

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

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

Shaw House

David McCluskey, Sean Scovil, and Alison Small provided an overview and answered questions.

Youth Shelter in Bangor with four programs.

- Overnight Shelter -- 16 bed youth shelter for ages 10-20 with overnight safety the primary focus of shelter. It closes at 0800 hrs.
- Day program – access to safe space.
 - Hygiene materials provided with case managers available. The majority of youth don't have birth certificates and/or social security cards
 - Mental health services, medication management, stabilization.
 - They provide family mediation to try and resolve issues to prevent homelessness and keep the kids in their known school district.
- On Site Transitional Living Program – Mason's Place. There're eight beds and are kids who have gone through the shelter & day program. Most not ready to live independently or ready to live with family/community-based situation. Drivers Education, referral to adult services, vocational rehab, pre-employment
- Outreach Team – supporting services on site, identify & divert new youth, mental health, in-home services; Case Management in Community.

Three populations of kids that come to them:

- Kids that have a place to live, parent, relatives and that place has become stressed to the point that the individual left. They do some mediation, get young person and family connected to services and get them back together as quickly as they can
- Exiting other institutions/systems of care – aging out of foster care system, people leaving residential programs/treatment centers with no resources or family to draw on once this happens. They need all basics to connect them to society – job, housing, supportive services. They are typically 18, 19, 20 years old.
- Unattended Youth – minors, who are typically not living at home, not yet involved with DHS for whatever reason, usually 16, 17 years old, verge of turning 18. The experience with many of these folks is that they've become disconnected, are in survival mode, staying in different places with friends/relatives over time. They benefit from being connected with services & supports, build a team around them, create options for them.

General information:

- The only place a minor can go, draw on other resources available to be sure everyone is safe for the night. Its challenging to gauge youth numbers, cyclical access for services. Getting them to engage in the process long enough to get the process to work for them is a challenge.
- Typically see 75-100 youth come through the shelter in a year but the day program & outreach is much higher than that. Some don't find themselves in need of overnight shelter.
- Transitional housing is generally at capacity – don't keeps open beds.

- As the Mason Place exists now, tried to work with the State to increase capacity – try to expand program over in Brewer location – at the time, there wasn't any money for additional funding. No longer working on that at this point. Other initiatives – awarded grant, Youth Homeless Demonstration Project.
- Community Care is in the process of acquiring Shaw House, and has been managing Shaw house a few years now.
- Diversion Work started a couple years back – work with them to keep them in their current location, so they're all not going to the shelter - diversion did significant job in keeping youth in their locations
- About a year ago, partnered with ACAP (Aroostook County Action Program) initiative, offered statewide funding, housing/transitional living program.
- Agencies have funding to support housing in other counties, including Penobscot, but we have Piscataquis, Hancock – also support youth & housing in Aroostook & Washington County.
- Meet with them where they are, find resources in that area, and hopefully get that individual back into housing/safer living without actually coming to Bangor
- Bangor is a service center with resources, but if we can keep some in their communities of origin, it will be good for them.

Assisted another agency in Aroostook County, Northern Lighthouse, to set up a 4-bed youth shelter in Houlton - will keep youth, to some degree from coming to Bangor area.

- Tried to help youth in this region, as well as help keep youth in their own places of origin
- Affordable housing is needed, services are there – but affordable housing is not
- Large percentage of kids that they see have been in the system for a good majority of their lives, might not have gotten the help/support that they needed at the time

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.