



## City of Portland, Maine Public Safety/Health & Human Services Committee

**June 10, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Attendance:**

Chair Suslovic, Councilor Duson and Councilor Coyne, Councilor Leeman was unable to attend.

**City Staff Attendance:**

Doug Gardner/HHS, Chief Sauschuck/PPD, Sheila Hill-Christian, Deputy City Manager, Kathi Fortin, Program Manager, HHS, Linda Weare, OEA/HHS, and Karen Percival, BC Administrator, HHS.

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

Meeting was called to order by Chair Suslovic at approximately 5:45 PM. Minutes were accepted as submitted.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – Healthcare for the Homeless Policy Review & Approval:**

Kathi Fortin, Program Manager, for the HCH, began the meeting by stating that this Committee was still the governing body for the Healthcare for the Homeless program. She talked about the history and reasons that created this issue and that she and the medical director are proposing the credentialing and appointment of new members to this body. Both City Councilors Ed Suslovic and John Coyne agreed to co-sponsor an order defining what needs to be done to formalize this process and asked Doug to have this done for the next City Council meeting on June 16, 2014.

Kathi Fortin then spoke about the requirements currently needed to satisfy the Federal government even though the program is in closure. She defined these as housekeeping changes and had prepared a memo that she shared outlining the items that needed approval by this Committee. The first item had to do with Scope of

Services. She explained this had to do with services provided and that these services had to reflect what had been provided prior to 2013. After some clarification, a motion was made by Councilor Coyne to accept the change in Scope of Services, seconded by Councilor Duson. All in favor.

Next item that needed approval called for a specific policy and procedure for Billing, Credit, and Collection for the Healthcare for Homeless program. Councilor Coyne moved that this item be accepted/approved, Councilor Duson seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Councilor Duson asked that the minutes reflect that she continues to object that this Committee is serving as the Governing Body for HCH.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – Compassionate Cities**

Mayor Brennan addressed the Committee regarding a nationwide effort to promote compassion in their cities. He further explained how this might have its effect in helping to build a community. He had drafted a resolution that he shared with the Committee members and asked for their support in moving it forward to the full City Council. Councilor Ed Suslovic spoke of his approval and thought it might be important to communicate this practice to the City of Portland's four sister cities and encourage their adoption and participation in this endeavor. Councilor Suslovic asked for a motion to accept this resolution and to have an order put on the City Council agenda for the meeting of June 16, 2014. Councilor Coyne so moved, seconded by Councilor Duson. Passed unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – Office of Elder Affairs Update:**

Linda Weare, as Director of Elder Affairs, presented an overview of her division and current projects. She is responsible for two adult day care programs and acts as the elder advocate for Portland's older citizens. This involves attending community meetings and collaborating with these groups regarding elder issues, one of which is elder abuse. She spoke about a grant that she had sponsored that allows for safe housing for these victims. She was able to have this grant renewed for a 3 year period. Since its inception she has had up to 11 women that have needed this service.

Councilor Suslovic asked if there were any emerging issues that the City needed to look at around elder issues. Linda stated that affordable housing and home services were needs that are not being met. Councilor Suslovic mentioned the Avesta Housing project in his district that would provide for 40 new units.

Linda informed the Committee that her current issue is hoarding. She has joined her efforts with the Inspections Division forming the City of Portland's response team. Together they assess and inspect a home when she is made aware that this issue

exists. She talked about a task force that is looking at other communities to expand membership and explore funding. Councilor Suslovic asked if it would be prudent to put together a communication to the community to speak about these issues and provide information about the demographics of the senior population. He recommended that a report be put together for the end of the year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 –Barron Center Overview and Tour:**

Karen Percival, Administrator, Barron Center, gave an update of the facility. The facility had a difficult year due to the absence of the Director of Nurses. She stated that the effects were minimized by the strong management team with many years of service. Admissions since January numbered 147 and deaths for the same period totaled 68. She explained that this has an effect on caregivers but the flip side is when staff are in the end of life care of their loved one.

She talked about the recent annual State survey and that the center will receive a few deficiencies, however, the nursing division had no deficiencies. One deficiency of a serious nature dealt with the temperature of the water. She spoke about the age of the building as part of the problem. Councilor Duson spoke about the reputation of the Barron Center as being a good facility and a facility of choice. There was discussion about the admission process and the competitiveness that exists. Strategic planning was mentioned as part of the Barron Center's goals. The Committee members were then invited on a tour of the facility.

**With no further business to attend to the Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.**

**Next Committee meeting to be announced**