

Review of strategic plan

**TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN
TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS**

TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

- ✘ Establishment of the task force by Council Order in November of 2011 with the following tasks:
 - + Review and gain an understanding of the causal factors associated with homelessness, as well as the current community resources available to meet the unique needs of individuals experiencing homelessness;
 - + Develop a multi-year strategic plan, including measureable objectives to reduce, prevent and end homelessness in the Greater Portland;
 - + The strategic plan should focus on three areas; access to healthcare services, supportive and affordable housing, and prevention;
 - + Convene a larger stakeholder group to include social service providers, advocates, consumers, community and business leaders, and public safety representatives to inform the work of the Task Force;
 - + Develop a strategic plan to prevent and homelessness that can be endorsed by the Portland City Council and one that can be evaluated over time and modified if needed.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Member	Affiliation
Jon Jennings	Community Leader and Task Force Tri-Chair
Suzanne McCormick	United Way of Greater Portland and Task Force Tri-Chair
Dory Waxman	Former City Councilor and Task Force Tri-Chair
John Anton	Portland City Councilor
Thomas Blackburn	Maine Construction Services & Bayside Neighborhood Association
Carolyn Braun	Temple Beth El
Dawn Doiron	Community Leader
Kitty Garlid	Maine Medical Center
Michael Gendreau	Mercy Hospital
Thomas Chalmers McLaughlin	University of New England
Brian Petrovek	Portland Pirates & Portland Downtown District
Thomas Ptacek	Homeless Voices for Justice
John Ryan	Wright-Ryan Construction
Chief Michael Sauschuck	Portland Police Department
Karen Stein	UNUM
Mark Swann	Preble Street
Mike Tarpinian	The Opportunity Alliance
Dana Tottman	Avesta

Doug Gardner, Portland DHHS

Josh O'Brien, Portland DHHS

Jon Bradley, Preble Street

TASK FORCE FINDINGS

- ✘ The issue of homelessness is complex and multifaceted.
 - + The lack of affordable housing places a number of people at risk of being homeless.
 - + Factors such as mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of employment and job training all contribute to people being homeless.
 - + Changes in funding priorities for health care, employment training and social support place a number of people at risk of being homeless

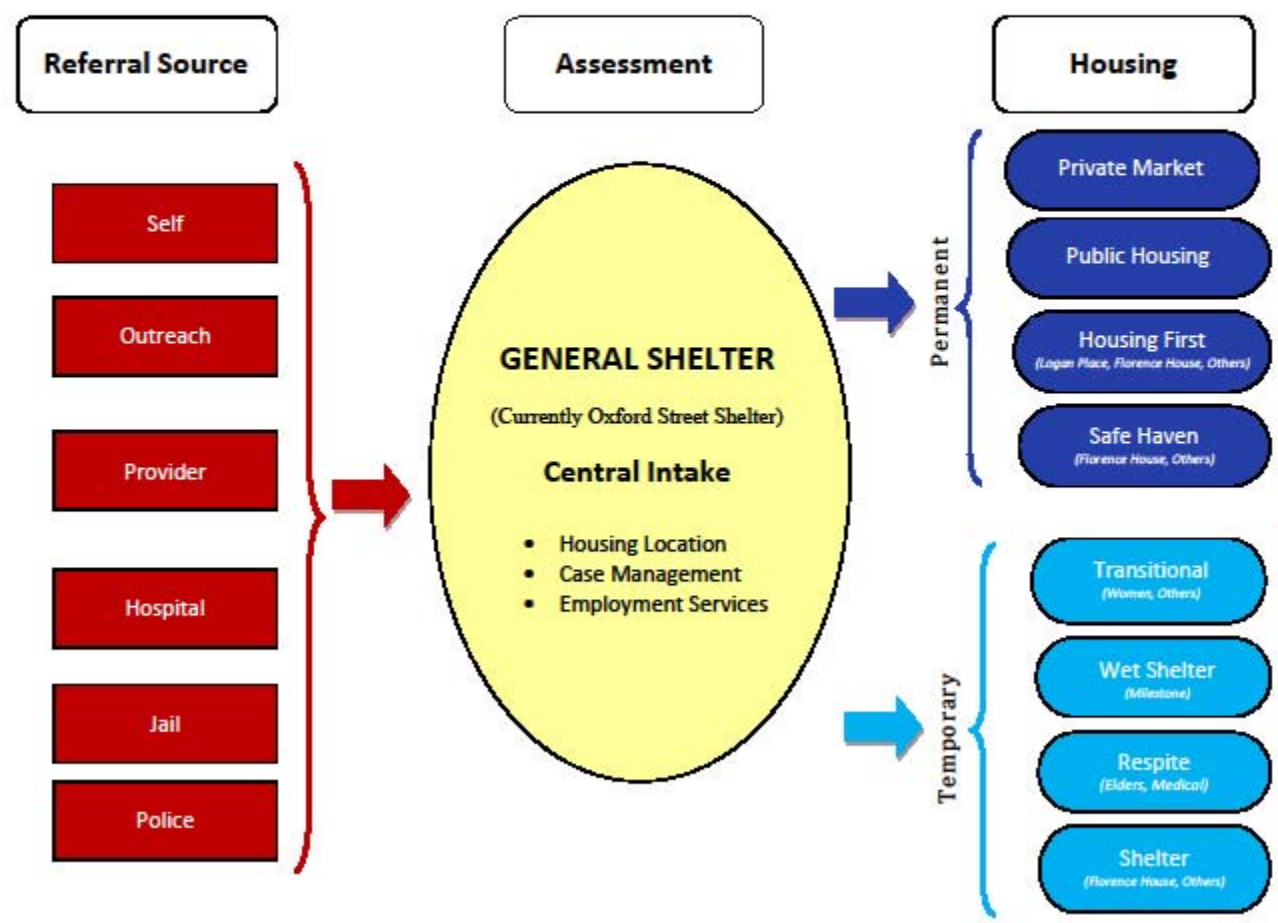
FINDINGS-CONTINUED

- ✘ According to data from Preble Street and the City of Portland, shelter capacity at the women's shelter, teen shelter and men's shelter have been over capacity since June 2011.
- ✘ On any given night in Portland, there are 444 people seeking shelter. The data suggests that 71 percent of people who are homeless are homeless for 30 days or less.

FINDINGS-CONTINUED

- ✘ Data from the City of Portland and Preble Street suggest the average age of a person at the shelter is 40.
- ✘ At Oxford Street Shelter, 49 percent of clients at the shelter were over the age of 41.
- ✘ At Florence house, 66% of the women reported being victims of abuse and 54% reported being victims of domestic violence.
- ✘ The data suggests nearly 60 percent reported mental illness and 38% reported struggling with substance abuse.
- ✘ Nearly 72 percent of those who reported mental illness also reported a co occurring disorder of substance abuse.

HOMELESS SERVICES RAPID RE-HOUSING INITIATIVE



RECOMMENDATIONS

× Retooling the emergency shelter system

- + The task force recommends the creation of a centralized intake process where all clients who are homeless would be assessed. Those appropriate for diversion to housing, other specialized shelters or other housing situations would be rapidly reassigned to these more appropriate options. By co-locating all service delivery partners within this centralized intake, will also increase the efficiency of the system and provide a higher level of service delivery and reassignment. Through this intake system, the overall emergency shelters in Portland will see a reduction in the number of clients who remain in the general shelter for more than 21 days. This will require reducing the current general shelter service and reconfiguring the shelter intake, assessment and referral process. Additional staff and change in the level and type of work done at the shelter will be necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS-CONTINUED

× Rapid rehousing

- + The task force recommends constructing three new housing first units consisting of 35 units each and appropriate supports for people who are homeless. This will require significant capital investment and funding for building maintenance costs and adequate staffing at three locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS-CONTINUED

× Increased case management

- + The task force recommends case management services be expanded to people who are homeless and those case management delivery systems follow client needs, rather than reimbursable service delivery models.

NEXT STEPS

- ✘ Public comment-October 3
- ✘ Final task force meeting October 11
- ✘ Portland City Council Workshop-October 15
- ✘ Full City Council meeting-November