

Regular Meeting, 05/09/22

Attending: Liam, Bistra, Tim, Danica, Irene, Flo, Andrew, Anne

- Presentation from JJ Bennett with Biddeford General Assistance:
 - “Program of last resort”, short-term assistance; applicants are required to access other resources for which they are eligible
 - Assists with basics: food, electricity, utilities, rent
 - Program seems broad, but there is a lot required of applicants
 - Works with asylum seekers/other immigrants, homeless; some “individuals who we may never see again”
 - GA limits the amount of time for eligibility, may require individuals to seek employment for example
 - See more individuals/couples than families
 - People may be denied due to income, or to situation “in their control”
 - “Never try to leave anybody at the door”; will redirect people to other resources
 - Roughly 8% are turned away due to ineligibility
 - Top languages: Lingala, Portuguese, Arabic, French
 -
- Discussion of publicly available data: very strictly limited
 - Group’s decision to work on collecting demographic data from people visiting City Hall generally, given that data available to us is limited and subject large margins of error (Census Data)
 - Feedback Form/QR Code
 - To collect demographic data of people accessing services of any kind at City Hall
- Discussion of Mission, Vision, Values
- Discussion of role of committee as event planning group
- Discussion of training, or other educational resources for our group
 - Portsmouth, NH DEI on city site as example because they have had training
 - USM Center of Compassion

- Jermaine Marcil-Hill, trained at SMAAA
- Discussion of resources available to us, and internal DEI committee
- Agreement to table discussion of Mission, Vision, Values
- Discussion of City emails issued to all committee members
- Homework as webinar from Megan at HoB