

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes August 20th, 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>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>Missy Leeman</i>	Milestone
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Angela Havlin</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<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>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Lori Martin</i>	Prop – Homeless Prevention
<i>Rebecca Lamer</i>	Prop- Community Initiatives
<i>Amanda Wells</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Alex Thorn</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Health Care for the Homeless
<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>Heather Treadwell</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Donna Yellen</i>	Preble Street
<i>Jeanna Reath</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Andrew Hayman</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Adriene Whitaker</i>	Maine Department of Health and Human Services; Public Health Nursing
<i>Scott Wallace</i>	Pine Tree Legal

I. Introductions

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

II. *July Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for February 2009:

	<u>July 2008</u>	<u>July 2009</u>
Adolescents	10 Individuals	12 Individuals
Adults	230 Individuals	236 Individuals
Families	<u>72 Individuals (29 Families)</u>	<u>58 Individuals (23 Families)</u>
Total	312 Individuals	306 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for July 2008 were 297 while the total bed nights for July 2009 were 367. These figures indicate an increase of 70 bed nights, or 19% between July 2008 and July 2009. Four (4) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 3% in July 2009 compared to July 2008. Total bed night usage during July 2008 was 7118 while it was 7336 during July 2009, a difference of 218 bed nights.

During the month of July, there were 133 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, 38 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in July.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 51 individuals into permanent housing, with 1 of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 110 women during the month of July, including 28 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 11 of these 28 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 9 individuals into housing, with 2 women returning.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 1785 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in July 2009 as compared to 2228 bed nights in July 2008. This represents a decrease of 20% in Family Shelter bed usage between July 2008 and J July 2009.

The Family Shelter placed 20 families for a total of 65 individuals into housing in July.

The Family Shelter received 27 new families (intakes) for a total of 82 individuals in July. Based on self-reporting 13 families for a total of 44 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in June, of these 5 families for a total of 22 individuals were refugees.

John asked whether or not other shelters throughout the State are seeing such high numbers. Bob mentioned that other shelters statewide have seen increases. Josh added that more statistics will be out in the coming months. Amanda mentioned that the Women's Shelter has seen an even higher increase thus far in August. Bob added that the Family shelter has been and is currently at capacity.

Amy mentioned that the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time seems high. Bob mentioned that every month it seems to increase, however if this was a statistic taken statewide it would be easier to track accurately. Josh mentioned that this data could be illustrating an increase of the need for temporary emergency sheltering, or people could be self-reporting inaccurately under the impression they would receive better services if it is their first time being homeless. Bob mentioned that we will get a more accurate number once the data is incorporated into HMIS.

Nancy reported that the 2-1-1 calls for shelter in Cumberland County in July were 161, compared to last month's 121 calls. Statewide this statistic also demonstrated an increase, with 424 calls for shelter in July, compared to 312 last month. Nancy mentioned that call categories as well as other data and reports are on the 2-1-1 website.

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

Bob mentioned that the City of Portland is working very closely with Preble Street and PROP on the HPRP project. He reported that the logistics of the project are almost complete. Bob stated that everyone who has been involved has done a great job. Hopefully, the project will be fully operational by mid September. Currently, Portland and Preble Street are in the process of hiring HPRP staff. Angela Havlin (Oxford Street Shelter for Men Human Services Counselor) has accepted the position of Senior Human Services Counselor for the HPRP project and will be working closely with Josh on this endeavor. Jon commented that there has been a lot of excitement and energy revolving around the program. Josh commented that the process has been extremely collaborative, with great ideas working to ensure a successful project. Josh added that Angela has had great success with housing placements at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men and will be an asset to the HPRP staff. Bob mentioned that the City of Portland, Preble Street, PROP and MaineHousing are currently in the contract process of sharing information via Service Point. Leah added that the City of Portland and Preble Street have been very helpful with this entire process, making all pertinent resources completely available.

IV. *HIV/AIDS Statewide Statistics – Heather Rhoda*

Bob commented that two meetings ago Heather reported on the Frannie Peabody HOPWA HAVEN program, and has been invited back to report on statewide HIV/AIDS statistics. Heather provided a handout detailing HIV/AIDS statistics throughout Maine. She added that if the handout containing graphs of the statistical data is desired to contact her via email at hrhoda@peabodycenter.org for electronic copies. Heather mentioned that according to the 2008 Maine HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Profile (2007) there are 1,174 people living with diagnosed HIV in Maine; of these 16% are female, 83% are male, and transgender make up less than 1% (for a total of 3 individuals). The Frannie Peabody Center's clients' demographics in 2008 were as follows: 18% female, 81% male and 1% transgender (the only three individuals in the State). Alongside, the Frannie Peabody Center's clients in 2008 were 90% White, 9% Black, 6% Hispanic, 1% Asian, 1% Native American, and 5% reporting two or more races. For more information regarding the Frannie Peabody Center's Statistics please reference the handout, (available at www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/ssesac.asp). John asked why the statistics do not differentiate between HIV and Aids. Heather stated they do not seem to make the distinction; it seems that most cases are diagnosed with chronic HIV and haven't reached the AIDS status yet. John wondered whether or not it was enhanced drug and medical treatment that maintains individuals' health longer. Heather commented that HIV is treated more along the lines of a chronic disease now, with actual AIDS diagnoses far more rare. Dee mentioned that prevention regarding HIV/AIDS seems to take place under the radar, stating that it is not as public as causes, such as H1N1 Flu prevention having an entire campaign behind it. Alex stated that the City of Portland's Public Health programs have been involved in outreach prevention efforts, and Amanda mentioned that the Preble Street Women's Shelter has as well. Heather mentioned that the Frannie Peabody Center performs prevention outreach as well, though she commented that she would discuss this with program coordinators to attempt better coordinate prevention efforts. Amy mentioned that Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) has been involved in prevention efforts, and discovered recently that there are many rumors surrounding HIV/AIDS circulating around the homeless community, such as that needles do not transfer HIV. She stated that lack of information seems to be a barrier at Preble Street. Heather stated that there are the myths and rumors that exist, however the Frannie Peabody Center exposes the various myths while presenting the facts as well. Bob thanked Heather for putting all of the information together for her presentation.

V. *Review of ESAC Structure – Dee Clarke and Bob Duranleau*

Bob stated that it would be helpful to give a brief overview of the history and structure of ESAC, with the intention of seeing if anyone wishes to make any alterations. Bob provided a handout with background information regarding ESAC: the 1988 ESAC Year End Report as well as a list of accomplishments in a timeline format. This information included ESAC's mission statement revised in 2000, which states "ESAC is a collaborative of services providers, consumers, local and state government representatives, advocates, and other interested community members working to ensure the safety and well-being of people who are homeless in Portland. Through planning, coordination, and advocacy we promote a continuum of care and support for people experiencing homelessness." Dee also provided information for the group regarding Homeless Voices for Justice (HVP) data, statistics and accomplishments. Bob mentioned that the reasoning behind this is to open it up for change if the group desires alterations in the structure. Everyone was in agreement that the current tri-chair structure (where the three (3) ESAC coordinators were selected via a nomination process where one is nominated by consumer advocates (Dee Clarke), non-profit agencies (Johns Shoos), and by City and State government representatives (Bob Duranleau), is working perfectly well and is happy with it. Bob, John and Dee mentioned that they are always open to constructive criticism.

VI. *Homeless Outreach Event – Update – Bob Duranleau*

Bob mentioned that Doug is attending the H1N1 summit in Augusta and Bob gave an update on the homeless outreach event. Bob mentioned that when Doug reported back to the city committee that there was a great deal of support and that ESAC would form a planning sub-committee for this event. The City committee agreed to move the event to mid September, as everyone suggested at the previous ESAC meeting. Bob informed everyone of Doug's availability to meet and discuss plans for the sub-committee. Everyone agreed that Monday, August 31st at 1:00 PM at 196 Lancaster Street in the Back Bay Conference Room would be the set time for the smaller planning group to discuss how the event will be organized and carried through. Bob added that the planning sub-committee will organize the logistics of the event including the set-up, location, as well as the date the outreach event will be held. Donna mentioned that having the police and fire department present for a non-emergency occasion would be a great addition to the event. Bob agreed and stated that both departments are currently involved, with Police Chief James Craig participating in a key role of the Homeless Outreach Event's planning. Bob mentioned that the event will include outreach, education and publicity, which the sub-committee will be able to further flesh out.

VII. *Mainstream Resources – Update – Aaron Geyer*

Aaron stated that Family Crisis held a domestic violence DVD training last month for Mainstream Resources, which experienced a high turnout. He mentioned that there is a Mainstream Resources Training next Wednesday, August 26th 10:00 – 11:30 AM, discussing housing subsidies, featuring Wayne Russell and Ginny Dill as guest speakers, covering RAC+, Shelter + Care and BRAP. Looking ahead, there will be a Mainstream Resources presentation in mid-September with Frannie Peabody Center discussing Fannie Peabody discussing the HOPWA HAVEN program and Section 8. Bob added that there is a TAC Training today at 10:30 AM in the refugee Services Conference Area discussing Best Practices for Managers and Supervisors.

VII. *Other Business*

Cullen mentioned that he along with others from Maine attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference at the end of July. He stated that the group from Maine met with and thanked the Maine delegation for their support on the Hearth act. One of the issues they pushed was Section 8 for the future, as HRPR money will expire at the end of the three-year grant period. Other issues addressed were: the need for an increase in supply of housing choice vouchers, to re-evaluate the Section 8 system to allow for a more even distribution in the State, and the Community Re-investment Act. Cullen mentioned that the delegation was also updated on the recent Cost Study that was performed. Additionally, Cullen mentioned that at the Region 1 Homeless Council Meeting there was discussion about two pieces of legislation on the ballot for November: the elimination of excise tax, which would negatively impact the resources available to support people in need, and the proposal to reenact TABOR.

Cullen encouraged everyone to stay informed on these issues. Donna added that people can go back to their agencies, and visit www.maineandobetter.org to take a stand against this referendum. Jon added that Region 1 did take a stand unanimously against the measure. Amy mentioned that Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) has taken a stand against it as well. She asked whether or not people felt that they were informed enough about TABOR to take a stand against it. ESAC requested that a TABOR presentation be added to next month's agenda. In addition, Cullen stated that staff from Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Michaud offices' attended tours of various area shelters and transitional housing; he thanked all the staff involved in making this a success.

Dee mentioned that she will be working on a project for the Statewide Homeless Council. She will be taking pictures of different places people live, attempting to illustrate a broad spectrum, documenting quality of housing and living. This project is supported by the WELLness program. Dee mentioned that any help anyone could offer in suggesting locations would be welcome. If anyone is interested in being a part of this project please contact Dee via telephone (450-6187) or email the WELLness program (Learningandleading@gmail.com).

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, September 17th, 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.