

**EMERGENCY SHELTER
ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**
196 Lancaster Street

Thursday, September 21, 2017
9:00 am – 10:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland
Steve Ellis	City of Portland
Marcus Giordano	YCSP
Norman Maze	Shalom House
Elizabeth Szatkowski	TOA
Jan Bindas-Tinney	Preble Street
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook
Joe McNally	Milestone
Vicky Rand	CHOM
Dave MacLean	City of Portland
Donna Yellen	Preble Street
Dylan Monahan	HVJ
Amy Gereu	Portland Downtown
Cheryl Harkins	HVJ
Deborah Marvit	HVJ

Name	Organization
Kelley Walsh	Family Crisis
Christina Cook	TOA
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Cullen Ryan	CHOM
George Rheault	Portland Resident
Joanie Klayman	Preble Street
Ali Lovejoy	Preble Street
Brian Townsend	Amistad
Rob Parritt	City of Portland
Lisa Murkushewski	GPFP
Sara Ewing Merrill	GPFP
William Higgins	HVJ
Jim Divine	HVJ
Joe Conroy	Preble Street
Jeff Tardif	City of Portland

Monthly Statistics: Reviewed the monthly shelter statistics with nothing out of the ordinary to report.

HVJ: HVJ worked met with Rachel Talbot Ross and are looking to submit the bill before the October 16th deadline for emergency legislation.

Downtown Issues: Recap of event (link to an article) the intersection of homelessness, mental health, substance use. A consensus was that expanding MaineCare is the best option to help the situation. Many are not aware of the resources available to help vulnerable people. ESAC can write letters of support for MaineCare expansion and letters against the latest effort to repeal and replace.

Downtown District has met with organizations and businesses downtown to help with small dollar amount costs (birth certificates, personal care products) and has two events downtown, a shop for a cause which raises money and a networking event.

LTS Initiative: 202 list down to 28. Starting a 5th list predominantly with less than long term stayers.

High Needs/Vulnerable Individuals: a new by-name list to make individual plans for folks with such severe needs that housing may not be successful. Elizabeth made a MOTION to add a new by-name list to focus on highly vulnerable individuals experiencing homeless that need a different approach that leverages the existing LTS infrastructure and includes mental health and substance use providers. **SECONDED** by Norm. Discussion: Ali suggested a conscientious approach that protects the population's sensitive private information that providers will be discussing. **MOTION PASSED.**

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Legislative Update: Cassidy Graham Bill would deeply cut Medicaid. Rob made a MOTION for Cullen to draft a letter on behalf of ESAC to senators Collins and King lobby encouraging them to not support the bill. Elizabeth SECONDED. MOTION PASSED. In discussion, Dave asked for organizations to please who do not wish to sign on to the letter to please opt out via email.

On the federal level, HVJ and MEJP have been advocating for access to SNAP; they talked to people using SNAP and the program's impact on their lives; contacting committee to protect SNAP (get real name) deadline to submit emergency bills is next Friday. PSRC responds to an overdose every 8 days, double the every 15 days from last year. They are proposing a pilot project that would combine MAT with low-barrier housing building on the Maine Medical Collaborative.

New Adult City Shelter: Took a ballpark number and divided it among the ratio of men and women based on the downward trend of bed nights.

Jim shared that some feel overwhelmed by the size and advocated for scattered site shelters.

Cheryll is concerned people will feel ostracized in a large shelter in a different part of town. She suggested converting existing large older buildings into apartments which would create a greater sense of community.

Jan described that the JK Center architect spoke with consumers and sketched out ideas during their conversations. Rob said that that will be part of the process as we approach implementation. Jan asked about how the square footage was calculated. Rob did not know but said that as needs are considered, the numbers and layout are adjusted. Dawn reiterated that these layouts and plans are evolving in process; the rfp is being written now and we are incorporating feedback for the process and shelter.

Elizabeth commented that it would be helpful to include spaces for trans/NB people including bathrooms, one large sleeping space may be loud or disease could spread.

Can the shelter accommodate DV protections orders so one person doesn't have to miss out on meals or shelter.

Ali/Christina are concerned the placeholder bed count is not enough.

Bill: plan for the next recession and surge in population.