

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes November 19th, 2009

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Doug Gardner</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Service Department
<i>Cindy Namer</i>	MaineHousing
<i>Nancy Berg</i>	2-1-1 Maine
<i>Aaron Shapiro</i>	Cumberland County
<i>Sheldon Wheeler</i>	Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Adult Mental Health 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>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Jeff Tardif</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Family Shelter
<i>Beth Eilers</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Melany Mondello</i>	Shalom House
<i>Michael Hinkley-Gordon</i>	MAPS
<i>Steve Hirshon</i>	Bayside Neighborhood Association
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Kate Carter</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Oxford Street Shelter for Men
<i>Deborah Hoar</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept, Social Services Div, Family Shelter
<i>Amanda Wells</i>	Preble Street
<i>Donna Yellen</i>	Preble Street
<i>Kimberly Curry</i>	United Way
<i>Rose Strout</i>	Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Sister Miriam Callnan</i>	McAuley Residence
<i>Diane Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Healthcare for the Homeless
<i>Heather Treadwell</i>	Family Crisis Services
<i>Missy Leeman</i>	Milestone Foundation
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Jon Sheffield</i>	Frannie Peabody Center
<i>Karl Geib</i>	Portland Police Department
<i>Lori Martin</i>	PROP
<i>Cullen Ryan</i>	CHOM

I. Introductions

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

II. *October Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for October 2009:

	<u>October 2008</u>	<u>October 2009</u>
Adolescents	9 Individuals	13 Individuals
Adults	212 Individuals	230 Individuals
Families	<u>87 Individuals (35 Families)</u>	<u>73 Individuals (29 Families)</u>
Total	308 Individuals	316 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for October 2008 were 286 while the total bed nights for October 2009 were 412. These figures indicate an increase of 126 bed nights, or 44% between October 2008 and October 2009. Ten (10) individuals stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage increased by 9% in October 2009 compared to October 2008. Total bed night usage during October 2008 was 6558 while it was 7136 during October 2009, a difference of 578 bed nights.

During the month of October, there were 124 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, 62 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in October.

Oxford Street Shelter for Men Support Services team placed 48 individuals into permanent housing, with no individuals returning to the shelter within 90 days of housing placement.

Preble Street Women's Shelter served a total of 102 women during the month of October, including 26 new intakes. Based on self-reporting, 10 of these 26 intakes stated that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.

The Shelter placed 11 individuals into housing, with 1 woman returning.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2254 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in October 2009 as compared to 2709 bed nights in October 2008. This represents a decrease of 17% in Family Shelter bed usage between October 2008 and October 2009.

The Family Shelter placed 22 families for a total of 86 individuals into housing in October.

The Family Shelter received 22 new families (intakes) for a total of 61 individuals in October. Based on self-reporting 9 families for a total of 27 individuals stated they had never been homeless before in October, of these 2 families for a total of 9 individuals were refugees.

The group mentioned that they would be interested in seeing a graph displaying the first time homelessness data from the shelters reporting this information. Bob stated that this would be included in next month's ESAC shelter stats.

Jon stated that there is an increased need for the Outreach Program and a continuing need to interact with the teenagers and young adults. The adolescent numbers are on the rise, with the shelter full every night.

Additionally, 2-1-1 has seen a decrease in the number of calls for housing/shelter for Cumberland County, with only 133 calls in October, compared to 141 in September, 148 in August, and 161 in July. Overall, calls for shelter are up thus far in FY 09, with a total of 583 compared to 548 in FY 08.

III. *Continuum of Care Grant Update – Bob Duranleau*

Bob stated that the 2009 Continuum of Care Grant application has been submitted via Esnaps. The original deadline was extended to November 25th due to numerous glitches in Esnaps, however these issues were resolved and Portland was able to submit prior to HUD's deadline. Additionally, this year HUD is requiring all application be posted online, thus the Portland 2009 CoC application will be available on the City website. Please visit <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/hhs/hhsreports.asp> to view Exhibit 1.

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

Josh stated that the funding for case management services should be available the first week of December. Also, the Portland HPRP referral line is currently up and running, and can be accessed by calling 828-4774. Thus far the program is going very well. Angela noted that 84 individuals have been screened and 55 have been enrolled in case management. There are presently 37 chronically homeless clients and 9 placements. Thus far the majority of the referrals to the program have been chronic homeless referrals. Question such as who to target for the program, implementation of long term plans, HPRP vs Shelter plus, high risk need, and the duration and length of the process still remain. The HPRP team is meeting with sub-guarantees next week to streamline the program and attempt to get everyone on the same page as far as what information is needed. Additionally, HPRP has been added to the 211 directory.

V. *State of Maine Housing Subsidies – Sheldon Wheeler*

Sheldon mentioned Sheldon presented information regarding State of Maine Housing Subsidies. He stated that presently there is a one (1) year wait list for BRAP, Shelter Plus Care. Sheldon mentioned that the greatest need for BRAP is in Cumberland and York Counties, and that the waitlist goes back to July 1st. Sheldon stated that BRAP has stable funding for this year; however, future funding has yet to be determined.

Shelter Plus Care assistance is only available for clients on the streets, in shelters and in transitional housing. Sheldon stated that HUD is making rule changes for the fall of 2010, and that he will keep us updated.

Maine State Housing has a homeless preference. Additionally, Clients with mental health issues are a BRAP priority. An inquiry was made regarding the possibility of mainstreaming the vouchers, or at least giving the Housing Authority the option to do so.

The Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and Maine Housing lists achieving permanent housing, such as subsidized housing and Shelter Plus Care, as a goal for eligible program participants. However, many people expressed concern with this due to the fact that Shelter Plus Care is not achievable at this time in the State of Maine. A great deal of healthy discussion centered around this issue. It was mentioned that HPRP could work on other achievable goals which include making a Shelter Plus Care application.

VI. *MaineHousing Emergency Winter Response Plan – Cindy Namer*

Materials were distributed detailing the MaineHousing Emergency Winter Response Plan, an emergency fund MaineHousing established to assist in providing housing to homeless families and individuals who are turned away from shelters that are full, and where there are no other existing funds to temporarily accommodate them. Cindy stated that MaineHousing has these funds available for the eligible clients residing in Cumberland County. The start date will be December 15, 2009. Cindy will keep everyone updated regarding this matter. Copies of these materials are available upon request for more information such as plan administration, data collection and reporting, allocation and recapture, and more details of the plan overview. Please contact Vickey Schroth at VLS@portlandmaine.gov about obtaining copies.

The City of Portland Social Services Division has partnered with Preble Street and StepUp! Shelter Services (formerly MAPS) for the Winter Response Plan. Bob's staff will administer the Winter Response Plan, enter data into HMIS, verify client eligibility and place eligible Clients into hotels. Other providers interesting in participating should complete Attachment C and submit it to Bob or Cindy. Bob will call a meeting together once MaineHousing has determined contractual amounts and subcontracts to the City of Portland Social Services Division.

VII. *Other Business –*

Doug mentioned that on December 21st, 2009 there is the annual homeless memorial in Portland.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, December 17th, 2009

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.