

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

196 Lancaster Street

Thursday, August 18, 2016
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Rob Parritt	City of South Portland
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street
Kathleen Babeu	City of South Portland
Carmen DeMartis	City of South Portland
Elizabeth Szatkowski	TOA

Name	Organization
Vicky Rand	CHOM
Jim Devine	HVJ
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Brian Townsend	Amistad.
Jenny Statsio	Family Crisis
Norm Maze	Shalom House

July Shelter Bed Usage Statistics

Rob explained the July 2016 statistics ([see statistics](#)); the overall average daily bed nights went down in July by 33. The Family Shelter had a dramatic drop compared to last year due to the cap on hotel overflow and diversion efforts: 5,722 to 4,430 bed nights for the month. The city has partnered with the Salvation army so no one needs to sleep in chairs anymore. Now, the warming center will use mats for people to sleep on. The warming center will be at the Family Shelter when there are 6 or fewer individuals, the GA lobby when there are 16 individuals or fewer, and the Salvation Army when there are more than 16 individuals. The family shelter had intakes from out of town, state and country, without any intakes from Portland. Tenant Based Rental Assistance has been refunded.

Shelter Matrix

Rob explained that OSS Matrix. OSS saw an average of 197 individuals per night in July. Of the 16 housing placements, there were a total of 2 Long Term Stayers (1,011 bed nights) and one veteran. Most people are moving to housing in Portland or reunifying with family out of state.

Jeff explained the Family Shelter Matrix and that the numbers went down due to the cap on hotel overflow. Two families were housed out of the warming center who are not counted in this data, as they are finding apartments before coming into the shelter. Most placements are in Portland or more available markets in the Rumford/Mexico area. The majority of families are leaving without subsidies as most family shelter clients do not have eligibility.

OSS Long Term Stayers Report

Brian was absent due to sickness, so specific stats were not available. Rob explained that there is a big push for people to apply for BRAP vouchers as Shelter Plus Care has been exhausted.

Unsheltered Update

Ali went over the unsheltered statistics (available on the last page of the linked statistics). Ali explained a barrier to the unsheltered accessing BRAP is needing a clinician to certify mental illness; Rob said that they will be hiring a very part time clinician to help with this aspect of the BRAP application. PATH is engaging with the Pine Tree Shopping Center campers to try and double down on housing searches and to come into shelter. Ali

says her team is trying to explain that moving to another campsite will continue a cycle of displacement versus a more permanent solution of finding housing.

Homeless Voices for Justice Update

Jim Divine made some announcements: Ashley Corsica has left, with Dylan Morninghan stepping in as the new HVJ organizer. HVJ is registering people to vote as part of the You Don't Need a Home to Vote campaign. HVJ is holding campaign forums, including two in Portland. Jim said that the peer center at Pine street is closing in Lewiston. Wednesday 8/24 will have the next housing committee meeting to discuss the housing security ordinance.

Federal and State Legislation

The Senate and House are on August Break. A bill that streamlines section 8 got passed, as did HOPWA. The HUD budget was not voted on before the break. PCoC members went to the National Conference on Ending Homelessness and met with staffers from Maine's delegation. Cullen went over the statistics he shared with the delegation, including a 63% decrease in the average length of stay in 2016 versus 2015.

Other Business

Rob announced an overdose awareness day on August 31st at 5:30 pm at monument square with a public overdoes prevention training.