

# ***Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee***

## ***Meeting Minutes June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Bob Duranleau</i></b>        | City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division |
| <b><i>Aaron Geyer</i></b>          | City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division |
| <b><i>John Shoos</i></b>           | United Way   |
| <b><i>Aaron Shapiro</i></b>        | Cumberland County  |
| <b><i>Susannah Harnden</i></b>     | Youth Alternatives Ingraham  |
| <b><i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i></b> | Youth Alternatives Ingraham  |
| <b><i>Leanna Bruce</i></b>         | Shalom House   |
| <b><i>Robin Oxenhorn</i></b>       | PROP   |
| <b><i>Missy Leeman</i></b>         | Milestone Foundation   |
| <b><i>Teyonda Hall</i></b>         | Cumberland County PROP   |
| <b><i>Linda Janson</i></b>         | Step Up! Shelter Services  |
| <b><i>Bridget Mancini</i></b>      | Cumberland County HPRP / PROP  |
| <b><i>Cullen Ryan</i></b>          | Community Housing of Maine   |
| <b><i>Nancy Berg</i></b>           | 2-1-1 Maine  |
| <b><i>Mary Ellen Welch</i></b>     | City of Portland, Police Department, Midtown Community Policing                |
| <b><i>Leah Bruns</i></b>           | Cumberland County HPRP / PROP  |
| <b><i>Amy Regan</i></b>            | Homeless Voices for Justice  |
| <b><i>Stacy carpenter</i></b>      | Youth Alternatives Ingraham, The Bridge  |
| <b><i>Annmarie Rotolo</i></b>      | Southern ME Agency on Aging  |
| <b><i>Pat McKenzie</i></b>         | Youth Alternatives Ingraham  |
| <b><i>Jon Sheffield</i></b>        | Frannie Peabody Center   |
| <b><i>Cindy Namer</i></b>          | MaineHousing   |
| <b><i>Rose Strout</i></b>          | Homeless Voices for Justice  |
| <b><i>Lori Martin</i></b>          | PROP   |
| <b><i>Abbie Miller</i></b>         | Goodwill Industries, Workforce Solutions                                       |
| <b><i>Kathleen Babeu</i></b>       | City of South Portland   |
| <b><i>Christine Ellis</i></b>      | City of South Portland   |
| <b><i>Dee Clarke</i></b>           | Homeless Voices for Justice  |
| <b><i>Greg Payne</i></b>           | Avesta Housing/ Maine Affordable Housing Coalition                             |
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### ***I. Introductions***

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

## II. *May Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for May 2010:

|              | <u>May 2009</u>                     | <u>May 2010</u>                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Adolescents  | 9 Individuals                       | 14 Individuals                      |
| Adults       | 222 Individuals                     | 227 Individuals                     |
| Families     | <u>70 Individuals (28 Families)</u> | <u>60 Individuals (24 Families)</u> |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>301 Individuals</b>              | <b>301 Individuals</b>              |

### Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for May 2009 were 289 while the total bed nights for May 2010 were 429. These figures indicate an increase of 140 bed nights, or 48% between May 2009 and May 2010. Five (5) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

### Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 2% in May 2010 compared to May 2009. Total bed night usage during May 2009 was 6886 while it was 7040 during May 2010, a difference of 154 bed nights.

During the month of May, there were 111 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, 57 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in May.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 10 individuals into permanent housing, with two (2) individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Florence House Women's Shelter served a total of 61 women during the month of May, including 22 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 9 of these 22 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 8 individuals into housing, with one (1) woman returning.

### Family Shelters

There was a total of 1869 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in May 2010 as compared to 2175 bed nights in May 2009. This represents a decrease of 14% in Family Shelter bed usage between May 2009 and May 2010.

The Family Shelter placed 18 families for a total of 65 individuals into housing in May.

The Family Shelter received 19 new families (intakes) for a total of 62 individuals in May. Based on self-reporting 9 families for a total of 35 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in May, of these 4 families for a total of 17 individuals were refugees.

### First Time Homelessness

For the month of May 106 individuals, or 52% of all new intakes, reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.

### Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

In the month of May 2010 the Portland HPRP Program housed 38 households, for a total of 60 individuals. These housing placements represent 1,889 bed nights at the Oxford Street Shelter for Men, 1,226 bed nights at the Florence House Women's Shelter, and 43 bed nights at Milestone. Currently a member of the Portland HPRP staff is stationed at Florence House processing applications and eligibility

for HPRP in an effort to get women at the shelter housed efficiently. Also, during March and April the HPRP team focused on the highest bed night individuals at Oxford Street, those in the 500+ bed night range. In an effort to house more clients more efficiently, the team has moved on to the 500 to 250 bed night range.

#### 2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Calls

Bob handed out the 2-1-1 Maine Housing/Shelter Call statistics for the month of May. Nancy Berg presented the May 2-1-1 Housing/Shelter Call stats. There were 368 calls for housing/shelter in all counties in the month of May, out of a total of 5,131 calls. From July 2009 through May 2010 there were a total of 4,104 calls for housing/shelter, versus 4,509 calls for housing/shelter from July 2008 through May 2009. There were 140 calls for housing/shelter in Cumberland County in the month of May, out of a total of 1,746 calls. From July 2009 through May 2010 there were 1,473 calls for housing/shelter, compared to 1,475 from July 2008 through May 2009.

Amy asked about the hotel policy at the Family Shelter. Bob stated that if families do not have a place to stay temporarily while the shelter is full or before they can find housing then the Family Shelter will make arrangements to get families placed in hotels temporarily until space frees up in the shelter. Several questions were asked regarding the Lighthouse and Florence House high shelter numbers. John asked about the overflow policy in reference to the high numbers. Bob stated that the City and Preble Street are working on finalizing the emergency shelter overflow plan. He stated that he would ask Preble Street/Florence House to give an update at the next meeting. Dee mentioned that she's noticed a lot of medical discharges from hospitals recently. Cindy stated that there have been issues with discharge planning in the State for the past few years. Leah commented that it would be best if the connections were made when people entered the hospital rather than at discharge in terms of resources for people with homeless statuses. Annmarie stated that the Southern Maine Agency on Aging works with clients on a temporary basis in order to make connections to area resources. She stated that she would love to collaborate with agencies here in these efforts to best serve clients. Cindy suggested that this could be a possible Mainstream Resources training.

### **III. *Continuum of Care – HEARTH Act –***

Bob stated that the Portland CoC has met and is now waiting for the CoC application to open in esnaps, which will happen no earlier than July 1, 2010 according to the HUD announcements. Comments on the HEARTH Act's proposed definitions of homelessness are due this Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Cullen gave a brief overview of the proposed definition changes. Cindy stated that it's hard to comment on the definition proposals without any context, which is what the Maine Statewide Homeless Council stated in its comments. Bob asked if ESAC wanted to comment on the proposed definitions or wait until more education is available. The group decided to hold on making any recommendations.

### **IV. *Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Updates –***

Leah stated that the Cumberland County HPRP Program has a lot of data that staff will be combing through for the next quarterly report. She stated that they will have it cleaned up by July 1<sup>st</sup> for the reporting deadline. Elizabeth asked if it is possible to give some of the Cumberland County HPRP stats on a monthly basis similar to Portland's HPRP stats. Leah will send information to Vickey monthly to include in the HPRP stats section in the Shelter Stats.

### **V. *PROP Program Update***

Teyonda distributed the Spring 2010 PROPeople publication, the PROP 2009 Annual report, and the PROP 2009-2010 Directory of Services which gives detailed overviews of their programs and services. Teyonda briefly highlighted some programs including the Foster Grandparent Program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), The Women's Project, and the Women Infants Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, among others. John asked about PROP's GA program and if they administer GA for the towns listed in the Annual Report. Leah stated that they do

provide GA for the towns listed, however the report is from 2009 so the towns may differ slightly currently. For copies of the materials discussed please contact PROP by calling 207-553-5800, or email Vickey at [vls@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:vls@portlandmaine.gov) for materials that were distributed at the meeting.

#### **VI. *Youth Alternatives Ingraham – Program Changes***

Pat thanked ESAC for their supportive advocacy to support Mainstay. As an agency and community ESAC did a great job putting forth and supporting Youth Alternatives Ingraham's agenda for Mainstay. Pat stated that in the process of trying to advocate it became clear efforts were not effective and starting to impact the viability of Mainstay to continue to provide services. She stated that Youth Alternatives Ingraham had to make a hard decision as to whether or not they would continue with their child license at Mainstay. Pat stated that they were invited into have an adult license and thus Mainstay will be accepting youth 18 to 25 years of age. John asked if the age change affected anyone at Mainstay. Pat stated that there were three individuals; one was waiting for foster care, one graduated from the program and reunited with the family, and one seventeen year old will be going before the judge on July 7<sup>th</sup> requesting to be emancipated, and if emancipated her choice will be to stay with the program. Pat stated they asked for a continuation of their children's license during the initial transitional phase while placing the 16 and 17 year olds. Pat mentioned that the 18 to 25 year olds are the most at risk population in the state that falls through the cracks, thus the expansion of the age group will be very beneficial. Elizabeth stated that all of the Mainstay collaborative programs will stay in place; the only change is how the State is reimbursing the mental health residential treatment portion of Mainstay.

#### **VII. *Milestone – HOME Team Van Project Update***

Missy stated that the HOME Team Van Project staff went to Burlington, Vermont and met with Matt who has worked on the Outreach Program at the Howard Foundation for the last ten (10) years. She stated that, based on what they gathered in Burlington, Portland is ahead in a lot of aspects. Missy stated that they are still planning to officially start on July 1<sup>st</sup>; however, they are still unsure of time frames, but they gathered a lot of information regarding this in Vermont. There are still a couple aspects that they're trying to iron out, but overall Missy stated that she believes it's going to work great. Missy mentioned that in the next couple of weeks they will have materials out with contact and referral information for the project. John asked for an approximation of monthly numbers for the project. Missy stated that currently the project is only in its unofficial soft start. They have been talking to merchants about the project, and engaging with some client. She stated that they have been working on the pilot since the end of May and have had contact with approximately fifteen (15) people on a daily basis. Within the past four (4) week period they have done a lot of little things for people. Missy stated that the team in Burlington is at the point where their staff can place themselves centrally in the town and people will approach them for help with services; as they and their services are widely know. Elizabeth mentioned that they're also collaborating with the hospitals; both medically and psychiatrically hospitals want to have better contact with the program. Cindy stated that she met with Beth Eilers from Health Care for the Homeless and the data sharing form if available and ready for signature for agencies that wish to participate in sharing certain information. She mentioned that so far Youth Alternatives Ingraham, Health Care for the Homeless, the Oxford Street Shelter for Men, and Milestone have all signed agreeing to share information, to a certain degree, while adhering to all HIPAA laws. Cindy added that this is another program participating in HMIS which will be great on the CoC application, but most importantly the coordination will best services clients.

#### **VIII. *Federal and State Legislation***

Cullen explained the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). He stated that for every dollar that the State puts in, the federal government puts in two dollars. It has been proposal that the

federal government put in three dollars for every dollar the State puts in. The State anticipated that the FMAP would be extended for the next 6 months, and the State budget was built around this. The extension of FMAP was taken out of the HR 4213 bill before it went to the Senate; however it was put back in and the senate might move on this in the next couple of days. There are seven (7) senators key in deciding, including Maine's two senators. This is a chance for us to truly have an impact. If this doesn't pass the State will have an \$85 million hole in the budget. Additionally, funding for the National Housing Trust Fund is also included in this bill. Cullen asked everyone to call their senators today, identify themselves as one of the constituents from Maine and simply say that they would like to urge their senators to support the extension of FMAP and funding for the national housing trust fund in HR 4213. Cullen provided contact information for the Senators' offices in Washington, DC: Senator Collins: 202-224-2523; Senator Snowe: 202-224-5344. Cullen also suggested that ESAC send out a letter asking Maine's senators to support this measure. Everyone was in agreement to send the letter. Greg added that it came up in the Senate yesterday and failed, garnering 45 votes when 60 votes are needed for it to pass. They are now in the process of deciding what aspects of the bill to take out. HR 4213 is a very large bill with many components and at any moment any of these two subparts can be pulled out, thus it is very important for us to act immediately.

***IX. Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Solstice Rally***

Dee stated that the annual "longest day of homelessness" Summer Solstice Rally will be held on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. This year the event will be held in Tommy's Park instead of Monument Square, due to the Farmers Market.

***X. Summer Meeting Schedule***

Bob stated that ESAC met all last summer. He recommended that the group meet in July, anticipating information on the CoC application being available. At the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting a decision will be made regarding meeting in August.

***XI. Other Business***

Dee mentioned that the Be Well cookie makers have been hard at work and every Saturday at Deering Oaks their cookies are packaged up and sold at the market. New Proceeds (after the cost of supplies) are divided equally amongst the group.

***NEXT MEETING:  
Thursday, July 15, 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.*