

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

196 Lancaster Street

Thursday, July 20, 2017
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Donna Yellen	Preble Street
Steve Ellis	City of Portland	Bill Burns	Preble Street
Jane Drew	HVJ	Vickey Rand	CHOM
Jim Divine	HVJ	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
Harrison Deah	City of Westbrook	David MacLean	City of Portland
Rob Parritt	City of Portland		

Monthly Statistics: Reviewed the [monthly shelter statistics](#).

LTS Update: Steve explained that the total number of long term stayers across the state is down to 70. The initiative is reducing the average length of stay, an important HUD metric.

HVJ: HVJ held a forum with Mayor Strimling on 7/19 that will become a monthly meeting. Jim announced Jane Drew as the newest HVJ member who will be restarting the HVJ newsletter. The newsletter will include shelter statistics and stories by and for Portland's homeless community.

Legislative Update:

Federal: Committee membership that went to D.C. spoke with each member of Maine's federal delegation except for Bruce Poloquin. They spoke on four points of focus: funding for housing subsidies, homeless assistance grants, Medicaid, and legislation about the agency on aging. They also advocated for shortening the wait time for asylum seekers to apply for work authorization.

Medicaid is nearly off the table but tax reform is being taken up next which may affect our populations. The community reinvestment act –get legislative update from Cullen

State: None of the cuts to the safety net (SNAP, GA, TANF) went through. TANF got an increase for two-person households.

LD605: act to support evidence based treatment for substance use disorder is being tabled for next session. Get Donna's legislative notes

Local: The city council unanimously voted to expand shelter zoning with further interest in expansion for smaller shelters.

NAEH: Workshops helped on updates to the nofa, which try to add more agency to local priorities.

Other Business:

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CoC Board Meeting 7/27 – Donna asked if ESAC would want to write a letter to the CoC Board to discuss the prioritization of local housing first projects. PSH dollars have included support services in Portland where the balance of the State's only include brick and mortar costs. The scoring tool that would impact projects using service dollars will be discussed at an emergency board meeting next meeting. Vickey explained that the balance weighted housing first more than Portland so that those projects in Portland may gain more points for housing first than may lose due to support services funding. Donna made a MOTION to draft a letter explaining local priorities to the CoC, Jim SECONDED and the MOTION PASSED

Bill Burns of the MMC-Preble Street learning collaborative will present at the next meeting.