

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes February 26th, 2009

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Amanda Wells</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Silver Shea</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Nancy Berg</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Mary-Ellen Welch</i>	City of Portland, Midtown Community Policing, Portland Police Department
<i>Jeff Tardiff</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Dee Clarke</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Ricker Hamilton</i>	Department of Health and Human Services, Adult Protective Services
<i>Amy Tague</i>	Togus VA
<i>Donna Yellen</i>	Preble Street
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	Community Housing of Maine (CHOM)
<i>Doug Gardner</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department
<i>Josh O'Brien</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Kathy Pratt</i>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Raenae Moore</i>	PROP
<i>Sara Gallagher</i>	PROP
<i>Melany Mondello</i>	Shalom House
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Amy Grommes Polaski</i>	City of Portland, Planning & Development Dept., Housing & Neighborhood Services
<i>Alex Thorn</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Public Health Div, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Sister Miriam Callnan</i>	McAuley Residence
<i>Michelle Hamlin</i>	MAPS Shelter Services
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Pam McNally</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Beth Eilers</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Public Health Div, Healthcare for the Homeless

I. Introductions

Robert Duranleau, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. *January Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for January 2009:

	<u>January 2008</u>	<u>January 2009</u>
Adolescents	9 Individuals	9 Individuals
Adults	210 Individuals	209 Individuals
Families	<u>38 Individuals (15 Families)</u>	<u>53 Individuals (10 Families)</u>
Total	257 Individuals	271 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for January 2008 were 288 while the total bed nights for January 2009 were 270. These figures indicate a decrease of 18 bed nights, or -6% between January 2008 and January 2009.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage decreased by less than 1% in January 2009 compared to January 2008. Total bed night usage during January 2008 was 6513 while it was 6493 during January 2009, a difference of 20 bed nights.

During the month of January, there were 106 intakes at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men. An Intake or New Arrival is defined as an individual that has not stayed at the Shelter for a period of three (3) months or longer.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 31 individuals into permanent housing, with five (5) of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 88 women during the month of January, including 17 new intakes. The Shelter placed eleven (11) individuals into housing, with zero (0) women returning. Doug Gardiner commented that the placement number was high and asked what contributed to this success. Amanda Wells replied that everything seemed to come together, a combination of Shelter Plus coming through for a few individuals, inspections passing, and rollover or placement processes from the end of the previous month.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 1634 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in January 2009 as compared to 1189 bed nights in January 2008. This represents an increase of 27% in Family Shelter bed usage between January 2008 and January 2009.

The Family Shelter received 17 new families (intakes) for a total of 55 individuals in January.

III. *Continuum of Care 2008 Awards – Bob Duranleau*

Bob mentioned that HUD has announced the Continuum of Care 2008 awards, and that the City has received everything that it had asked for with a bottom line of approximately \$2.9 million. He went on to say that the only new funding consists of \$96,000 which will fund two (2) housing subsidy slots (including one (1) efficiency and two (2) one-bedroom apartments), housing a total of three (3) homeless individuals with disabilities for five (5) years. Bob mentioned that HUD expects an announcement to be made soon regarding when the CoC grant information will be available, which is approximated for May or June. He added that HUD has included a 60-90 day open session period for feedback regarding last year's electronic submission. Bob distributed two (2) handouts outlining the Continuum of Care 2008 awards, which are available by request. Please contact Vickey Schroth via email

(vls@portlandmaine.gov) or by phone (775-6315 ext. 244) for more information regarding copies of these materials.

IV. *Veterans Outreach Services – Amy Tague*

Amy discussed her current outreach initiatives for Togus VA. She is attempting to facilitate a connection between homeless veterans and Togus by communicating directly with these individuals as well as with community providers. Amy currently is working in Portland and Bangor, and also wishes to establish a presence in Franklin County. Wednesday morning Amy works at Preble Street, and in the afternoon at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men. She communicates with providers and case managers regarding specific referrals as well as directly connects with homeless veterans discussing healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, and qualifiers for any of the housing options available (HUD VASH, transitional, or permanent housing via CHOM) as well as provides general housing counseling including a long-term residential treatment available in Massachusetts, for which she can facilitate referrals. Additionally Amy mentioned that she wishes to further expand on her established connections, stating that she can be reached at 207-329-5981 to schedule meetings with veteran clients, as well as presentations explaining different services and options available for veterans at the provider's request.

V. *Department of Health & Human Services, Adult Protective Services Presentation – Ricker Hamilton*

Ricker Hamilton discussed Adult Protective Services (APS) and the complex process that is highly driven by Probate Court. He provided handouts thoroughly describing APS, which are available upon request. Please contact Vickey Schroth via email (vls@portlandmaine.gov) or by phone (775-6315 ext. 244) for more information regarding copies of these materials.

Ricker mentioned that the client population has almost doubled with available resources neglecting to adjust to this dramatic increase. With cuts in service and the current economic state APS has seen a large increase in volume of calls and requests. Without sufficient resources to accommodate these needs APS experiences many difficulties. Ricker stated that a plan must be in place to protect the safety of the individual, and without proper resources placement is not an option. Thus, APS is often in the position that it cannot take on cases as they would be liabilities, illustrating one of the many frustrations and limitations due to a lack of proper resources. Ricker continued by stating that the lobby and political aspects that could aid in attaining proper resources, or at the very least demonstrate a push to preserve status quo when cuts are administered, simply isn't there yet. Additionally, after thirty-two (32) years of hearings on the federal level, funding and mandates have yet to be seen. Responding to this, Dee Clark asked, what could be done in regards to seeing the aforementioned become a reality? Ricker mentioned that it is necessary to keep pushing, point to the District Attorney's office and ask: "How many cases have you prosecuted? How many of these have been funded?" He added that elder abuse is highly underreported, adding to the obstacles faced. This is due to the fact that statistically 90% of all offenses are committed by the children and loved ones of the victim, that publically attention is directed toward the "scams" and people neglect to face the reality of the problem, and that when it comes to elder abuse we have the tendency to forget everything known about family violence that we recognize in child abuse and domestic violence cases. The past generation of elders never put themselves first, the needs of their loved ones remained priority, however this is predicted to change with the next generation and hopefully this will aid in the cause. Ricker added that with the aging population rising, especially in Maine, this remains a significant problem that may require reallocation of resources and that there are models out there of facilities that service elders that could serve as great means to aiding in the cause. An example of this is the Hebrew Home, which saw an increase in revenue and donations due to the service it provided to elders, demonstrating that it can be not only effective but profitable as well. When Ricker opened the discussion up for questions, Josh O'Brien asked about the investigation process and substance abuse cases when the individuals are uncooperative. Regarding investigations Ricker stated that without established evidence APS is limited to what the individual wants and will

let them do. The next step would be asking does this person have capacity (as previously defined in the handout provided), however this becomes yet again difficult to establish with an uncooperative individual, thus relying highly on medical professionals to gather evidence. In regards to uncooperative substance abuse cases APS is again limited, as unless the individual willingly submits to treatment APS is not effective. Pam McNally asked what can APS's role be in the documentation process of substance abusers who receive money. She went on to explain that these individuals are victimized and money is the root of the cause, however there is no way to obtain a mental health diagnosis due to the severity of alcohol abuse and that turning to APS for this documentation would aid the situation. Ricker responded by stating that APS lacks a Representative Payee program, however he would work with Rob Clarke at Social Security Administration to determine if APS documentation would aid in these individuals being given mandated Rep Payees in General Assistance. Bob stated that he would facilitate this discussion. All parties involved agreed that this could be a very effective collaboration and use of resources. Amanda Wells commented that due to the lack of access to medical information the full extent of the problems faced by clients at the shelter remains unknown, however they are grave, and that they look to APS to aid in gathering this information as APS has broadened access. Ricker responded by stating that if the shelter is not allowed access to psychiatric and medical information that APS will most likely be denied access as well. However, he added that even though APS may not be effective this doesn't mean one should be deterred from at least trying. His suggestion was to call APS and document any form of communication that occurs, as it could be helpful in the future, and that he or someone at APS may know of a resource to utilize. Ricker concluded by stating that the bottom line is simply just to call APS, and that if one does not receive the service needed to call up the chain of command so that everyone can work together to work through these various challenges.

VI. *Preble Street Florence House Update – Mark Swann & Jon Bradley*

Jon Bradley mentioned that the building has been torn down on site, and that Florence House hopes to be open by December of this year. Florence house will encompass twenty-five (25) units of permanent housing, a safe-haven and a shelter. He stated that the necessary funding is in the Governor's budget for the next two (2) years. Jon added that all parties involved are very hopeful and excited.

VII. *Other Business*

Amanda Wells mentioned that Amy Liechty will be moving to Logan Place, and that Christina Griffin will take her place as the new Supervisor at the Preble Street Women's Shelter.

Dee Clarke mentioned that the Adult Ed basic computer training at the Preble Street WELLness program is up and running, holding classes two (2) times each week.

Bob stated that he would add the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (in the Economic Stimulus package) on the next agenda

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, March 19th, 2009
8:30 – 10am
Refugee Services Area
190 Lancaster Street

Please contact Robert Duranleau, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division at 775-6315, extension 224; John Shoos, United Way at 874-1000, or Dee Clark, Preble Street at 775-0026; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.