

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes November 20th, 2008

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Seth Bruning</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Joe Brannigan</i>	Shalom House
<i>Alex Thorn</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Public Health Div, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Nancy Berg</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Andrew Haymen</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Teyonda Hall</i>	PROP
<i>Johanna Hauselman</i>	Town of Freeport
<i>Dee Clark</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Linda Janson</i>	Milestone Foundation, Inc.
<i>Kimberly Curry</i>	United Way of Greater Portland
<i>Beth Eilers</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Public Health Div, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Maureen Clancy</i>	Mercy Hospital
<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>Cindy Namer</i>	Maine Housing
<i>Tom Allan</i>	Milestone Foundation, Inc.
<i>Steve Addario</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Raenae Moore</i>	PROP
<i>Joe Everett</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Tara Kosma</i>	PROP
<i>Heather Rhoda</i>	Frannie Peabody Center
<i>Megan Ward</i>	MAPS Shelter Services
<i>Mike Freysinger</i>	Westbrook Housing Authority/General Assistance
<i>Sarah Onlin</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Sarah Akeley</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Pat McKenzie</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Chris Coppedge</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Cliff Graves</i>	MaineHousing

I. Introductions

Dee Clark, ESAC Tri-Chair, welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

II. *October Shelter Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for October 2008:

	<u>October 2007</u>	<u>October 2008</u>
Adolescents	8 Individuals	9 Individuals
Adults	217 Individuals	212 Individuals
Families	<u>62 Individuals (25 Families)</u>	<u>75 Individuals (30 Families)</u>
Total	287 Individuals	296 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for October 2007 were 259 while the total bed nights for October 2008 were 286. These figures indicate an increase of 27 bed nights, or 9% between October 2007 and October 2008.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage decreased by 3% in October 2008 compared to October 2007. Total bed night usage during October 2007 was 6730 while it was 6558 during October 2008, a difference of 172 bed nights.

During the month of October, there were 104 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 41 individuals into permanent housing, with five (5) of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men is also in the process of housing six (6) men using Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 105 women during the month of October, including 28 new intakes. The Shelter placed six (6) individuals into housing, with three (3) women returning.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2330 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in October 2008 as compared to 1920 bed nights in October 2007. This represents an increase of 18% in Family Shelter bed usage between October 2007 and October 2008.

The Family Shelter received 27 new families (intakes) for a total of 91 individuals in October.

III. *Maine Medical Center Employment Services Program Presentation – Christine McKenzie*

Christine distributed information from Maine Medical Center's Department of Vocational Services, which is pleased to announce the development and implementation of statewide Community Employment Services funded by the DHHS Office of Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS). There will be seven (7) MMC Employment Specialists available to provide employment services to individuals eligible for MaineCare case management services. The goal of this service is to advance the employability and employment options of those suffering from mental illness.

Cindy Namer suggested Christine provide presentations to the Continuums throughout the state, as this is a service that could benefit many. Christine and Cindy exchanged contact information.

IV. *Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Statewide Homeless Statistical Data Presentation – Cindy Namer, Cliff Graves*

Cindy and Cliff delivered a PowerPoint presentation of reports available in the HMIS system. The reports are based on information entered into HMIS by shelter providers throughout the state. Based on the HMIS, Region 1 (Cumberland/York Counties) have the following homeless populations: 47% adults, 22% families, and 16% youth.

Cindy also distributed the MaineHousing 2007 Homelessness in Maine report. This is an annual report detailing homelessness in the state.

V. *Youth Alternatives Ingraham Crisis Program Presentation – Pat McKenzie*

Pat distributed folders for the new Youth Alternatives Ingraham Crisis Program. The program has been restructured to create a continuum of crisis stabilization and prevention services. The program provides services 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. The goal of the program is to stabilize individuals in the community and focus on intervention. Pat informed the group that 24-hour drop-in crisis services are available at 50 Monument Square. She also reminded everyone that services are available for all of Cumberland County, not just Portland.

Joe Everett informed the group that crisis cards are available in many different languages and services are available for refugees.

Josh O'Brien stated that the changes are visible and appreciated. He also commented on the teamwork of community agencies coming together to create these services.

Jon Bradley commented on the multiple agency participation, stating that working together is the key to closing gaps in services.

VI. *Bed Bugs/Shelter Discussion – All*

Tom Allan began by thanking Oxford Street Shelter for Men and Preble Street for their immediate help when the Milestone Shelter had to close for two days due to bed bugs. Tom stated that it was a tremendous learning experience and that Milestone has since scheduled monthly pesticide treatments as a means of preventing future problems.

Several people suggested forming a subcommittee to develop a consistent set of best practices to be employed by all shelters in the Portland area. The group agreed and Bob will schedule a meeting next month.

Joe Brannigan suggested education for staff and recommended the University of Southern Maine Extension Center as a source of information.

Nancy Berg of 2-1-1 Maine thanked Milestone for providing continuous updates during their closure.

VII. *Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil – Beth Eilers*

Beth announced the Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil, scheduled for Friday, December 19th at 4pm. The procession will start at Preble Street Resource Center and walk together to Monument Square. All are encouraged to attend.

VIII. Homeless Point in Time Survey – Bob Duranleau

The annual Point in Time Survey is scheduled state-wide for January 28, 2009. Bob thanked MaineHousing for all of their assistance with the survey. He also stated that a survey format will be discussed at the next Continuum of Care meeting. Bob distributed the one-page results from last year's survey.

IX. CoC Mainstream Resources Subcommittee Update – Aaron Geyer

Aaron distributed a hand-out for the next Mainstream Resources presentation, "Social Security Administration and the City of Portland Disability Services." The presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th at 1:30pm. Aaron asked the group to note that these presentations/meetings are no longer scheduled on the third Friday of the month, but rather mid-week.

X. Other Business

Cullen announced state budget cuts threaten social services again. The Homeless Council voted to ask Governor Baldacci to follow guidelines protecting homeless programs and Cullen asked if ESAC would be willing to submit a similar letter. The group voted and agreed. Cullen will forward the information to Bob, who will put the letter together for ESAC tri-chair signatures.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, December 18th, 2008

8:30 – 10am

Refugee Services Area

190 Lancaster Street

Please contact Robert Duranleau, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division at 775-7915, extension 224; if you should have any agenda items for the next meeting.