



**Health & Human Services Committee
February 14, 2017**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance: Chair Ray, Councilor Mavodones, Councilor Batson, Councilor Duson and Mayor Strimling.

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

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM and Minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Shelter Zoning Update:

Jeff Levine from the Planning Department gave an updated overview of the zoning maps.

Public transportation was discussed with the Committee and Chair Ray commended Jeff on the revisions. Food service licenses as well as laundry were both discussed as well as addressing any potential issues from neighbors and what that process would look like.

Chair Ray also commended Rob Parritt and his staff at Oxford Street Shelter.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Gap Funding Update:

Dave MacLean, Administrator in the Social Services Division gave an overview of the gap in GA coverage for Asylum seekers who have not yet applied for Asylum. He explained that the process of seeking Asylum is a lengthy process which on average takes 3-3 ½ years.

The Mayor questioned what we are doing when folks who fall in this category present at GA ? Dave responded that we direct them to city services such as our shelters and the soup kitchens. Status inquiries only occur at General Assistance not at the shelters. Mayor Strimling would also like to know if we will have surplus funding. Barbara responded that everything is an estimate at this point. Chair Ray would like to see that money rolled over.

Barbara Sours gave a breakdown overview of expenses that are being carefully tracked.

Councilor Duson questioned if there was room to move people out of the Program so that other can move in?

Dave gave an overview of the backlog that is currently happening with attorneys. All of them are maxed out.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Opioid Crisis:

Chief Sauschuck, Oliver Bradeen from PPD and Melissa Skahan from Mercy Hospital all addressed the Committee regarding the GPAC Initiative.

Melissa explained the Greater Portland Addiction Collaborative and gave an overview. She indicated they have built a business plan and are trying to come up with sustainable funding. A new 12 bed women's shelter will be opening soon. The group has also been to the White House, met with the Governor as well as Commissioner Mayhew regarding the "Pay for Success" funding.

Chief Sauschuck (Police Chief of the Year) stressed that there have been 374 overdoses so far this year. The Chief thanked the partners and gave an update on the Narcan Program as well. He also introduced Oliver Bradeen and congratulated him on being selected "Civilian of the Year".

Oliver addressed the Committee and indicated the outreach program has expanded into the jails and has added medically assisted treatment (MAT) working closely with Grace Street. He also gave end of year statistics and described the process of referrals. Currently Milestone is the only opioid detox program in the State and only have 16 beds for a State of 1.2 million residents.

Assistant Fire Chief Keith Gautreau discussed Narcan and indicated their numbers are trending downward. He sees the move towards police officers using Narcan as multiple failures occurring.

Councilor Mavodones questioned how many patients have used Narcan more than once? Keith responded that they do not have that number but he could get it.

Councilor Batson questioned Milestone about the number of individuals being turned away. Bob Fowler Director of Milestone responded that the numbers wax and wane month to month. They are seeing 10-20 individuals seeking treatment a day. He feels they are adequately staffed with 1-2 RN's and 1 CNA in place. The highest number of individuals they are turning away are women. Mercy currently has 48 beds for women with a new 12 bed facility opening soon.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – India Street Update:

Dawn Stiles gave an overview and indicated that December 31st was the last day of the Positive Health Program at India Street. The Needle Exchange and STD Programs are being funded and the Free Clinic is also operating and available by appointment only. Dr. Bankole is acting liaison for the Free Clinic, Kristen Dow for the Needle Exchange Program. We also will have medical and lab coverage until June 30th at that time we will be sending out the labs. Chair Ray asked if this was going to be sustainable and Dawn indicated we are in the process of finding a medical provider.

The Mayor questioned if we had Year to Year numbers which Dawn indicated she will get for him as well as Month to Month for all 3 programs.

With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.