

Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes December 18th, 2008

<i>Bob Duranleau</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division
<i>Jon Bradley</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amanda Wells</i>	Preble Street Women's Shelter
<i>Melissa Leeman</i>	Milestone Foundation, Inc.
<i>Silver Shea</i>	Family Crisis Services
<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>Mary-Ellen Welch</i>	City of Portland, Midtown Community Policing, Portland Police Department
<i>Paige Eclov</i>	PROP
<i>Sara Gallagher</i>	PROP
<i>Dee Clark</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Elizabeth Szatkowski</i>	Youth Alternatives Ingraham
<i>Sister Miriam Callnan</i>	McAuley Residence
<i>Rose Strout</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Donna Yellen</i>	Preble Street
<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>Ginny Dill</i>	Shalom House
<i>Melany Mondello</i>	Shalom House
<i>Christina Griffin</i>	Preble Street
<i>Amy Regan</i>	Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice
<i>Raenae Moore</i>	PROP
<i>Kimberly Curry</i>	United Way of Greater Portland
<i>Susan Whittington</i>	Togus Veteran's Medical Center
<i>Megan Ward</i>	MAPS Shelter Services
<i>Aaron Geyer</i>	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Department, Social Services Division

I. Introductions

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

II. November Shelter Bed Usage Statistics – Bob Duranleau

Bob reviewed the monthly shelter statistics for October 2008:

	<u>November 2007</u>	<u>November 2008</u>
Adolescents	8 Individuals	10 Individuals
Adults	215 Individuals	213 Individuals
Families	<u>38 Individuals (15 Families)</u>	<u>76 Individuals (30 Families)</u>
Total	261 Individuals	299 Individuals

Adolescent Shelter

The total adolescent bed nights for November 2007 were 234 while the total bed nights for November 2008 were 303. These figures indicate an increase of 69 bed nights, or 23% between November 2007 and November 2008.

Adult Shelters

Adult Shelter bed nights usage decreased by 1% in November 2008 compared to November 2007. Total bed night usage during November 2007 was 6455 while it was 6381 during November 2008, a difference of 74 bed nights.

During the month of November, there were 96 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 36 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 November, including 18 new intakes. The Shelter placed three (3) individuals into housing, with zero (0) women returning. Amanda mentioned that this number was inaccurate and she would follow-up with correct placement number.

Amanda Wells stated that the number of women served at the Preble Street Women's Shelter has decreased due to several long-term residents securing housing. The Women's Shelter has also increased its occupancy from 30 beds to 45 beds.

Bob also took a moment to thank Preble Street for all of their assistance during last week's ice storm, which forced the Oxford Street Shelter for Men to close for several hours. Preble Street was able to provide space for a dayroom and clients were able to stay out of the cold. Bob stated this was another example of great community teamwork and communication.

Family Shelters

There was a total of 2265 bed nights used for all Family Shelters in November 2008 as compared to 1897 bed nights in November 2007. This represents an increase of 16% in Family Shelter bed usage between November 2007 and November 2008.

Bob mentioned that the Family Shelter has served 17 Iraqi families for a total of 83 individuals since October 20th, 2008. The Shelter is currently full and families are being placed in hotels. Bob thanked the Oxford Street Shelter After Hours Coverage Staff for all of their hard work placing Iraqi families into the Family Shelter after hours.

The Family Shelter received 23 new families (intakes) for a total of 78 individuals in November.

III. *Influx of Iraqi Refugees to Portland – Arian Giantris & Tarlan Ahmadov*

Arian and Tarlan discussed the influx of Iraqi refugees migrating to Portland. Families had been arriving after-hours but Catholic Charities Maine Refugee & Immigration Services (CCM RIS) has since been getting the word out amongst refugee families that others should arrive during business hours in order to more easily access available services. Tarlan stated this has made a difference and more Iraqi refugees are arriving during regular business hours. Arian stated that approximately 300 plus Iraqi refugees have resettled in Atlanta, Georgia, and will be relocating to Portland. CCM RIS is unable to assist these individuals due to their secondary migrant refugee status. They have been

making referrals to the City of Portland's Refugee Services Program. CCM RIS has been encouraging refugees to stagger their arrivals and explaining the process of applying for assistance. Tarlan thanked the staff at Oxford Street Shelter for Men and the Family Shelter for their assistance in getting families and individuals settled, especially through the After Hours Emergency Assistance Program.

IV. *Homeless Veterans Outreach Services – Susan Whittington*

Susan, a Homeless Veteran Grant & Per Diem Liaison through the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta, discussed services currently available to eligible veterans, as well as services Togus will be providing in the future. Susan explained that all veterans should register with Togus in order to receive the maximum benefits allotted. In order to register, veterans will need their DD214; if they do not have this form, Todd Musial at Togus can assist with obtaining this, as well as obtaining identification. Wendy Thomas coordinates the HUD VASH Program, providing case management services and working with rural, outlying areas. The VASH Program is a low-barrier voucher program designed to assist eligible homeless veterans secure permanent housing. In order to apply for a VASH voucher, the individual must be registered with Togus. Togus is also working with Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) on the two-year transitional housing program for veterans in Biddeford, which currently has two openings. This program has staff on site 24-hours a day and all individuals must be clean and sober before moving into the house. Another collaboration between Togus and CHOM is the Landing Zone (or "LZ") in Waterville. This program is also a sober house and provides five emergency short-term shelter beds. Within the next 60-90 days, Togus will be issuing an RFP for homeless veteran programs in which three building will be donated in exchange for rehabilitation. Also in the near future, Togus hopes to have six apartments in Oakland, four apartment in Augusta and four apartments in Biddeford. Togus is also working to implement hospice care for homeless veterans. Susan will provide information and updates as they become available. Susan also distributed a sign-up sheet for those individuals seeking additional information.

V. *Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil – Donna Yellen*

Donna reminded the group that the Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil is Friday, December 19th at 4pm. Everyone will meet at Preble Street where a procession led by a bagpiper will then walk up to Monument Square. All are encouraged to attend this moving event.

VI. *Annual Homeless Point in Time Survey – Bob Duranleau*

Bob reminded everyone there is a Continuum of Care Point in Time Meeting/Training Review session scheduled for Friday, December 19th at 10:30am in the Refugee Services Conference Area. Scott Tibbitts from MaineHousing will be conducting a training for shelter providers, all of whom are encouraged to attend.

VII. *Other Business*

Bob announced that Heather Feamster is leaving the City of Portland. He presented her with flowers and thanked her for her assistance with ESAC over the years.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, January 15th, 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.