

Government Operations Committee Meeting
Homelessness Related Services Summary
March 7, 2022

Video Recording at www.bangormaine.gov/video
Agency Website: www.partnersforpeaceme.org

Partners for Peace - Executive Director Amanda Cost

- Domestic Violence Resources Center; formerly Spruce Run.
 - Founded 50 years ago and has presence/locations in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties.
 - Oldest domestic violence organization in State and 3rd in Country.
- Provides services to people every day experiencing domestic violence, along with efforts related to prevention and education.
- Services include wrap around services- clients can call helpline (most common way) and that starts the process. Have variety of staff that specialize in different areas. Part of program is shelter but is not the main way they interact with those in need.
- Approximately 1,400 people a year call the helpline seeking services related to legal, child services, rental subsidies, case management, and more. They offer case management, housing navigator, and more. Support comes in many ways.
- Shelter:
 - There are lots of reasons why someone may become homeless when experiencing abuse and violence.
 - Partners with hospitals and law enforcement that may refer folks.
 - Location is confidential. Houses up to 17 individuals; 7 bedrooms.
 - They keep families together and provide as much privacy as possible.
 - Pandemic has created challenges.
 - They do utilize hotels when needed.
 - Between 40-46 people stay per year. Lengths of stay vary greatly. No cutoff.
- Partners for Peace does offer some transitional housing across both counties. They have a fixed site in Piscataquis County and temporary housing in scattered sites in Bangor.
- Big challenge is finding suitable and affordable housing, even in temporary situations.
- Provide help and services to those experiencing domestic violence but not interested in leaving their home. This is for many reasons, they help them find solutions to be safe in their existing homes.
- In response to a question, it was noted that when the pandemic first hit there was a significant drop in requests for services at first because people weren't able to find safe opportunities to call. Later on, as weather warmed up, numbers went up significantly. Calls are now at pre-pandemic levels.
- Ms. Cost stated the work with many providers in the area. She believes the issue of homelessness needs to be addressed collectively at community and state levels. Ms. Cost stated that she believes we all have some responsibility to make safe spaces for people.
- In response to a question about fragmentation and not much collaborating, Ms. Cost stated that leadership at the top that supports movement and work goes a long way and has a positive impact. She believes good work is happening and has seen the City bring different groups together. She suggested bringing all agencies back to the table.

This document was compiled by the City of Bangor based on information provided at a City meeting. For complete information and for questions related to this agency's services, please contact them directly.

HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Partners for Peace is the domestic violence resource center for Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties. The Housing & Residential Program includes emergency sheltering, transitional, and long-term housing solutions.



End abuse and violence.
Advocate. Educate. Collaborate.

STATS & FIGURES



Between 10/1/18 - 9/30/21, we sheltered **103 adults** and **61 children** for a total of **11,677 bed nights**



57 adults and **97 children** were a part of the transitional housing program



FY 22 projected costs of residential program, 20% of overall budget: **\$480,000**



I want to express how thankful I am to have PFP in my life. When I originally reached out, I had just experienced one of the greatest traumas of my life. I didn't know what to do or how to deal with the way I was feeling. [When I called], I found someone who listened no matter what I had to say or how hard I cried. This started to give me the strength to crawl out of the seemingly endless darkness. This organization has allowed me to regain my confidence, to regain financial stability and overall believe in and love myself again.

Survivor & Transitional Housing Participant

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Emergency shelter, case management, housing navigation, children's services, transitional housing, rental subsidy, economic independence education, access to all PFP services (helpline, support groups, legal support), and advocacy across multiple systems

FUNDING & SUPPORT

Funds that support residential program expenses include: MaineHousing, COVID funds, VAWA Transitional Housing Funds, donations from community members, FEMA, Maine Association of Realtors, Bangor Association of Realtors, and Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Some community partners that support our residential program include: Food and Medicine, Salvation Army, Bangor Public Health, New Ventures Maine, Penquis, Child Protective Services, St Vincent de Paul, and Greater Good Charities.

www.partnersforpeaceme.org
24-hour helpline {1-800-863-9909}