

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes July 16th, 2009

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>John Shoos</i>	United Way of Greater Portland
<i>Dee Clarke</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Tom Allan</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	Community Housing of Maine
<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>Missy Leeman</i>	Milestone
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Josh O'Brien</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Kendra Danse</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Susannah Harden</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham, 22 Park
<i>Tara Kosma</i>	Prop
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Doug Barley</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Whitney Smith</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Aaron Shapiro</i>	Cumberland County
<i>Linda Janson</i>	MAPS Shelter Services
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Leah Bruns</i>	Prop
<i>Silver Shea</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Abbie Miller</i>	Goodwill Industries
<i>Caty Wilkey</i>	Prop
<i>Maureen Clancy</i>	Mercy Hospital
<i>Kathy Pratt</i>	Maine Department of Health and Human Services; ICM Outreach Program
<i>Lori Martin</i>	Prop
<i>Adriene Whitaker</i>	Maine Department of Health and Human Services; Public Health Nursing
<i>Amy Grommes Pulaski</i>	City of Portland, Planning & Development Dept., Housing & Neighborhood Services

I. Introductions

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

Bob reviewed changes in today's agenda. Heather Rhoda will present on Statewide HIV/AIDS statistics at the August meeting. Bob and Dee have also postponed the ESAC structure conversation to the next meeting. Doug Gardner has been added to the agenda to discuss homeless outreach.

II. *June Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for February 2009:

	<u>June 2008</u>	<u>June 2009</u>
Adolescents	8 Individuals	10 Individuals
Adults	219 Individuals	227 Individuals
Families	<u>65 Individuals (26 Families)</u>	<u>62 Individuals (25 Families)</u>
Total	292 Individuals	299 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for June 2008 were 245 while the total bed nights for June 2009 were 299. These figures indicate an increase of 54 bed nights, or 18% between June 2008 and June 2009. Four (4) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 4% in June 2009 compared to June 2008. Total bed night usage during June 2008 was 6575 while it was 6821 during June 2009, a difference of 246 bed nights.

During the month of June, there were 115 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. Based on self-reporting, 16 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in June. When asked, Josh stated that two (2) clients reported that the reason for homelessness was due to foreclosures. Overall, Josh mentioned, that very few clients report homelessness due to foreclosure.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 52 individuals into permanent housing, with 3 of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 105 women during the month of June, including 12 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 4 of these 12 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 9 individuals into housing, with 5 women returning.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 1867 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in June 2009 as compared to 1956 bed nights in June 2008. This represents a decrease of 5% in Family Shelter bed usage between June 2008 and June 2009.

The Family Shelter placed 16 families for a total of 61 individuals into housing in June.

The Family Shelter received 25 new families (intakes) for a total of 90 individuals in June. Based on self-reporting 13 families for a total of 48 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in June, of these 6 families for a total of 26 individuals were refugees.

III. *Continuum of Care Mainstream Resources Presentation – Aaron Geyer*

Bob mentioned that HUD held a webcast yesterday, Wednesday, July 15th regarding the Continuum of Care registration process. According to HUD it is supposed to be a very easy process, simply updating information from last year. One change noted in the webcast is that all Continuum of Care must complete their fiscal grant work plan themselves, rather than having the Regional Office create them. Bob stated that in general it looks like it's going to be an easier process for renewals. Another change HUD announced in the webcast is that if Continuums decide to combine there will be no penalties and/or loss of funds, which is different from last year. Elizabeth asked about new money options. Bob stated

that the only way to get new money is through the permanent housing bonus. Additionally, according to HUD the NOFA will not be announced any sooner than August 24th, however the focus right now remains the registration process. More to follow once information becomes available.

Aaron mentioned that the Portland Continuum of Care Mainstream Resources Committee will be presenting an overview of Domestic Violence with guest speakers from Family Crisis Services on Wednesday, July 29th here at 190 Lancaster Street. Aaron provided a handout, which has also been sent electronically to ESAC and CoC members.

IV. *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Homelessness Prevention & rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Update –*

Cindy stated that MaineHousing has already put out their request for information (RFI). In addition, they have received fourteen (14) proposals for the housing initiatives from prospective sub-grantees, and are in the process of handing these proposals off to their advisory group next Tuesday. After this step the recommendations will go to MaineHousing and accepted sub-grantees will be notified. Cindy mentioned that it seems as if everything is running on schedule. MaineHousing has met with Portland and Cumberland County to determine how best to collaborate in the data portion of HPRP. Cliff and Doug at MaineHousing have been working with Service Point to determine how they want to re-design the system to capture information for HMIS. Bob added that the Social Services Division, Preble Street and the Oxford Street Shelter for Men and the Cumberland County PROP/Preble Street GA Project have been meeting regularly to discuss their HPRP project collaboration. Additionally, The City of Portland and Preble Street will be hiring people, with interviews scheduled in the near future. The Oxford Street Shelter for Men and Preble Street HPRP collaboration project now has a designated area at 192 Lancaster Street, an entire corridor for these employees. Lastly, Cindy mentioned that they are hopefully looking at the beginning of August for funds.

V. *HMIS – Maine Homeless Initiative Website Presentation – Doug Barley & Cindy Namer*

Doug mentioned that MaineHousing has been working on a secure portal for which information can be used and shared privately, as well as some posted for the public. Everyone that uses the Maine Homeless Initiative site must sign an acceptable use policy, which Doug handed out. Once logged into the site you have the option to look at a variety of information. The information folder contains public and members-only folders, as well as folders that everyone has access to, such as Service Point and HMIS. He stated that a new folder for ESAC was recently added, where the monthly shelter stats and meeting minutes will be posted. People can upload information. The Maine Homeless Initiative website can be used as a great communication and information tool, such as posting events and meeting times which pertain to members. Also, email correspondences will be sent to pertinent parties when reports and information added to the site.

VI. *Homeless Outreach Event – Doug Gardner*

Doug mentioned that there is a lot of energy within the city system to put together some sort of homeless resources or homeless outreach day to create a platform to get resources out to people experiencing homelessness. Doug mentioned that many people may be familiar with Project Homeless Connect Days, which are held around the country. He stated that an outreach event in Portland would not be on the same scale as the national Project Homeless Connect Days, but that the City is hoping to expose available resources across the city, such as social services, hospitals, the police and fire departments, as well as other agencies. James Craig, the new Portland Police Chief, previously worked in law enforcement in Los Angeles, where he has been a part of past Project Homeless Connect Days, and thus has expressed a great deal of interest in establishing engagements in the community here in Portland. Doug stated that he is hoping for a commitment from agencies to be a part of this outreach event, which is tentatively scheduled to take place sometime in August. Cindy stated that Lewiston held a similar event last year and it was very successful. She stated that MaineHousing would be happy to be involved in this endeavor. Doug mentioned that what excites him is that the Police and Fire Departments are very

engaged, willing to be present as well as get the word out. Jon mentioned that because of the model of service in the City, with Oxford Street, Preble Street, Milestone and so on, the conventional sense of outreach is not necessary. He stated that everyone is aware of what Mercy Hospital and Maine Medical Center have to offer, and already utilize these resources. Jon explained that providers in the city are currently performing the outreach that is the focal point of the city's planned homeless outreach event, and unless there are new agencies and resources coming to the table he doesn't see the need for such an event. He further stated that if there was anything new to present at the event he would be happy to be a part of it, however if this is not the case he wonders how advantageous it would be to expend their resources and efforts with the aforementioned already stated. Elizabeth stated that this day would be a way for the community to wrap around these issues and the having the Police and Fire Departments involved will hopefully establish a positive preventative aspect to this homeless outreach event. Doug mentioned that with the resources available through HPRP funds now is the best time to coordinate this event. Doug will report back to the committee stating that providers are on board, and also with the recommendation of pushing the event back to September, per the request of the group.

VII. Other Business –

Bob provided handouts of the Oxford Street Shelter for Men and the Family Shelter Year End Statistics. At the Oxford Street Shelter for Men the total Bed nights have gone up from last year. Approximately twenty-four (24) individuals spent almost every night at the shelter, and the highest percentage of individuals stayed at the shelter less than sixty (60) nights during the year. Alongside, the chronic homeless numbers on the whole have gone down; Bob mentioned that it is good to see that this coincides with the AHAR report.

Looking at the Family shelter Year End graphs you can certainly see there has been an increase in FY 2009. There has been an increase in bed nights from approximately 14,000 to 18,000. However, staff at the shelter have kept their placement rate the same even with this increase. The charts also depict a breakdown of secondary migrant refugees, which has gone up in FY 09. This increase began in November and December with the influx of Iraqi refugees. Doug asked how many households were involved with this influx in Iraqis. Jeff stated that twenty-seven (27) households were Iraqi refugees. Doug commented that this information discloses that even without the influx in Iraqi refugees the secondary migrant refugee numbers would still have been higher in FY 09 than the previous year. Elizabeth asked whether or not the two-parent numbers have grown. Jeff stated that this percentage has remained very consistent over the past few years.

Nancy reviewed the 2-1-1 Maine statistics for Housing/Shelter Calls for Cumberland County and all counties. The number Housing/Shelter calls have gone up in Cumberland County, from 1,425 in FY 08 to 1,596 in FY 09. The statistics for all counties over the same period have gone up quite a bit statewide, from 3,237 in FY 08 to 4,512 in FY 09. Doug mentioned that approximately 7% of the total call volume is calls for housing/shelter around the board

Cindy mentioned that HUD predicts homelessness will see an increase of approximately 30%. Bob added that the HPRP money is designed to keep this number at 30% rather than having it climb higher. Cindy mentioned that it will be interesting to see what the HPRP money will serve, who and for what. Doug added that it is not going to be a clear-cut equation for selection, and it will be interesting to see how the judgment call are made when the time comes.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, August 20th, 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.