last month, 1 is MIA (probably left town). About 91 people who are homeless in the

community have not stayed in shelter in the last month. Rob was contacted by community policing that about 18 people are sleeping out in Deering Oaks Park.

Homeless Voices for Justice Update

Jim Divine made some announcements: HVJ took part in a MEJP call to talk about commenting on how to spend the National Housing Trust Fund allocations for Maine. HVJ would like units of housing that is permanently affordable. Jim said the coalition for housing justice will address the city council in August. HVJ has a new Organizer, formerly Ashley Corsica, Dylan Morinhan.

Federal and State Legislation

Cullen started his update stating that Maine is fortunate to receive \$3 million from the National Housing Trust Fund. He expects some funds to be used to lower rents or it may be put into permanent supportive housing. 18 project based vouchers will be set aside from a portion of the funds.

HOTMA passed unanimously and will impact the group's ability to house people, as it allows individuals to move in immediately and start paying rent with an initial inspection fails for a non-life threatening issue that can be corrected while the unit is occupied. There was no action on the T-HUD budget which would allow use to renew projects and add new projects. 49 organizations from Maine signed on to the letter to HUD discussed last ESAC.

The Statewide Homeless Council has asked the state to change the BRAP contribution from 51% to 40% of income. This would make it more useable as a permanent subsidy which is how many clients use it.