



**City of Portland, Maine
Public Safety / Health & Human Services Department
February 11, 2014**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Councilor Leeman, Councilor Duson and Councilor Coyne.

City Staff Attendance: Mark Rees, City Manager; Sheila Hill-Christian, Deputy City Manager; Chief Sauschuck, PPD; Doug Gardner, HHS; Asst. Chief Malloch, PPD; Trish McAllister, Corporation Counsel; Robert Duranleau, HHS; Josh O'Brien, HHS; Michael Brennan, Mayor; Julie Sullivan, HHS.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes from January Meeting Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:45 PM by Vice Chair Leeman. Minutes were reviewed and accepted 3-0.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Work Plan

Chair Suslovic asked if anyone had any additions to the 2014 Work Plan. Brief discussion about the Neighborhood Accountability Board and what it would entail, and a check-in on the necessity of the Fire Department presenting quarterly updates – Councilor Leeman cautioned against spending too much time rehashing the consultant's report. Deputy City Manager Hill-Christian explained that the alarm/signal boxes require approvals from the Committee, and ongoing union negotiations may impact implementation of the consultant's recommendations as we move forward, so quarterly updates from Fire may indeed be necessary.

Councilor Duson suggested forming a broader 10-year plan on the homeless healthcare issue. Chair Suslovic pointed out that April's meeting will focus on homeless healthcare, specifically substance abuse and mental health issues in that population. It was agreed that quarterly updates on the 7-point plan and progress tracking goals would be useful. Doug Gardner offered to invite the Task Force members to the September meeting for an update. Councilor Duson reiterated the importance of this Committee reporting information and updates on the City's progress to the community and its consumers on this issue. Doug Gardner suggested the Task Force convene several public meetings to gather feedback on the process. There was agreement that September's agenda would include an update on the 7-point plan and action items.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Police Community Survey

Chief Sauschuck stated that PPD had generated surveys internally in the past, but one of its goals for 2013 was to collaborate with an external partner on a community survey, and University of New England was chosen to assist in that effort. Thomas Chalmers McLaughlin and Karen Compton of the School of Social Work at UNE worked closely with the Department on research and methodology to produce the survey. Tom McLaughlin gave a brief overview to the Committee on the results of the survey, as well as conclusions drawn from the data; firstly, that, on the whole, the PPD has a positive relationship with the

community it serves and is focusing its efforts on issues that community members believe are important, and secondly, more work needs to be done to educate and inform Portland residents on the Department's Community Policing Section. Chief Sauschuck discussed enhancements to be made to address this problem, including a detailed web page devoted to the Senior Lead Officer and Community Coordinator programs and more intensive follow-up to calls for service, which will include personal contact with members of the Criminal Investigations and Community Services Division staff. The Department will continue already-successful initiatives including summer foot beats in the downtown area, the cadet program, and outreach to residents experiencing quality of life issues. Councilors stated that the Senior Lead Officer program was very popular when first introduced, but support the idea of regular outreach to educate residents on who their Senior Lead Officers and Coordinators are, especially in cases of staff turnover. Councilor Dusen made a suggestion to convert more survey data to colored bar graphs to make it easier to compare neighborhood activity. Mark Rees stated the survey was very helpful, and will inform budget-related policies and recommendations. He would like to expand the idea to other City Departments as well. He stated that the survey will be presented to the full Council on February 24.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Update on 7-Point Plan

Doug Gardner introduced the members of the *Task Force to Prevent and End Homelessness* in attendance at this meeting – Dory Waxman, Tom McLaughlin, John Bradley, Mark Swann, Dawn Doiron, Dana Totman and Josh O'Brien. Doug gave an overview of the creation of the Task Force and a summary update on the 7-point plan. Doug stated the Task Force recommended that the City focus more intensely on a smaller group of people who have experienced long-term homelessness and those who have the fewest resources. He also stated the importance of resources such as housing subsidies, case management and support services, and keeping those in mind during the budget process. City Manager Rees reminded the group of the proposal to draw back funding at the state level, and the impact that will have on the City's budget, but reiterated that the Task Force's data will help in upcoming budget processes. The Councilors all agreed the statistical update is critical, and asked for bimonthly updates. Doug agreed, saying the web site will have up-to-date data; he also bemoaned the loss of opportunities due to the sequestration, and how that would have impacted this data. Councilor Coyne wondered if data was gathered on where the homeless people are from, and when will we know we've reached our capacity to provide services? Doug stated from self-reports, that one-third are from Portland, one-third are from other cities or towns in Maine, and one-third are from out of state. He will pass status updates on to the Committee. Dory Waxman expressed appreciation for the Task Force's work, and spoke about how helpful it is in explaining the City's progress to consumers and residents of Portland. An update is scheduled on the agenda for the September meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Healthcare for the Homeless Program Update

Chair Suslovic introduced this agenda item, and queried how the community can be assured that homeless people will continue to receive health care services. Doug Gardner gave a summary of the situation facing the Healthcare for the Homeless Clinic (HCH), namely the loss of grant funding and their application requesting additional funding to complete the transition of current patients to the Portland Community Health Center (PCHC) for future services. Doug stated a meeting was held today with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and he should know by Thursday whether or not the additional funding request has been approved.

Chair Suslovic asked to hear from members of PCHC in attendance; Kathleen Stokes, PCHC Board member, stated they share the same objective as HCH, have seen a growth in the number of patients requesting services, are working on a blueprint of service delivery, and anticipate a smooth transition of patients to their medical center. There is a meeting scheduled with both PCHC and HCH staff on February 25, and in the interim, they have witnessed good cooperation at the staff level between both groups. She stated they read the update summarized by Doug Gardner, but disagreed with some of the statements therein. She stated PCHC was surprised to learn of the City's additional submission to obtain funding. Chair Suslovic pressed Ms. Stokes on whether PCHC is prepared to handle 2300 new patients

when HCH closes its doors, and what plans they have made regarding that. She replied they have extended their hours to be open on Saturdays and are in the process of hiring more staff, and are steadfast in their mission to provide quality healthcare to all. Councilor Leeman challenged Doug Gardner on what the City is doing to ensure that services continue, and what that collaboration will look like with PCHC. Councilor Duson asked if HCH has done any discharge planning for their patients; Doug responded they have posted notices, but haven't officially notified every patient yet because they are waiting to hear of the additional funding; the end date will be either April 30 or October 31. Councilor Duson recommended preparing a timeline for outreach to each current patient to discuss discharge planning regardless of the end date.

Doug stated they had submitted a phase-out plan to HRSA which was approved. Councilor Duson asked if HCH and PCHC would share their respective "ramp-down" and "ramp-up" plans with the Committee. Councilor Coyne and Mayor Brennan both expressed hope as well as skepticism that the entire patient load will transition successfully to PCHC based on the information that has been shared thus far, and both believe the transitional funding is critical. Chair Suslovic requested that both HCH and PCHC representatives attend the March meeting with a detailed plan for how these patients will receive healthcare without an interruption in service; this was agreed to by Doug Gardner for HCH and Kathleen Stokes for PCHC.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting has been changed from Tuesday, March 11 to Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 PM.