

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes May 20th, 2010

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Josh O'Brien</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Maria Tripp</i>	Preble Street
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Susannah Harnden</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Tom Allan</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Missy Leeman</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Beth Eilers</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Health Care for the Homeless
<i>Linda Janson</i>	Step Up! Shelter Services
<i>Bridget Mancini</i>	Cumberland County HPRP / PROP
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	Community Housing of Maine
<i>Nancy Berg</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Mary Ellen Welch</i>	City of Portland, Police Department, Midtown Community Policing
<i>Leah Bruns</i>	PROP / Cumberland County HPRP
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Maureen Clancy</i>	Mercy Hospital
<i>Kathy Pratt</i>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Homeless Outreach
<i>Heather Rhoda</i>	Frannie Peabody Center
<i>Jon Sheffield</i>	Frannie Peabody Center
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Moriah-Jean Delisle</i>	Pine Tree Legal
<i>Lori Martin</i>	PROP
<i>Leanna Bruce</i>	Shalom House
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Caty Wilkey</i>	PROP Cumberland County HPRP
<i>Kathleen Babeu</i>	City of South Portland
<i>Christine Ellis</i>	City of South Portland
<i>Peter Stuckey</i>	State Representative
<i>Dee Clarke</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Greg Payne</i>	Avesta Housing/ Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

I. Introductions

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

II. *April Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for April 2010:

	<u>April 2009</u>	<u>April 2010</u>
Adolescents	10 Individuals	14 Individuals
Adults	223 Individuals	207 Individuals
Families	<u>70 Individuals (28 Families)</u>	<u>76 Individuals (30 Families)</u>
Total	303 Individuals	297 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for April 2009 were 298 while the total bed nights for April 2010 were 414. These figures indicate an increase of 116 bed nights, or 40% between April 2009 and April 2010. Five (5) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage **decreased by 7%** in April 2010 compared to April 2009. Total bed night usage during April 2009 was 6704 while it was 6210 during April 2010, a difference of 494 bed nights.

During the month of April, there were 125 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, 58 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in April.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 17 individuals into permanent housing, with three (3) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 90 women during the month of April, including 22 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 8 of these 22 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 28 individuals into housing, with one (1) woman returning. Amy asked if this 28 women placed in housing included the women placed in Florence House. Maria stated that it does.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2284 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in April 2010 as compared to 2092 bed nights in April 2009. This represents an increase of 9% in Family Shelter bed usage between April 2009 and April 2010.

The Family Shelter placed 15 families for a total of 63 individuals into housing in April.

The Family Shelter received 23 new families (intakes) for a total of 83 individuals in April. Based on self-reporting 14 families for a total of 57 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in April, of these 5 families for a total of 33 individuals were refugees.

First Time Homelessness

For the month of April 128 individuals, or 54% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

In the month of April 2010 the Portland HPRP Program housed 36 households, for a total of 55 individuals. These housing placements represent 2,188 bed nights at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men,

and 2,886 bed nights at the Preble Street Women's Shelter.

2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Calls

Bob handed out the 2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Call statistics for the month of April. There were 394 calls for housing/shelter in all counties in the month of April, out of a total of 5,896 calls. From July 2009 through April 2010 there were a total of 3,736 calls for housing/shelter, versus 3,924 calls for housing/shelter from July 2008 through April 2009. There were of 161 calls for housing/shelter in Cumberland County in the month of April, out of a total of 2,001 calls. From July 2009 through April 2010 there were 1,333 calls for housing/shelter, compared to 1,371 from July 2008 through April 2009.

III. *Homelessness Prevention & rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Updates –*

Josh stated that the Portland HPRP Program is beginning to get very full. He stated that HPRP staff will be distributing materials to providers to be completed prior to the initial screening so that the determination process can be more streamlined, similar to a pre-screening process. Josh stated that he will get the materials to Vickey to distribute to ESAC members. He mentioned that prior to last month the team had been focusing on high bed night folks, and have successfully worked through a lot of people who had 500 + bed nights. Now the team is moving to the 250 bed nights and uprange to get the next tier of Oxford Street Shelter for Men chronic individuals. Also, one of the HPRP staff members is now placed at Florence House to perform screening to best suit the needs of the changing populations and trends.

Leah stated that since the beginning of the program through April 1st the Cumberland County HPRP program has served 182 individuals, for 64 households, and provided 54 individuals with permanent housing this quarter. She stated that the call volume is very high, and that there is a growing interest in the program. They budgeted the year to end in July; however funds are dwindling. She stated that they are trying to access other resource areas when they can. Leah added that they have been very busy and have had great placement rates. Overall it has been a great collaboration with Portland for the security deposit program, which has been working out very well.

IV. *Shelter Overflow Committee – Report –*

Bob stated that the numbers at the shelters have been very high, especially at Florence House. Due to the high numbers the Shelter Overflow Committee met in order to revise the overflow plan. Due to renovations at Preble Street it was not an option for an overflow space. They were able to secure the Salvation Army gym as an overflow space. The committee worked with the Salvation Army and it went very well. Once the plan is finalized it will be distributed. Josh mentioned it was a great collaborative effort to come up with the procedures.

V. *Maine Housing Update – Cindy Namer*

Cindy stated that statewide HPRP numbers include Portland and Cumberland County; they keep data on all HPRP grantees in HMIS. From program start to date statewide HPRP has served 1607 households, for 2715 individuals across the state; about 75% of these have received some sort of assistance, and 1200 households have actually received something. A total of 451 of the households have received actual financial assistance, totaling around \$1700 per household. The Family Housing Stabilization Program with DHHS has ended because the money available ran out. The program was helping with approximately \$1900 per family on average.

Cindy stated there is a research project going on involving the HPRP programs in the State of Maine and the City of Portland, on the data and success rates. Tom McLaughlin has been conducting this research. Tom is presenting our research project at the NERHMIS Training and Symposium conference at UMass Boston. Cindy stated the conference is free, only \$10 for lunch, and runs all day on June 28th, 2010. She stated this is similar to a pre-conference for the major conferences

coming up. Once the agenda is finalized Cindy will send out more information. Cindy mentioned that the research has been very interesting, for instance Tom discovered that the people with the most success are the ones that are having two (2) to three (3) check-ins during the period.

VI. *Milestone – Homeless Outreach & Mobile Emergency(HOME) Team – Update*

Tom stated they're in the early start up phases and that the project officially starts on July 1st. Currently there is a team of 3 people, 2 from Milestone and 1 from the Oxford Street Shelter for Men, to evaluate and assess the needs in the community. Tom mentioned that it has been nice to have the support of the Portland Downtown District, the Oxford Street Shelter for Men and Preble Street to be able to do this early pilot program. He stated that they're trying to emphasize outreach on the streets, that staff is out there helping, being advocates for clients, connecting them with services, intervening when they see someone in distress, and asking if they want assistance (as it is a completely voluntary service). He added that they wish to educate people about the program and the services available, as there is a gap in education on the program out there. Tom stated there will be a formal announcement towards the end of June regarding contact information for the project. He added that they are working with the Police and Fire Departments in creating protocols as far as how to interface with them. Many details are still being worked out prior to the official start of the program. Maria asked how situations are being tracked. Tom stated Tom McLaughlin and Jon Bradley are working on developing a tool for this. He added that a lot of great work is being done as far as planning and hopefully at next month's ESAC meeting there will be more information available to share with the group. Tom stated when the project officially starts they will have four (4) full-time workers, Tuesday through Saturday, working approximately 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Alterations to this schedule may be made once the program is in place depending on the need. Maria stated that they posted the street outreach position and it has gotten a large response, with many great applications. Missy stated that staff have made a lot of positive interaction while they've been out. Tom stated he was out with the team on Monday and connected more with businesses to educate them on their resources and that they have other options rather than calling the police in certain situations. Overall, they are hoping to engage with people and come up with solutions to issues in the community.

VII. *Preble Street Florence House Update – Maria Tripp*

Maria stated they went into overflow at the shelter after the second day of opening. She added that numbers kept creeping up, with seven (7) people sleeping in chairs in the lobby. Over the past week numbers have been decreasing, and last night was the first night that they did not have an overflow. Maria stated that coming into the summer months they're not sure what to expect, so it's very beneficial that the overflow plan is in place. They have been getting fewer referrals as agencies have realized they are at capacity. Cindy stated they get a lot of calls about donations for Florence House, and that she's been referring them to Preble Street but she wasn't sure if this was the correct protocol. Maria stated that this was the correct procedure as they get their donated goods from Preble Street.

VIII. *Mainstream Resources Update – Aaron Geyer*

Aaron stated that the Mainstream Resources Committee tries to do four (4) to six (6) trainings per year. He stated there will be a Mainstream Resources Training on RTP program changes on Wednesday, June 9th from 10:30 to 11:45 AM. RTP is also interested in getting feedback from community providers regarding needs and possible collaborations during the latter portion of the training.

Aaron mentioned that it would be great to do a future training on the HOME Team Van Project.

IX. Federal & State Legislation – Cullen Ryan

Cullen stated there is a piece of legislation going through today or tomorrow, HR 4213, which includes \$1.065 billion in funding for the National Housing Trust Fund. There has been a lot of support for this, with over 66 agencies supporting it in Maine, and it has received a lot of support from our delegation, but it's not too late to call and support this piece of legislation. Greg added that this is an opportunity for us to have a huge impact on the debate, as if it passes the House, which it hopefully will, it will be voted on in the Senate. This would bring approximately \$3.25 million to Maine, specifically for housing and very low income people. Cullen and Greg both urged everyone to take the very short amount of time to make a call or send a quick email and ask your representatives and senators to support the inclusion of the funding for the National Housing Trust Fund in the Extension. Senators Snowe and Collins originally supported the National Housing Trust because both of their offices heard more about this piece of legislation than anything else from their constituents.

Cullen stated he and Greg Payne will be attending an event with members of the delegations in New England to urge support for legislation around housing and homelessness, pushing hard for Section 8 vouchers and the passage of SEVRA, as well as some other aspects regarding homelessness, including adequately funding the HEARTH Act. He will give an update on how this goes next month.

X. Other Business

Maureen mentioned that Mercy has a patient care navigator position open. Please check the Mercy website for more information.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 17th, 2010

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.