

# EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

One City Center

Thursday, March 15th 2017  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

## Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Adam Harr	City of Portland	Jenny Stasio	Through These Doors
Brian Townsend	Amistad	Jim Divine	HVJ
Kristen Styles	City of Portland	Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Jeff Tardif	CoP Family Shelter	Cullen Ryan	CHOM
George Rheault	Bayside Neighborhood	Bill Higgins	HVJ
Joanie Klayman	Preble Street	Christina Cook	TOA PATH
Steve Ellis	CoP OSS	Norm Maze	Shalom House
David MacLean	City of Portland	Tracey Madigan	

**Statistics:** The February statistics are available here:

- Adam, Christina, and Ali to make slides for warming center, safe haven, and PATH

**LTS:** 5th list is dwindling, the people who are left are some of the most difficult to place and must wait for the limited availability.

**WC:** The warming center average was at 15/72 across two warming centers each night. Salvation Army allows their gymnasium for warming center (50 limit). 219 people are in shelter (sheer capacity is 147). Last weekend, 30 individuals spent the nights at a church in Yarmouth. 95-99% of individuals in the warming center are visa holding asylum seekers. Anyone that comes into the shelter is eligible for subsidies (STEP, S+C, Section 8) apply but the number of those eligible is limited. Detention centers at the southern border have called the family shelter as families detained there have listed the physical addresses of the shelter's buildings as their destination.

The Resource Center is trying to accommodate the families and children, including two breakfast times.

WC numbers have been up since November/December. Family Promise has 5 families of 13 individuals.

is the most immediate need more warming center space? Multiple warming centers is difficult to staff and move mats.

WC individuals are asylum seekers so CC Refuge Services cannot work with them.

The City will proactively reach out to USCIS to help tell detention centers that the family shelter is not a relocation center. Intake forms have found a DHHS in Texas sent a family to the shelter via bus tickets.

The majority of general assistance programs are time limited to individuals with disabilities as of several years ago. Maine is likely unique.

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George asked about the data: what gets captured in the system for FS? We need to add another column to show the numbers.

The next Family Services Meeting is 3/26 at 11:00 am in the Social Services' Back Bay Room: 196 Lancaster Street.

**HVJ:** HVJ is growing with 4 additional advocates. HVJ served on the panhandling community and are working on an outreach presentation to the business community. HVJ continues to work on the homeless bill of rights, including reaching out to a group in Rhode Island who successfully got a homeless bill of rights passed. Dylan announced the poor people's campaign which stems from MLK's poverty focus that will have 40 days of action starting on Mothers Day. Are there immigration advocacy opportunities to engage. Bill announced that 18 HUD VASH units will be opening next month at Cabin In The Woods in Augusta. There is a peer support group for people currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness on facebook:

**Legislative Update:** the update available here: <http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/State-and-Federal-Legislation-Update-3.5.18.docx>

**ESG Budget:** Public Comment on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dave made a MOTION to accept the ESG Budget as presented. Norm Seconded and Motion PASSED with no discussion.