

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes July 17th, 2008

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Doug Gardner</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department
<i>Cindi Maule</i>	Frannie Peabody Center
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division, Family Shelter
<i>Greg Payne</i>	Avesta Housing Development Corporation
<i>Cliff Marchant</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Nancy Berg</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Kyra Walker</i>	Shalom House, Inc.
<i>Amy Grommes Pulaski</i>	City of Portland, Housing & Neighborhood Services
<i>Seth Bruning</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Joe Everett</i>	Youth Alternatives, Inc.
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amanda Wells</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Pamela Keddy</i>	Maine Housing
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Alex Thorn</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Public Health Div, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	Maine Housing
<i>Chris Arbour</i>	Maine Department of Corrections
<i>Heather Treadwell</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Kathy Pratt</i>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	Community Housing of Maine (CHOM)
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Adriene Whitaker</i>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services
<i>Megan Ward</i>	MAPS Shelter Services
<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>Rebecca Smith</i>	City of Portland, Midtown Community Policing

I. Introductions

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

After introductions, Amy Regan from Preble Street took a moment to introduce Christina Griffin who will be replacing Kristina Burks as the Preble Street Liaison for the PROP/Preble Street Reducing Homelessness Initiative. ESAC thanked Kristina for all of her extraordinary work.

II. June Shelter Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for June 2008:

	<u>June 2007</u>	<u>June 2008</u>
Adolescents	8 Individuals	8 Individuals
Adults	205 Individuals	219 Individuals
Families	<u>43 Individuals (17 Families)</u>	<u>57 Individuals (23 Families)</u>
Total	263 Individuals	284 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for June 2007 were 241 while the total bed nights for June 2008 were 245. These figures indicate an increase of 4 bed nights, or 2% between June 2007 and June 2008.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 3% in June 2008 compared to June 2007. Total bed night usage during June 2007 was 6141 while it was 6575 during June 2008, a difference of 434 bed nights.

During the month of June, there were 91 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 51 individuals into permanent housing, with five (5) of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 97 women during the month of June, including 13 new intakes. The Shelter placed nine (9) individuals into housing.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 1721 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in June 2008 as compared to 1296 bed nights in June 2007. This represents an increase of 25% in Family Shelter bed usage between June 2007 and June 2008.

The Family Shelter received 22 new families (intakes) for a total of 71 individuals in June.

Bob also distributed hand-outs for FY 2008, comparing individuals served and bed nights used for both the City's Family Shelter and Oxford Street Shelter for Men. The Family Shelter served a total of 198 families in FY 08, compared with 199 families in FY 07. Bed nights used at the Family Shelter were reduced considerably, with 15,918 bed nights utilized in FY 07 and 13,810 bed nights for FY 08. The average length of stay at the Family Shelter also decreased; in FY 07 the average length of stay was 23.3 days, while in FY 08 the average length of stay was 21.9 days. Oxford Street Shelter for Men remains steady, with 1,216 men served in FY 07 and 1,228 men served in FY 08. During FY 07, 42,599 bed nights were utilized while 45,448 bed nights were utilized in FY 08. The average length of stay remains relatively stable at Oxford Street Shelter for Men, with the majority of residents staying between 1-3 nights (391 individuals) and 4-60 nights (615 individuals) during the fiscal year.

Bob reminded everyone that ESAC statistics, Oxford Street Shelter for Men and Family Shelter Year End Reports are posted on the City of Portland's Health & Human Services Department website at <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/hhsreports.asp>.

III. HUD Continuum of Care Update – Bob Duranleau

Bob stated that there is very little to report on HUD's Continuum of Care. The NOFA has been released, but due to technical difficulties, it is uncertain when Exhibit 1 will become available to begin working on it. HUD has approximated a September 15th deadline, or a deadline of 60 days after the final NOFA is released. Bob will continue to update the group as information becomes available. Bob will be scheduling a Portland Continuum of Care meeting in the next few weeks.

IV. *Report on Number of Registered Sex Offenders & Homeless Individuals Living Outdoors – John O’Brien, Amy Regan*

Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice conducted outreach to report on the number of unsheltered sober sex offenders within Portland. Amy Regan distributed a hand-out with the following information: As of July 8th, Preble Street HVJ stated there were 19 registered sex offenders listed as transients on the Sex Offender Registry. Two of the transient sex offenders are on the lifetime registry. These individuals reported sleeping at the following locations throughout Portland: Tommy’s Park, Evergreen Cemetery, in the Old Port, campsites behind the Cumberland County Jail, under the Casco Bay Bridge, along the waterfront, and some couch surf. Several individuals reported being regularly arrested for trespassing due to lack of emergency shelter. Josh also presented the findings from Oxford Street Shelter for Men’s outreach. Josh, along with other staff, made multiple visits to various known campsites throughout the City. They were able to identify 13 locations/campsites. Some were tented camping areas apparently used as living quarters while other were open campsites that appeared to be more of gathering areas than living areas. Josh also noted that these sites were generally empty when they visited, leading to speculation that some of the areas are indeed more gathering spaces than campsites. During their outreach, which was conducted at various times on various days, the staff were unable to locate any unsheltered sex offenders. Josh stated that there were very few camp sites compared to last year. Josh and staff will continue to do outreach at the various campsites throughout the remainder of the summer.

Also, in an attempt to help determine an actual number of unsheltered sex offenders, Rebecca Smith will check with Midtown Community Policing to determine if there are records on the individuals who are asked to move along but not arrested.

Rebecca and Josh will both report back at future ESAC meetings.

V. *Shelter Options for Registered Sex Offenders – Update – Doug Gardner*

Doug stated that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 29th and he will have more information at the next ESAC meeting.

VI. *Annual Point in Time Survey/MaineHousing – Cindy Namer*

Cindy distributed a two-page hand-out from the Point in Time Survey. The information in the hand-out reflects the Portland area only. The participation rate for Portland’s shelters in the Point in Time survey was 91.1%, higher than last year’s participation rate. A total of 305 people were identified as homeless and 278 choose to participate in the Survey. Of the 305 identified homeless individuals, 264 were single adults and 41 individuals constituted families. Nearly half (47%) of the Portland respondents stated that they had been homeless for seven days to six months. The top three most utilized services were case management, health care and housing search help. The services most frequently needed but not accessed were rental subsidies, housing search help and assistance with transportation expenses. The average age range for homeless individuals in Portland was between 31 and 50 years-old.

Cindy stated that MaineHousing will give the data from the Point in Time Survey to the City of Portland so they can extract additional information. She also informed the group that MaineHousing hopes to utilize HMIS to replace paper surveys in the future.

Point in Time data is also posted on the MaineHousing website (www.mainehousing.org) and on the City of Portland’s website (www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/hhsreports.asp).

VII. Rental Assistance Coupon Plus (RAC+) Program Update

Cindy stated that Region 1 (Cumberland and York Counties) are the most populated regions that MaineHousing works with and, as such, they are assigning a MaineHousing Case Manager, Pamela Keddy, whom Cindy introduced, to assist Wayne Russell with RAC+ duties once a week. MaineHousing is hopeful this will help to streamline the application process and expedite the issuance of coupons when they again become available.

RAC+ applications should open again December or January.

VIII. Other Business

Cullen Ryan asked if ESAC would support signing/submitting a letter to Maine legislators supporting the increase in McKinney-Veto funding, as well as the Home Fund. The group voted and agreed to submit a letter of support. Cullen will email the letter to Bob for the ESAC Tri-Chairs signatures.

Greg Payne from Avesta announced that Avesta Development Corporation won a judgment allowing them to move forward with the building of Florence House. The opposing parties have 21-days from the initial judgment to appeal. This is encouraging news and Avesta hopes to be able to break ground on this project in the very near future.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, August 15th, 2008

8:30 – 10am

190 LANCASTER STREET

REFUGEE SERVICES CONFERENCE AREA

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.