

MINUTES

8/11/2024 Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Meeting

Attended: Sasha Anastasoff, Dave Bilodeau (co-chair), City Councilor Tim Cowan (co-chair), Jennifer Edwards, City Councilor Belinda Gerry, Bonnie Hayes, Bill Lowenstein

Excused: Peter Floyd, Bruce Noddin, Marianne Veilleux, George Sheats

Meeting called to order at 6:10

General Meeting Notes:

- Bill L. made motion to accept minutes from July 11 meeting- Bonnie H. seconded the motion. Jennifer E. abstained. All others attending approved minutes; motion passed.
- Dave provided update on Rally for Recovery event. Auburn Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness has a booth.
- Dave provided update on Lewiston's Committee on Homelessness efforts. Making progress with plans for a shelter (longer-term) and drop-in center (this winter).

Discussion about report- Recommendations discussed:

- Keep Committee on Homelessness active for next 12-24 months
- City of Auburn's roles (including Committee on Homelessness):
 - 1) a convener and influencer;
 - a. E.g. the City of Auburn could help sponsor regional workshop on homelessness, for organizations addressing homelessness and those with lived experience can gather to identify needs and programs/solutions to address issues.
 - b. 121 Mill Street- creating physical space to minimize barriers to services and maximize engagement
 - 2) one of several sources providing social service support
 - 3) Establish (update) and implement plan for housing (including attainable housing)
 - 4) Eviction prevention programming and funding- hire staff to
- Work with Lewiston's Committee(s) on homelessness, to ensure coordinated plan/efforts
- Some details to be sure included in strategy/plan
 - 1) Four pillars- Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery

- 2) Goal provide Wrap-Around Services with a warm-handoff
- 3) Create a buffet of services, to best serve all individuals experiencing homeless- meet each person where he/she is- in terms of readiness for help.
- 4) Need to have strategies that address different types of groups experiencing homelessness.
 - a. E.g. unaccompanied youth- New Beginnings great support.
 - b. Youth and families/young children (<school age)- can PAL Center be used? (likely need separate location from 121 Mill Street, for safety reasons)
- 5) City's roles listed above
 - Get storage units- for Mill Street and for future shelter in Lewiston
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Next meeting- September 19.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm