



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: [External Sender]Spurwink Further Location Feedback

1 message

Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Harr, Adam" <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 4:30 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ben Strick** <bstrick@spurwink.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 7:11 PM
Subject: RE: [External Sender]Spurwink Further Location Feedback
To: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Sarah,

My apologies for the delayed reply. We will work with the city to deliver services wherever the new shelter is located. With that said, County Way or Angelo's Acre would be markedly better for us. Having the shelter located within walking distance of Spurwink Adult Behavioral Health would make it much easier to collaborate and help coordinate care. I think this will be especially true for our MAT program. One of the strengths of our program will be the ability to directly administer medication on a daily basis if needed. While our substance abuse counselors can meet with clients anywhere, it will be hard for the program to routinely administer Suboxone outside of an secure office setting. The closer we can be to the shelter the easier it will be for clients to successfully engage in treatment. I suspect a daily bus ride to/from Riverside Industrial Parkway would create a significant barrier for many individuals.

Please let me know if there is anything else we can do to help.

Thanks so much,

---Ben

BENJAMIN STRICK, LCSW

Director of Adult Behavioral Health



207.871.1200 x 2149 | 207.615.2146 (c) | 207.871.1232 (f)

901 Washington Ave, Suite 100

Portland, Maine 04103

www.spurwink.org

From: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Ben Strick <bstrick@spurwink.org>
Cc: Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: [External Sender]Spurwink Further Location Feedback

Hi Ben,

We wanted to reach out and thank each of you for recently providing feedback on our site location surveys. As you may be aware coming out of last night's Health and Human Service Committee Meeting the site list was reduced to three locations. We have been asked to produce a deeper dive on these three locations and a large part of that is receiving more feedback from our valued community partners. We are asking you to provide any comments or feedback on the attached document, including any onsite or outreach services you think you may be able to provide at any of the locations. We understand at this time these are projections and not actual services to be delivered. We again want to thank so many of you who said they would partner with the City no matter where the new services center will eventually go. We are hoping to have these returned by next Friday so that this data can be compiled for the council.

Please feel free to contact either Aaron or myself with any questions.

Thank you,

Sara

--

Sara Fleurant
Assistant Director of Housing Services

Oxford Street Shelter

207-482-5224

fax- 207-761-0536

skf@portlandmaine.gov

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--

Aaron Geyer
City of Portland

3/11/2019

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: [External Sender]Spurwink Further Location Feedback

Health & Human Services Department

[196 Lancaster Street](#)

[Portland, ME 04101](#)

(207) 482-5131

aeg@portlandmaine.gov

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Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Amistad Further Location Feedback

2 messages

Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Harr, Adam" <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 4:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sara Fleurant** <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 28, 2019 at 4:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Amistad Further Location Feedback
To: Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Townsend** <briant@amistadinc.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 28, 2019 at 12:44 PM
Subject: RE: Amistad Further Location Feedback
To: Meredith Pesce <meredithp@amistadinc.com>, Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Sara,

Amistad would be able and willing to provide services onsite and through outreach at any of the three identified options.

Our feedback on the three site options:

With the disclaimer that no site can be perfect, we are inclined to see the County Way location as the best of the three. The most significant positive is the location relative to other services and resources. We do not have the same broad negative feelings about the proximity to the jail that some others seem to have. We agree that the optics aren't great, but we suspect that the people who will have the strongest negative reaction to those optics are not the actual people who will be seeking emergency shelter and services there. The jail does not have negative socio-environmental factors along its periphery, so any downside about being next door is conceptual. If Amistad were looking to purchase land and build a program somewhere, and prioritized accessibility (as we do) above most factors, we would absolutely consider this lot.

Angelo's Acre may have some positive aspects, but our immediate reaction has to do with safety, given the nearness of the harbor. Our community has had enough tragedy associated with accidental drownings; it is hard to overlook this when considering that spot. It also seems like a spot that would be exposed to significant wind and cold, in addition to the noise of the bridge, and we wonder about these factors as being additional existence burdens on the people seeking shelter and support there.

The third option, on Riverside, feels like the least optimal due to its distance from the service center. If all three options were similarly distant, it might hold up by comparison with some other options, but, as one example, it would seem less viable as an option than the previously proposed Barron Center location.

If you would like us to flesh out any of these responses or offer thoughts on specific questions, please let us know!

Brian

From: Meredith Pesce
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>; Brian Townsend <briant@amistadinc.com>
Subject: Re: Amistad Further Location Feedback

Thanks Sara, we'll dig into this and send it back over soon.

Meredith Pesce
Associate Director
Amistad
[66 State Street](#)
[Portland, Me 04101](#)

207-241-9141

From: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Brian Townsend; Meredith Pesce
Subject: Amistad Further Location Feedback

Hi Brian and Meredith,

We wanted to reach out and thank each of you for recently providing feedback on our site location surveys. As you may be aware coming out of last night's Health and Human Service Committee Meeting the site list was reduced to three locations. We have been asked to produce a deeper dive on these three locations and a large part of that is receiving more feedback from our valued community partners. We are asking you to provide any comments or feedback on the attached document, including any onsite or outreach services you think you may be able to provide at any of the locations. We understand at this time these are projections and not actual services to be delivered. We again want to thank so many of you who said they would partner with the City no matter where the new services center will eventually go. We are hoping to have these returned by next Friday so that this data can be compiled for the council.

Please feel free to contact either Aaron or myself with any questions.

Thank you,

Sara

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Sara Fleurant
Assistant Director of Housing Services

Oxford Street Shelter

207-482-5224

fax- 207-761-0536

skf@portlandmaine.gov

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Sara Fleurant
Assistant Director of Housing Services

Oxford Street Shelter

207-482-5224

fax- 207-761-0536

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Aaron Geyer
City of Portland
Health & Human Services Department

[196 Lancaster Street](#)

[Portland, ME 04101](#)

(207) 482-5131

aeg@portlandmaine.gov

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Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Harr, Adam" <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 4:31 PM

[Quoted text hidden]



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: PPD Further Location Feedback

1 message

Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Harr, Adam" <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 4:32 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vernon Malloch** <vwm@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 12:35 PM
Subject: Re: PPD Further Location Feedback
To: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Aaron Geyer <aeg@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Sara

The police department will provide all the same services indicated during the review of the Barron Center Site. I believe you have that information on file. If you cannot locate it I will search my old e-mails.

Specific to one site listed here I do have concerns about Angelo's Acre. It's proximity to the working waterfront is a public safety concern. Historically we have seen drowning deaths of homeless people and those who are impaired by alcohol or drugs. The department has worked hard over the years to partner with other providers to significantly reduce this occurrence. Locating a shelter so close to the waterfront has the potential to place an already at risk group in even more danger.

Thanks for soliciting feedback and please let me know if you need any other information.

Best, Vern

On Wed, Feb 27, 2019 at 5:03 PM Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

Hi Chief,

Hope all is well! We wanted to reach out and thank each of you for recently providing feedback on our site location surveys. As you may be aware coming out of last night's Health and Human Service Committee Meeting the site list was reduced to three locations. We have been asked to produce a deeper dive on these three locations and a large part of that is receiving more feedback from our valued community partners. We are asking you to provide any comments or feedback on the attached document, including any onsite or outreach services you think you may be able to provide at any of the locations. We understand at this time these are projections and not actual services to be delivered. We again want to thank so many of you who said they would partner with the City no matter where the new services center will eventually go. We are hoping to have these returned by next Friday so that this data can be compiled for the council.

Please feel free to contact either Aaron or myself with any questions.

Thank you,
Sara

--

Sara Fleurant
Assistant Director of Housing Services
Oxford Street Shelter
207-482-5224
fax- 207-761-0536
skf@portlandmaine.gov

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Vern Malloch

Interim Chief
Portland Maine Police Department
[109 Middle Street](#)
[Portland, ME 04101](#)
207-874-8600
email: vwm@portlandmaine.gov
Our Core Values
Leadership - Integrity - Service

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Aaron Geyer
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aeg@portlandmaine.gov

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***Homeless Voices for Justice Comment on Three Potential Sites for the Homeless Services Center
March 15, 2019***



To esteemed Councilors of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee:

Homeless Voices for Justice appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the HHS Committee on this step of the relocation process.

Based on community outreaches and careful analysis, Homeless Voices for Justice's main points of concern remain: accessibility, eligibility and bed numbers, and community inclusion.

We do have specific feedback on the three sites in particular, and then other points to consider:

Riverside Industrial Park

HVJ is concerned about the accessibility of Riverside Industrial Park as a location for a new Homeless Services Center. The area is somewhere between a four and six mile walk away from the current Oxford Street Location. While there has been much welcome discussion about proximity to METRO, we hope the public and the City understands the accessibility challenges posed by placing a shelter so far away from current services. Many people staying at shelters in Portland have persistent medical conditions that make it impossible to walk much of a distance. Many lack storage space and have to carry bags and belongings around. And many people are in wheelchairs, use walkers, or canes. Complicating this is the fact that few can afford bus passes, and free bus passes supplied by some service providers are incredibly hard to come by. One of the most frequently sought resources by those who are homeless are monthly passes.

When the State moved its DHHS building from Bayside to South Portland, many people who needed support lost services, or the opportunity to more frequently access services, because of the distance created. At the time of that move, HVJ advocated against it for accessibility reasons. Other concerns about this location include sidewalk accessibility and whether there are food stores close by. In addition to services, many people access employment through agencies such as Labor Ready, which involves lining up early in the morning. The distance created by placing the shelter at Riverside, combined with bus schedules, would make it much harder, if not impossible, for many people staying in the shelter to access employment.

County Way

HVJ is concerned about locating a new Homeless Services Center near the County Jail. While the location is closer to many current services than Riverside is, we fear that placing a shelter near the jail will increase the stigma, discrimination, violence and criminalization that people experiencing homelessness already face. Specifically, we are concerned about the association

implicitly made by locating a Homeless Service Center next to a jail. People who are homeless often struggle with barriers that result from disproportionate enforcement of certain laws, such as loitering or trespassing laws to name just two. Our research and experience as those who have been, or are, homeless shows us that the stigma and criminalization of those who are homeless makes basic life-sustaining activities much more difficult. People who are homeless do not have the privacy of a home to conduct their lives. They are disproportionately asked to “move along” in public space; their activities are more frequently and heavily scrutinized by the public and governing institutions. We believe the close proximity to the County Jail may increase these barriers rather than strive to resolve them. We strongly encourage the Health and Human Services Subcommittee to discuss this aspect of the location.

Angelo’s Acre

Of all three potential sites, Angelo’s Acre is the closest to many available services on the peninsula for those who are homeless. By staying on the peninsula, it is not far from the current shelter and a number of service providers and resources that people who are homeless access in downtown Portland. That said, HVJ does recognize other accessibility aspects that make this site challenging. Namely, the fact that it is quite close to water, a frequently busy street and bridge ramp, and the Port Authority.

Other Points to Consider

First, HVJ encourages the HHS Committee to carefully consider the question of residential zones, which has created much discussion among the councilors. A new Homeless Services Center in any location will no doubt be located close to, or in, a given neighborhood, and we would encourage the councilors to consider that guests at the new Center will be neighbors and residents, the same as anyone else. These guests should not be tucked away, out of sight, due to concern that their presence would pose a challenge to their neighbors. To include and integrate people who are homeless in Portland is one way in which our city can better address the need for shelter services, which has become more severe over the years as other shelters have closed down. To this end, we have heard over and over again from our community a concern and strong appeal for people experiencing homelessness to not be hidden. We recognize the City’s emphasis on *not intending* to hide the homeless. However, we believe that in considering whether current residential zones are appropriate, consideration must be given to how Portland, as a community, cares for its most disenfranchised, oppressed, and stigmatized residents.

Secondly, we are concerned about the prospect of opening up a 150 bed facility while the current shelter chronically exceeds its capacity of 154 people, resulting in the use of overflow and sometimes triple overflow on a nightly basis. In December of 2018, 537 people were served by homeless shelters in Portland. Based on current trends, HVJ does not believe the predictions for reduced numbers are realistic. We are encouraging the Councilors to afford for space and capacity such that the new Homeless Services Center does not need overflow in the first place.

Connected to this is the question of guest eligibility and policies governing the new Homeless Services Center. To us, it is crucial that the City keeps to its long-standing commitment to provide emergency shelter services to anyone who needs it and that the policies governing the new Homeless Service Center are the least restrictive they can possibly be, to ensure that the City's goals for rapidly connecting people to resources and housing can be met.

Third, the HHS Committee has moved recently to narrow down sites from 11 to 3. While we welcome the sense of urgency to address the life-threatening problem of homelessness in Portland, we will continue to encourage the HHS committee to work more systematically on including the input of those who are homeless as this process moves forward. Homeless Voices for Justice seeks to empower those who live in poverty and homeless – people whose perspectives are often absent from the development of policies and programs that directly impact their social and economic well-being. To this end, we are working in conjunction with City Management on convening a community forum for people who are homeless so their input can be heard. While those plans continue to move forward, we advise that the City take steps to ensure that the pace of the relocation process does not move so fast as to exclude the concerns and feedback of the community they seek to help.

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

Riverside Industrial Park:

Goodwill's Workforce programs can provide onsite services to homeless individuals at this location if there are significant barriers to clients accessing services at our primary local program office, 190 Lancaster Street.

This includes access to:

- Job Connection programming
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programming through Workforce Solutions, and
- Employment Services (job coaching and/or job development through Vocational Rehabilitation)

County Way:

Goodwill's Workforce programs can provide onsite services to homeless individuals at this location if there are significant barriers to clients accessing services at our primary local program office, 190 Lancaster Street.

This includes access to:

- Job Connection programming
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programming through Workforce Solutions, and
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Angelo's Acre:

Goodwill's Workforce programs can provide onsite services to homeless individuals at this location if there are significant barriers to clients accessing services at our primary local program office, 190 Lancaster Street.

This includes access to:

- Job Connection programming
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker programming through Workforce Solutions, and
- Employment Services (job coaching and/or job development through Vocational Rehabilitation)

Agency: Goodwill Northern New England

Representative: Dave Wurm, Senior Director, Workforce Services

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

In considering these locations, the Library evaluates how we could provide service through our existing locations and how we could add a site onto our outreach agenda. We recognize that the Library's collections are helpful as research tools as well as much-needed entertainment for people experiencing homelessness, and that library spaces are welcoming and safe which can be reassuring and provide a positive sense of community for someone experiencing disruption and anxiety due to homelessness. Of the Library's locations, the Main Library on Monument Square is best equipped to provide the variety of information resources, the technology tools, security staffing, and seating to accommodate.

Riverside Industrial Park:

Being the location farthest from any of our branches, especially the Main Library, this location would be most challenging to provide our strongest service. Based on current models and funding, we would anticipate providing bookmobile or pop-up service once per week, and the possibility of providing donated collections for free use (similar to Florence House). It seems critical that the location be on a bus line.

County Way:

The proximity to the peninsula and both major hospitals, as well as to the Police Headquarters (if it moved there), add value to this location. As stated above, the Library can provide our best service through our Main Library location, and this would still require a bus or a solid walk from County Way. As with any location chosen, the Library would provide outreach and pop-up service to the extent we can as described above.

Angelo's Acre:

This is geographically nearest to the Main Library and is, therefore, the most beneficial site for access to full Library services. As with any location chosen, the Library would provide outreach and pop-up service to the extent we can as described above.

Agency: Portland Public Library

Representative: Sarah Campbell

Service Provider Information Sheet

Service Provider: Preble Street

Point Person: Fiona Mason

Services List: Targeted outreach, engagement and case management services for clients who are homeless and who meet program requirements for Veterans Housing Services, Anti-Trafficking Services and the Medication Assisted Recovery Program (MARP) within Health Services.

Target Demographic:

- Veterans
- Survivors of Human Trafficking that meet the federal definition of Human Trafficking
- Uninsured and high risk individuals with Substance Use Disorder that are participants in the Medication Assisted Recovery Program (MARP)
- Youth age 18 through 20

Days /Hours: TBD

Space /Office requirements: TBD

What else is needed?

All the of the services outlined are provided through and dependent on grant funding. Historically, funding and needs have changed over time which results in fluctuating service delivery. For example, we apply for and have received awards annually for our Veterans Housing Services program through the federal Specialized Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) program. After receiving the award for this next grant period starting October 1, 2018, we were notified they may be reducing all SSVF grants for the next grant period. This reduction in funding will result in reduced service delivery.

Anti-Trafficking Services (ATS) is also dependent on federal funds. The current award cycle was for a three-year period and we anticipate receiving funds for another grant period starting 10/1/18. Our ATS team has fluctuated within and across grant funding cycle based on several factors; these changes in team configuration and number of caseworkers affect our ability to provide services.

The Health Services intensive case management services offered to MARP clients is also dependent on grant funding. We are currently participating in the MARP pilot project which ends in March 2019. We are hopeful there will be an opportunity to apply for another grant period through a subcontract with Greater Portland Health however we have no definitive information at this time.

Teen Services provides day services, case management and overnight shelter to youth age 12-20. We do not allow youth age 18-20 to access services at our Resource Center and instead encourage them to access services through our Teen Services. This aids in their ability to seek age and developmentally appropriate services that supports them in moving from homelessness to housing stability. Currently Teen Services works collaboratively with Oxford Street Shelter to encourage 18-20-year-old youth to access services through Teen Services. We would like to continue this practice with the new Homeless Services Center going forward.

Expected Outcomes: Access to specialized services as able.

March 6, 2019 - Shelter Locations Questionnaire

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

Riverside Industrial Park: *DEFINITE NO* Yes// Maybe ?

Pluses

- Receptivity by residential and business neighbors- likely somewhat low opposition

Minuses

- Public visibility- hiding homeless guests on outskirts of town...
- Access to other services and amenities – too remote; not within walking distance to much of anything...; longish bus ride
- Neighborhood- industrial
- Transportation- where’s the nearest bus stop?

County Way *NOT A PREFERRED SITE* Yes/No/ ?

Pluses

- Transportation- near bus lines
- Access to other services and amenities – within walking distance or short bus ride

Minuses

- Receptivity by residential and business neighbors- likely high opposition, by businesses who might not see a Homeless Services Center as good for business and by residential neighbors
- Public visibility- hiding homeless guests from public view
- Neighborhood- industrial feel; next to jail, may be seen by some as equating homelessness with criminality

Angelo’s Acre *PREFERRED SITE* /No/ Maybe ?

Pluses

- Public visibility- definitely not hiding homeless guests
- Transportation- near bus lines
- Access to other services and amenities – within walking distance or short bus ride

Minuses

- Receptivity by residential and business neighbors- likely opposition by both; may be manageable though...

Shalom remains committed to providing mental health case management to support mutual clients in need of such services wherever they are, including the new Homeless Services Center. The new configuration will make it easier to meet with shelter guests at the Center. In addition, Shalom will continue to meet with guests to assess eligibility for Section 17 adult mental health case management and/or eligibility for Shalom group homes or Community Rehabilitation Services.

Shalom staff will also continue to award as many eligible shelter guests as program resources allow with one of the rental subsidies we administer so that guests can better afford available housing in the area. We will also set up mutually agreeable times to meet with guests in need of rental vouchers and schedule regular weekly hours at the new Homeless Services Center to answer questions / assist guests and their housing counselors with rental assistance applications.

Agency: Shalom House, Inc.

Representative: Norm Maze, Deputy Director

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

Riverside Industrial Park :

We are concerned that this location is too far removed from services. While the City seems committed to having a transportation plan in place, we feel that our clients benefit from being able to walk to access needed resources, services, and work. The team also has concerns that the segment of the population with significant behavioral challenges will struggle to be able to maintain access to transportation services whether it be city - provided or through the bus line.

County Way:

While the proximity to the jail is problematic optics and messaging wise, we feel that it is located close enough to town that folks will still have ease of access to essential services and its proximity to MMC is particularly positive.

Angelo's Acre:

Pros for this location include that it is centrally located and would provide ease of access to services. It is also the most publicly visible of the 3 remaining locations.

We have some concerns about clients who are under the influence wandering into traffic or down some of the wharfs in that area. It's worth noting that when people are restricted or CTO'd from the shelter some are likely to sleep rough around the city and shifting this population closer to the water could be dangerous, particularly for those who may be under the influence. There have been many instances of people who are homeless drowning in Portland and anything that puts people closer to the waterfront could be a concern.

Agency: The PATH Program at The Opportunity Alliance

Representative: Christina Cook

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

Riverside Industrial Park:

This location seems too far and would seem to not help folks get the services they need, but instead might hinder them even more. SARSSM does not promote this location.

County Way: **County way is a great solution. It is close to the hospital and sticks to the bus route. It does not create any more barriers to the homeless population.**

Angelo's Acre: **Angelo's Acre is a great second choice.**

Agency: Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)

Representative: Whitney Adell, Program Manager of Advocate and Outreach Services

What the agency can provide:

- **On-site one on one support for folks that have been sexually harmed**
- **On-site outreach by consistently showing up on a specific day to table and create awareness about surveys**
- **Possibility of an on-site support group once outreach as been established**



Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Location feedback

1 message

Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>
To: Adam Harr <ash@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Mar 12, 2019 at 1:05 PM

Through These Doors Feedback

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sara Fleurant** <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 6:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: Location feedback
To: Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer S** <jennys@throughthesedoors.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 3:14 PM
Subject: Location feedback
To: Sara Fleurant <skf@portlandmaine.gov>
CC: Kelley W <kellyw@throughthesedoors.org>, Rebecca H <rebeccah@throughthesedoors.org>

Hi Sara,

Thanks for reaching out to Kelley with regards to our feedback on the shelter locations being proposed and the services we could provide. We had a discussion about what our involvement could be as a whole. The location of the shelter doesn't have an impact on the services that we could provide onsite.

Given the intersection of homelessness and domestic violence, what will be needed and what we could provide is a full-time domestic violence advocate (if funding permits) located on site to provide advocacy and support to victims and survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking and dating abuse.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.
Jenny

Jenny Stasio, Director of Operations

she/her/hers

Through These Doors *(formerly Family Crisis Services)*

Office: 207-874-1196

Mobile: 207-712-8274

24-hour Helpline: 800-537-6066



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Sara Fleurant
Assistant Director of Housing Services
Oxford Street Shelter
207-482-5224
fax- 207-761-0536
skf@portlandmaine.gov

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Rob Parritt
Homeless Services Consultant
City of Portland
rwp@portlandmaine.gov

As our most relied upon partners, we appreciate your feedback on the following potential locations for a Homeless Services Center. Please indicate any onsite services you may be able to provide. Thank you!

Riverside Industrial Park: Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) does not provide direct services, however we would be happy to continue our collaborative relationship with the City at any of the three potential locations for a Homeless Services Center, including the Riverside Industrial Park site.

County Way: CHOM does not provide direct services, however we would be happy to continue our collaborative relationship with the City at any of the three potential locations for a Homeless Services Center, including the County Way site.

Angelo's Acre: CHOM does not provide direct services, however we would be happy to continue our collaborative relationship with the City at any of the three potential locations for a Homeless Services Center, including the Angelo's Acre site.

Agency: Community Housing of Maine

Representative: Cullen Ryan, Executive Director

Feedback from community members experiencing homelessness, gathered from Homeless Voices for Justice outreaches and community meeting.

Homeless Voices for Justice gathered feedback from people experiencing homelessness in Portland on the three proposed sites for the city of Portland's proposed Homeless Services Center. HVJ collected 44 survey responses (combined with 88 general comments from surveys we utilized in previous community outreach) and held a community meeting in the Preble Street Resource Center with roughly 30 people, all of whom provided extremely diverse feedback and responses.



Significantly, HVJ has also spoken with a number of other community members who use the Oxford Street Shelter that opted *not* to fill out a survey, due to concerns that their voices and concerns would not be heard. This is why we feel it is important to continue working with City Management to arrange a community forum on this topic, specifically for those who are homeless and utilize shelter services in Portland.

Feedback on sites:

Riverside Industrial Zone

The majority of responses were opposed to this site for accessibility and location reasons. The frequency and price of public transportation would make moving between this location and other sites in the city very difficult or prohibitive. There was also concern from people who have to carry their belongings, have mobility challenges, and who need to access employment services/opportunities closer to the center of the city. Example of the responses not in favor of this site:

"This site would take someone without mobility issues at least two hours to get to from the center of town."

"I believe the reasons for this site are to hide the homeless community. It needs to remain fairly close and easily accessible to resources."

There were, however, some people who favored the Riverside site *because* of its distance from the rest of Portland. For example, one respondent said:

"[Riverside Industrial Site is] Choice 1. Out of town! Further away would be less stereotypes."

County Way

A sizeable number of responses from the community opposed this location due to its proximity to the Cumberland County Jail. People raised concerns about the impact of this location on increasing the stigmatization and criminalization of those who are homeless. Example of the responses not in favor of this site:

“This is not a good idea. Many homeless people have a negative association with police and the county jail.”

“They should absolutely NOT move it next to the jail... there is already a harsh stigma against the homeless and throwing us at the jail is wrong AND offensive.”

On the other hand, a sizeable number of responses from the community favored this location, noting that the location might help increase security and has close proximity to existing grocery stores, job opportunities, emergency and/or medical services, public transportation, etc.

Angelo’s Acre

Its closeness to existing, frequently utilized resources and social services in Downtown Portland (particularly the Bayside Neighborhood) was frequently referenced as a strength. In addition to facilitating access to important services, the central location was favored by some for keeping the issue of homelessness visible (as an important issue) in the city.

Responses opposed to this location were concerned about pedestrian safety, due to proximity to Commercial Street and the Casco Bay Bridge.

Overall, the responses to **Angelo’s Acre** and **County Way** were more mixed and positive as both remain closer to available resources downtown than does the Riverside site.

Other comments:

1. *What about other locations that the City has already moved on from?* The Douglass Street site came up several times. It was also clear that people who are homeless aren’t fully informed of the range of potential sites that had existed before there were three.
2. *What will happen to policies and procedures that govern the new Homeless Services Center?* Many people are concerned about policies and procedures and *who* can access services at the current shelter. Because Oxford Street Shelter cannot adequately accommodate those with high medical, disability, or related needs, those who are homeless in these categories are disproportionately affected by an outdated system. Many people are concerned whether the new Homeless Services Center will be more adequately set up to address guests with relatively higher needs, specifically medical needs.
3. *What about other resources?* People’s core concerns are around access to resources, including transportation. If the current density of resources and social services in the Bayside Area are broken up, people are concerned about how the City will help shelter guests access those vital services? Even if the new Homeless Services Center provides a number of services on-site, guests will still have to navigate the rest of the City for services and resources.
4. *How many beds?* People are concerned that 150 beds are inadequate to address the current need. People experiencing homelessness in Portland see that the current shelter is 154 beds, with frequently used overflow of 77 beds. The community is concerned how the City is going to address this need with a smaller shelter.

5. *Current conditions.* Overcrowding, pests, not feeling heard, not having adequate access to vital services such as casework, and opportunities to exit homelessness are few among the many indignities those who are homeless face in Portland on a daily basis. Often, people in the community want to discuss these conditions, what it's like from their perspective to experience them, and what needs to be different. People experiencing homelessness want to know how the new Homeless Services Center will address these issues.