



Health & Human Services Committee

**November 10, 2016
5:30 PM/Portland Public Library**

Meeting Minutes

Council Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Councilor Ray and Councilor Brenerman and Councilor Elect Batson, Councilor Duson and Mayor Strimling.

City Staff Attendance: Jon Jennings, Dawn Stiles, Chief Sauschuck, Dave MacLean.

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

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:45 PM by Chair Suslovic and Minutes from the previous 2 meetings were reviewed and accepted as written.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – HIRE Program Recommendations:

Dave MacLean gave an update on the HIRE Program outlining what has been going well including client growth and outcomes including 21 new intakes for the month of October. Transportation is one item that needs to be evaluated as we prepare the FY18 budget. Increased partnerships with area bus services so clients can access training and employment in the greater Portland area is essential.

Councilor Brenerman again encouraged the Department to get this information out to the media and asked if most of the jobs being offered were entry level jobs. Yes but as Dave pointed out they are working to find better matches in the clients field and interests. Councilor Brenerman recently met with a group of attorneys who are meeting on a regular basis with other attorneys from their countries of origin. Dave indicated they are trying to work in that direction as well.

Councilor Duson did an overview of this program at the National League of Cities. She will be attending the conference again next week and would like an update on the program before she goes.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Substance Use Prevention Recommendations:

Bridget Rauscher addressed the Committee and reviewed a handout of recommendations outlining each item.

City Manager Jon Jennings outlined his recent trip to the White House where members of the Greater Portland Addiction Collaborative (GPAC) steering committee headed by Eileen Skinner from Mercy Hospital. The Collaborative was discussed and Chief Sauschuck also addressed the Committee and voiced his support for this program believing it is one of the best programs in the country.

The Collaborative has received a \$125k grant from the State some of which will go towards treatment. The Sisters of Mercy have pledged \$400k for Housing. Jon and Chief Sauschuck will be meeting with DHHS Commissioner Mary Mayhew to discuss future funding. The Mayor questioned if we had cost figures. All combined Phase 1 start-up would require \$1 million for the first year; \$800k for subsequent years.

Jon feels the City needs to step up and invest in the GPAC Pay for Success model. He would like support from the Council in order to sell the Cotton Street lot and use this money towards the program. The funds for the purchase of the lot were with Federal funds and need to go back into CDBG funds. CDBG funding was discussed. All programs will be based on data.

Jon explained that Milestone is currently turning away 100 people per month. Treatment and sober housing are the pieces that are missing. He also congratulated Fire and Police on their use of Narcan as well as all shelter staff who were recently trained. So far this year there have been 35 overdose deaths in Portland.

Chair Suslovic wanted to clarify at this time that the Needle Exchange program will remain open with STD Testing at the India Street Clinic. It will not be closed or moved as long as the Council agrees with it.

Jon also clarified that the Free Clinic will remain on India Street and will continue to operate there. He also stressed how much the HOME Team out of Milestone helps the City on service calls. Bob Fowler from Milestone would like to add another HOME Team.

Councilor Ray questioned how Bridget sees the outreach piece working. Bridget is focused on working with Portland Public Schools and parents.

Councilor Brenerman questioned if there were any plans to increase beds at Milestone. Chief Sauschuck explained that no – they are federally mandated to *not* increase beds. GPAC wants to be more flexible and allow for medicine assisted models. Most now are abstinence based. Councilor Brenerman asked if zoning in Portland supported sober housing. Yes it does. As of 10 months ago there were 52 sober houses. They are classified as single family houses.

Councilor Duson suggested that staff think about organizing a ‘Report to Community’. Indicate what is working and what is not.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Positive Health Transition:

Dawn addressed the Committee and outlined the tremendous progress made in the transition and key reasons for success.

The Patient Team and the Patient Experience Team were discussed and the consensus is that it is a good working group. Caroline has hired a Community Health Outreach Worker to reach out to every individual who has been a patient of the India Street Clinic and currently out of 229 patients there are 11 who they have been unable to reach.

Dawn was in touch with Federal officials last week and the transition is on track to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Leslie Clark spoke and indicated they have submitted the application for transfer of funds. Jennifer Roger’s the new NP and started last week full time. Dr Stein will be starting on a part time basis. Both have the capacity to treat patients.

Leslie also praised the efforts of the GPAC and indicated they will be receiving \$325k in funding that will be used towards prevention in schools etc.

Chair Suslovic questioned the final few numbers of total patients who have reached Step 5 of the process. Caroline indicated that over 200 already have.

Joey a member of the Patient Experience Committee spoke that he has complete faith in the transition and would like to see an HIV advisory group to keep the city up to date on what is changing. He indicated again that they would like to see someone from Frannie Peabody to take part in this collaborative. He would also like to see some assessment of the patient experience however he understands the challenges in contacting and follow up with former patients. Chair Suslovic pointed out that we could be reaching out to the providers.

Councilor Brenerman congratulated everyone on a good job with the transition. He commented that there was no mention of Greater Portland Health on the brochure and questioned why.

Joey spoke about the brochure and indicated that it was decided to not use the clinic in the brochure because they felt it would feel patients were being pressured to go to GPH and this is about choice.

Leslie shared that they were disappointed they were not mentioned but honored what the patient experience wanted.

The Mayor would like a final report and analysis. Are HIV services better now or not and are there adequate HIV services.

Jon gave a brief overview of what India Street will look like. The City will make sure there is a health presence on India Street but is worried about the future of grant funded programs.

Councilor Duson would like to see a report of “Before India Street” “After India Street”. A year in review.

The Mayor questioned the cost to fully fund a robust service at the clinic. Cost of Needle Exchange is \$9k per year for the needles.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Shelter Tour Update:

Dawn gave an overview of the recent tour of 2 area shelters in the Boston region. The CASPAR Shelter in Cambridge and Father Bill’s Place in Quincy.

Jon indicated that the City will be putting together a new model, 1 floor only/dorm style housing with a day room and wraparound services. We will need to work out residency requirements, how large of a structure, location and food but the city will need a robust debate to start making these changes. He agrees the greatest challenge will be the neighbors but what we are proposing is nothing like what we currently have.

The Mayor encourages the Committee to be holding public community meetings regarding this.

Meeting was open to public comment:

George – Bayside Resident – Questioned why there were no public minutes of the Boston shelter tour. He also feels the Bayside neighborhood is not against having a shelter.

Joey Brunelle – Would like to know where things are going regarding sharps and feels people do not know what to do with them. Bridget produced a Sharps brochure that instructs folks as to how to handle and what to do in the event they find one.

Meeting closed to public comment.

Newly elected Councilor Brian Batson spoke and thanked everyone. He is very excited to be representing the City.

The staff and committee members all thanked Chair Suslovic for his years of service on the City Council.

With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.