

# *Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee*

## *Meeting Minutes October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008*

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Mark Swann</i>	Preble Street
<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>John Shoos</i>	United Way of Greater Portland
<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>Paige Eclov</i>	PROP
<i>Tom Natalie</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Missy Leaman</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Dee Clark</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Susannah Harnden</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Silver Shea</i>	Family Crisis Services
<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>Amy Grommes Pulaski</i>	City of Portland, Planning & Development Dept., Housing & Neighborhood Services
<i>Donna Yellen</i>	Preble Street
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Raenae Moore</i>	PROP

### *I. Introductions*

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

### *II. September Shelter Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for September 2008:

	<u>September 2007</u>	<u>September 2008</u>
Adolescents	12 Individuals	8 Individuals
Adults	225 Individuals	232 Individuals
Families	<u>64 Individuals (26 Families)</u>	<u>67 Individuals (27 Families)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>301 Individuals</b>	<b>307 Individuals</b>

### Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for September 2007 were 358 while the total bed nights for September 2008 were 262. These figures indicate a decrease of 96 bed nights, or -27% between September 2007 and September 2008.

Effective the evening of September 18<sup>th</sup>, Preble Street Lighthouse Shelter will begin serving young women up to the age of 21. Under new licensing, the Shelter is able to serve the young adult population. They plan to ease into this change by slowly rolling out additional services/programs in a gradual manner, beginning with women up to 21 years old.

### Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 3% in September 2008 compared to September 2007. Total bed night usage during September 2007 was 6755 while it was 6957 during September 2008, a difference of 202 bed nights.

During the month of September, there were 112 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 44 individuals into permanent housing, with four (4) of those individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 99 women during the month of September, including 20 new intakes. The Shelter placed ten (10) individuals into housing, with three (3) women returning.

Shelter usage among the adult population remains consistent.

### Family Shelters

There was a total of 2001 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in September 2008 as compared to 1919 bed nights in September 2007. This represents an increase of 4% in Family Shelter bed usage between September 2007 and September 2008.

The Family Shelter received 22 new families (intakes) for a total of 72 individuals in September.

### **III. HUD Continuum of Care Update – Bob Duranleau**

Bob distributed the Continuum of Care rankings for 2008. He also announced that the total HUD grant amount would be \$3.1 million. This amount includes all renewal supportive housing program, new programs and Shelter Plus Care (S+C) subsidy renewals. This year the CoC application included two (2) new programs. DHHS is the applicant for Portland Six Chronic S+C Project. This five (5) year, \$96,000 grant would fund two (2) housing subsidy slots. The City of Portland is the applicant for HUD's new Rapid Re-Housing Initiative. This three (3) year, \$218,300 grant would provide soft rental subsidies and follow-up case management services for homeless families.

### **IV. Maine Medical Center Employment Program - Presentation**

Christine McKenzie was not present and Bob will call her to reschedule.

## V. *Unsheltered Homeless Winter Outreach*

A discussion was held in regards to the tragic death of a homeless individual who was living outside and not accessing the homeless shelter. Bob opened the floor for discussion. The following were insights from several meeting participants.

- Encourage homeless clients to converse with outreach and case workers on other homeless clients you are vulnerable or who may be at risk during the coldest season.
- Target and aggressively seek homeless clients with medical issues to get them the help they need as they may not be capable of helping themselves.
- In an outreach conversation to determine if the client is not seeking or getting help because it is a personal choice or is it systemic.

Jon Bradley spoke at length bringing up several talking points regarding the recent death of a homeless man.

- This individual had both medical and mental health issues.
- His death was a breakdown of the system.
- They could not get this man off the streets.
- There were several instances of both police and crisis incidents.
- A different strategy needs to be discussed to more aggressively seek out these individuals
- Not just look at the past week but the past month as to where the system failed.
- Gets APS to the table and to this discussion
- Expand Respite Services

Providers need to go further up the organizational chain to seek solutions as the front line DHHS services are failing

Make sure cases are thoroughly documented as when an opportunity presents itself, upper management can be confronted with the facts and back-up to make a case. The paperwork will reinforce what the issues are.

Jon Bradley suggested that ESAC contact YA Crisis Program and ask Pak McKenzie, Program Director, to provide an in-service/presentation at the next ESAC meeting.

There were thanks to the City of Portland in helping with the burial costs of this homeless individual.

## VI *Other Business*

Cullen provided a brief legislative update.

### ***NEXT MEETING:***

***Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.*