**Client Access Assessment & Referral System (CAARES)**

**Coordinated Entry Messaging**

In our efforts to end and prevent homelessness…a Coordinated Entry system is:

* A no wrong door approach where assistance is easily accessible no matter where or how people present.
* It involves the use of a uniform assessment which identifies and prioritizes any person who is homeless or at risk of homelessness anywhere in Maine and refers them to available and appropriate resources.
* The process will be easy on the client and provide quick assessment and connection to resources.
* The goal is to be smart and strategic and to help each person solve their situation as efficiently and effectively as possible AND maximize resources with those who need them most and connect people with the best available resources.

**Data Sharing …**

* Is the fundamental element of housing and services prioritization.  It is used to determine eligibility and potentially match consumers with housing opportunities.
* Is the key to the efficacy of a coordinated entry system, where client need, choice, and appropriate prioritization are paramount.
* Lays the groundwork for individuals experiencing homelessness to achieve housing and stability.
* Increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the system of care.
	+ Improves care coordination, care quality, and client safety, while also pro­moting more efficient delivery of services.
	+ Provides for efficient, coordinated, client assessment and care to promote effective and efficient use of resources to meet needs and maximize individual and systemic outcomes.
* Reveals barriers, gaps, and needs then used to inform community and legislative leaders in discussions around addressing those needs.

Information sharing is crucial – if we don’t know what the problem is – how can we fix it?