

ESAC Remote Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021

Attendees:

| Name | Attendee | Name | Attendee |
|-------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anna Brewer | Homeless Voices for Justice Team Leader | Jess Falero | People's Housing Coalition |
| Aaron Geyer | City of Portland | Mary Beth Twomey | PATH/TOA |
| Adam Harr | City of Portland | Mary Cook | PATH/TOA |
| Ben Martineau | Homeless Voices for Justice | Meredith Pesce | Amistad |
| Brian Townsend | Amistad | Norm Maze | Shalom House |
| Bill Higgins | Homeless Advocacy for All | Oliver Bradeen | Milestone |
| Ben Strick | Spurwink | Peter McLaughlin | People's Housing Coalition |
| Cullen Ryan | Community Housing of Maine | Rob Liscord | Maine Equal Justice |
| Dan Coyne | United Way of Greater Portland | Susanne Randall | Homeless Advocacy for All |
| Donna Yellen | Preble Street | Vickey Rand | Community Housing of Maine |
| Elizabeth Jackson | Greater Portland Health | Jim Devine | Homeless Voices for Justice |

Recap of last meeting:

- Covered:
 - Meeting principles
 - History of ESAC
 - Governance issues
 - Voted that all in attendance at the 2/4/21 meeting would be ESAC members
 - Voted on a voting system: striving for consensus but can move forward with a supermajority (80/20); each organization has one vote
 - Decided on 8:30-10am meeting time on the third Thursday of each month moving forward
- Tabled:
 - Month of first public meeting

Governance Issues:

Membership:

- Membership will be defined by organization/entities that share a commitment to ending homelessness
- Governance Committee will be the group to filter membership requests, and bring them to the full ESAC group

- Desire to have a membership format that allows for good dialogue and trusting relationships.
 - Very important that we have respectful dialogue moving forward between member organizations. This is needed in order to be the advocacy group that ESAC has historically been.
- Discussion: how many members from an ESAC member organization can attend ESAC meetings? Do we want to restrict this in any way?
 - Keep it open/unrestricted for now, address it later if it becomes a problem
- What is the criteria around organizations that wish to become ESAC members?
 - Criteria for who is here today: organizations that were regular attendees before the pandemic, providers, funders, consumer/homelessness advocacy, clear commitment to ending homelessness (which is different than a group that is affected by homelessness)
- Are there any organizations that are absent right now that we should consider inviting:
 - Immigrant & asylee organizations (but also need there to be agenda time for that in order for their attendance to be meaningful/worth their time)
 - Ex: Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Maine Access Immigrant Network
 - Education Departments
 - McKinney-Vento Liaisons for Portland and South Portland schools
 - Greater Portland Family Promise
 - GA officers from South Portland and Westbrook
 - Housing Authorities
 - Avesta Housing
- Motion: make a decision to extend an invitation to MIRC, MAIN, Greater Portland Family Promise, GA Directors/officers, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, Housing Authorities, Avesta, Portland & South Portland Education Departments
 - *Motion passes*
- The group also agreed to continue discussing membership and to consider inviting other groups/organizations not mentioned above

Meeting accessibility:

- Move meetings to Zoom instead of Microsoft Teams
- Finding space for people to tune in and be warm and plug their phones in, etc.
 - Provide meeting accessibility for folks as we continue to be remote

Subcommittees:

- ESAC subcommittees: committees that take on work outside of monthly ESAC meetings that needs more attention
 - Two current subcommittees being formed: Data Working Group, Portland Shelter Licensing Working Group

Statistics:

- Changing slide about GA since GA is a major way that we are providing shelter right now, and in order to have a more accurate number of people accessing shelter we need to know how many people are accessing shelter through GA
- Is first time homelessness reported when folks access GA? No
- Long term stayer placements have been very successful due to partnership with two new buildings
- Thinking about what the data tells us about the *health of our system*, how do these data points align with the other federal and state metrics that shelters need to report, what coordinated entry data points do we want/need?
 - Reach out to Rob re: Data Working Group

Shelter Licensing:

- Idea being developed by Portland's Health & Human Services Committee
- Everyone in ESAC should be keeping an eye on this, since it is very important
 - This is the kind of thing that we should be weighing in on as ESAC
- Contact Oliver if you'd like to be involved in the coordination on this