



**City of Portland, Maine
Health & Human Services Department
Kristen Dow, Director**

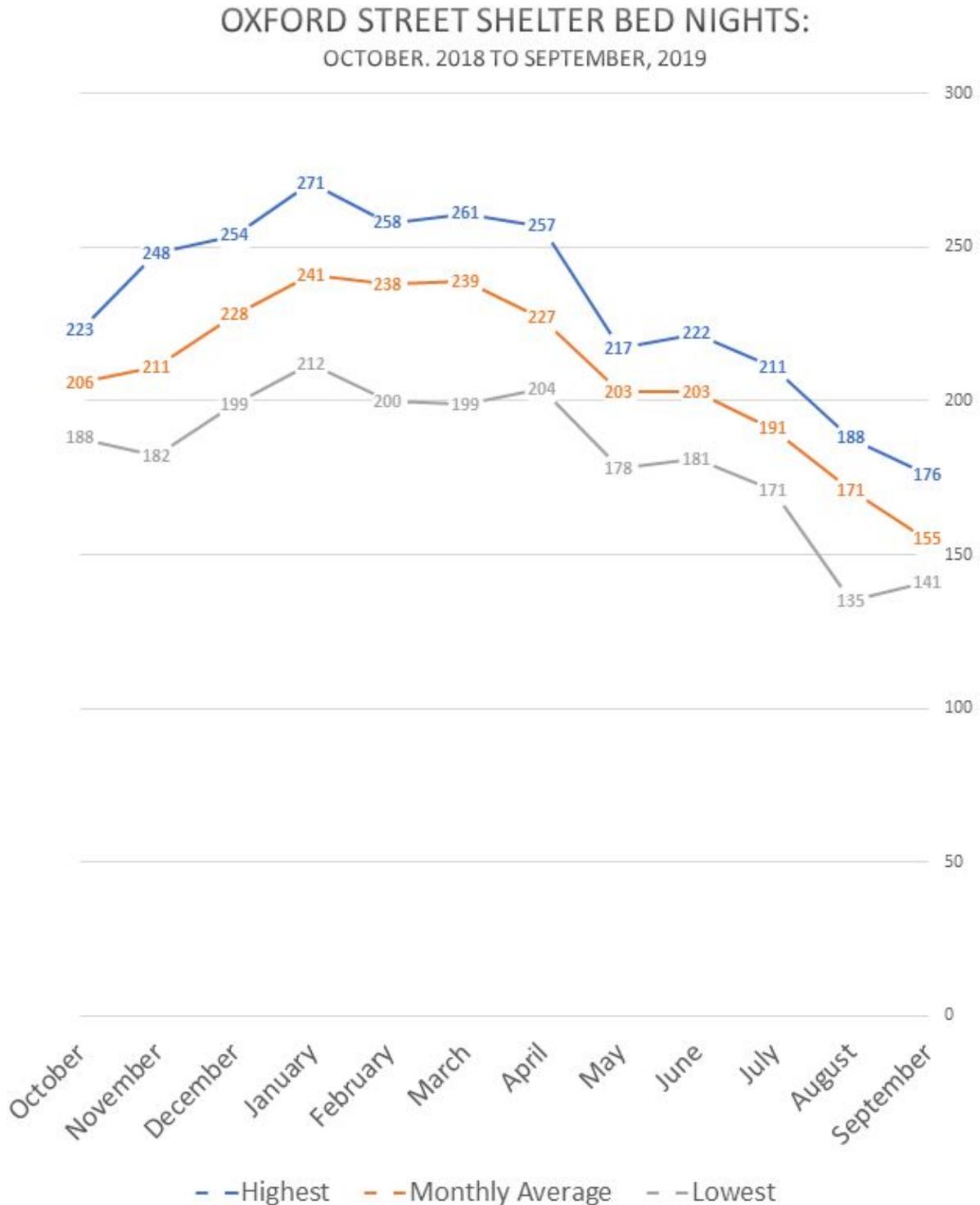
**Social Services Division
Aaron Geyer, Administrator**

**Oxford Street Shelter
Sara Fleurant, Director**

TO: Health & Human Services/Public Safety Committee Members
FROM: Sara Fleurant, Oxford Street Shelter Director
DATE: October 22, 2019
RE: Staff Response HHS Questions

- Councilor Batson asked in reference to the hard cap of 150 what was the highest bed count of last year?
 - **On January 28th, 2019 the Oxford Street Shelter served 271 unduplicated individuals.**
- Councilor Batson asked, looking at the Diversion program model, how would the shelter handle a night where 200 people seek shelter at Oxford Street Shelter?
 - **If a situation where more individuals presented than council had approved capacity for staff would work with our community partners to seek appropriate shelter and maximize the number of individuals we can accomodate through efficient bed management.**
- Councilor Batson requested detailed action plans on what the City would do in the event of a large group over capacity presenting for shelter?
 - **Staff would take similar steps as we did over the summer with regards to opening of the Expo for an emergency shelter. Staff would seek guidance from the HHS committee and ultimately the full council.**

- Councilor Ray requested shelter counts going back one year. **Please see below:**



See Attachment A for a nightly breakdown of the past year's bed nights at the Oxford Street Shelter: Total beds, OSS beds and PSRC Overflow beds.

- Councilor Ali asked when the last time Oxford Street Shelter did not open overflow was and if it is a trend.
 - **In looking back at numbers the last time Oxford Street Shelter was not in overflow on a consistent month over month basis was prior to opening an overflow at the Preble Street Resource Center in 2011. (See attachment B: Excerpt from our 2011 Annual Report). In regards to analysis of the current trend down in numbers staff feel it is multifactorial. Staff feel there is sustained energy around the Long Term Stayer initiative and additional housing energy around individuals who have not yet made the by name list. In FY 19 staff have found that 28% of our clients our chronically homeless vs 32% in FY18.**

- The Committee requested more information on Pine Street Inn’s Front Door Triage Program.
 - **Staff has scheduled a tour with Josh O’Brien of Pine Street Inn and Angela Giordano the Front Door Triage Program and other Senior Leadership. Staff are scheduled to tour these programs Friday November 15th.**

- Councilor Cook asked about the existing FQHC in Riverton Park and GPH. Additionally she asked if the shelter FQHC would be operated as a drop-in or by appointment.
 - **Staff reached out to Greater Portland Health regarding additional questions. Renee Fay LeBlanc, Chief Medical Officer replied with the following:**

“To answer your first question, we don’t have any plan to change our practice at Riverton Park. That site will remain open.

In terms of your second question, the visits at the new homeless site will likely be a mixture of walk-in and scheduled appointments. Currently, at 63 Preble, we have walk-in appointments in the morning and some scheduled appointments in the afternoon as that seems to work best for the patients. I assume the new site will be something similar, but we try to build the scheduling based on the needs of the patients, and would be open to trying something different if that works better for the patients.”

- Councilor Cook asked about the recommendation for the purchase and operation of a shuttle. What is the cost? Councilor Batson asked what the taxi voucher costs now and how staff anticipate that changing?
 - **(See attachment C.)**

- Should subsidized transit/metro passes be planned?
 - **In our current budget we have single ride metro tickets that are allocated for guests. We also have capacity to Logisticare and RTP for guests with MaineCare.**

- Councilors asked for information on CTOs and restrictions. Reasons for restrictions, new restrictions and any trends.
 - **(Please see attachment D, slide show on Criminal Trespass.)**

- Councilor Ray commented that there is an ordinance that a community relations plan be established. Further, that it is already in the ordinance and may not be something that needs to be worked out in this recommendation.
 - **Staff currently attend monthly BNA meetings and meet with members of the neighborhood as requested. Staff and shelter security conduct perimeter checks and outreach of the area surrounding the shelter, encouraging shelter guests to be good neighbors and signage in the area around the shelter reminds guests to be respectful of our neighbors. Staff also operates a neighborhood hotline for convenience of our neighbors. These practices would continue at our new homeless services center.**

- Council asked how we might address people sleeping outside and who will stay on the peninsula?
 - **Staff would continue to actively do outreach and continue to engage with those individuals in need of shelter and encouraging they access shelter whether that be City shelter services or one of our partner run scattered site models.**

- Councilor Batson requested information on Community Meals.
 - **(See attachment E.)**