



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

Homelessness Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

In Attendance: Councilor Tim Cowan, Bill Lowenstein, Dave Bilodeau, George Sheats, Cecilia Natale, Thomas Hibbert, Jennifer Edwards, APD Deputy Chief Tim Cogle, Jen Eugley (Absent: Sasha Anastasoff, AFD Deputy Steve Almquist, Rebecca Austin, Dawn Comeau, Angela Blier)

Call to order at 9:30am

1. Review of Agenda by Tim Cowan - Motion to accept agenda: Bill, Second: George
2. Review and approval of 11/18/25 meeting minutes
3. Warming Center/Shelter Update – Tim Cowan

- meeting with stakeholders worked out funding; transportation has been worked out; now open 24/7

- Dave: guests may still come to DIC for food and showers; Warming Center can't act as a full "shelter" yet offering full services; case managers can still stop by to meet with clients

4. Point in Time Count

- a. Updates from Julia Kimball - Jennifer Edwards

- PIT date is actually on January 26th

- passed out flyer to collect donations for Warming Kits, including drop-off locations – circulate to whoever is interested

- aiming to make 300-400 kits; looking for groups to assemble

- Cecilia: has the deadline to collect donations changed? (probably 1/16 now?)

- b. Dec. 11 at 9am: Teams Meeting/Learning Session for groups who haven't participated before

- questions from last meeting: encampments (Preble Street is counting encampments in Lewiston); jail is making sure those being released into homelessness are counted; looking for contact at Bates College (maybe ask Darby at Harward Center? Tim Cowan will check with Marianne)

- reviewed updated Hub4 Data from October; Dave asked why the increase of inflow in May? (Jennifer will check with Julia); George asked about housing inventory in the area;



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request to get the total number of people on the list (Jennifer will get that info from Julia)

c. PIT Subcommittee Updates –

- Tim Cougle is going to make a map for outreach to campers in Auburn (officer would accompany a PIT Counter); Tim Cowan – brainstorming volunteers/locations (Jennifer will ask Julia about libraries); Tom & Dave – bringing in brand new volunteers can be tricky, using existing outreach people who are familiar to people is better; Tim Cowan/Jennifer – volunteer efforts that don't include surveying (helping with a dinner at the library?); Dave asked about connecting with Generational Noor (Jennifer will ask Julia); Tom asked about what Tim Cowan has been hearing in the community - promoting services at the Auburn Resource Center, people feel like the City is working on things, hearing about homelessness among students can really change people's attitudes about homelessness and motivate them to drive change; Tim Cowan discussed City Council workshops about syringe service providers and formulating a City ordinance; Bill mentioned that people see the Warming Center as the "solution" and said we need to make sure people understand that it's one temporary piece, but doesn't solve the issue of homelessness; George discussed the different metrics were looking at to measure homelessness in the area (Warming Center/shelter visits, HMIS, interactions with police, arrests of "transients," ED visits, police calls to encampments, PD trespass calls, PSY data/connections, how much of PW budget for encampment clean-up is used year-to-year, reported overdoses listed as "transient," homeless service providers aggregate numbers of success, etc.) – Tom mentioned an app used in Portland to count/track people and suggested maybe Auburn look into adopting something like that (Jennifer will contact Portland Parks & Rec), Tim Cowan suggested adding size or number of people at each encampment to PD's reporting data (Tim Cougle suggested hours spent by PW, PD, PSY, etc., but balancing time for collecting info with the value of that information); George requested a report from PW as a starting point

5. Discussion of items for next agenda – All

- leave PIT Count on the agenda for updates, as well as the subcommittee meeting after
- (next meeting or in January), Jeff and Tim Cowan talk about syringe service program/ordinance and get committee feedback
- Tim Cowan: questions that came up from Julia's presentation last meeting? Dave asked whether we have a contact at Hope Haven, Sheltered By Jesus, other shelters for PIT Count; our focus is on Auburn, but we can ask Julia if she has contacts in Lewiston and try to provide contacts for her to follow up; Tim Cougle asked who will count DV



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shelters (Jennifer said Save Voices will); Dave asked about outreach to Auburn camps (Tim Cogle and Tom mentioned a few and which have moved along); George suggested reduced number of calls and money spent could show progress; Cecilia – make sure to factor in costs of inflation and labor rates so the numbers aren't skewed (estimate billing hours instead of amount spent); Dave – if PSY/OPTIONS can connect with people the first time they overdose, chances are lower that they will again; Tim Cowan – understanding subpopulations of unhoused (elderly, chronic, etc.) to increase efficiency/focus outreach/appeal to the community to help (and George added making sure we don't use those fringe categories as an excuse not to help); Dave – PSY is currently looking at buildings in Lewiston sold and people evicted to rehab (41 households); Tom brought up focusing efforts on youth and substance use prevention

6. Public Comment (none)

7. Motion to Adjourn at 11:00 - Motion: George, Second: Dave, All in favor

(note George will be absent from the next 2 meetings; PIT Planning meeting following this one cancelled due to the weather)