**PCOC Meeting Summary**

December 1, 2016

**Attendance:**

Rob Parritt, Jon Bradley, Adam Harr, Joanie Klayman, Ginny Dill, Veronica Ross, Jeff Tardif, Norm Maze, Paula Paladino, Rachel Boyce, Chelsea Hoskins, Joe McNally, Wendy Dubois

**Announcements:** Rob and Jon shared information that Paula has submitted her resignation to MaineHousing. She accepted the Executive Director position at Freeport Community Services and her last day is tomorrow. Paula was thanked for all of her work in the homeless field over the years.

**AHAR**: Paula gave an update on the AHAR. Yesterday it was submitted to HUD in the HDX and confirmed. Paula reviewed what this is and stated we submitted it ahead of the 12-2-16 deadline.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes by Rob and seconded by Joanie. All in favor and **motion passed unanimously**.

**Phil’s flowchart:** Phil did a great job with the flowchart entitled “CoC and Statewide Homeless Council Relationship Map.” This was reviewed and the group had some questions. Since Phil was unable to attend, discussion on this was posted.

Jon noted that the MCoC voted to have the Homeless Youth Provider Group become a committee of the MCoC. Jon suggested that it makes sense that the PCoC also consider having this committee so that both CoC’s would have this as a joint committee. Jon made a motion to have the Homeless Youth Provider Group become a formal committee of the PCoC, which was seconded by Norm. All were in favor and **motion passed unanimously.**

**Point in Time Follow up:** The committee met on Tuesday and discussed what it would look like, where and who to do outreach on, and who will participate in the actual night of the count on January 24. They are looking at supplies to get donated. They have a lot of vehicles and are thinking of 6:00 pm-10:00 pm with the flexibility to stay later if they find people. It was a good meeting and there will be follow up e-mails. There is some discussion about the service based methodology. Minutes were reviewed and they stated that the MCoC voted to count on Tuesday and follow up on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This is incorrect and the service based component will be on Wednesday and Thursday. Jon feels that the count should be expanded and feels that there is an opportunity to connect with schools and get students to volunteer. If we plan ahead of time, we should be able to find resources to get volunteers to assist in the Count night and also for the service based components. Jon also brought up the homeless youth count and that HUD wants CoC’s to focus on this count in 2017 because it will be used as the baseline count for youth going forward.

Paula gave an update on the **Rural Homeless Youth Peer Network.** MCoC was approved to receive this TA and there will be remote learning meetings. Additionally, the MCoC Resource Committee is meeting today to discuss the youth PIT count and they will be attending the Homeless Youth Provide Meeting on December 8th to discuss the count. Between the two groups there may be a committee formed to focus on this that makes recommendations and reviews the Homeless Youth Count last year as well as the Kennebec Count from Chapin Hall.

**Rachel made a motion to amend the minutes on page 2 to remove Friday from the Service Based count and Rob seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a question about the PIT Count and HIC trainings. Paula gave an update that the HMIS team is reviewing the HUD Guidance for changes to the HIC. In the next few weeks, messaging will go out to partners asking them to complete their HIC early. This is strictly voluntary but highly encouraged. The HMIS team will provide training via a webinar and a PPT on the HIC in December. The PIT training typically occurs in mid-January about two weeks before the night of the PIT Count.

**Update on PATH/CLIP Transition:** Kennebec Behavioral Health has received the PATH Grant and will administer it statewide. Preble Street will not be administering PATH and this is a huge loss to the community. Preble Street has offered to work with KBH and assist in the transition. CLIP has two funding sources: PATH and HUD. The HUD funding was for PSH and they were using vouchers for scattered site and they had the intention to move staff to their next Housing First project, which is in process. The project, Bishop Street will now be named Houston Commons (Named after Steve Houston). This means that CLIP will no longer exist the way it is, and will focus on people with significant medical issues and mental health. This means that the CLIP program will be gone by March and the case managers are working on transitioning their caseloads and trying to get these folks housed. The concern is that there is now a vacuum because staff were working with people who were living on the street and giving them services. It was suggested that Hillary from Preble Street attend the Support Services meetings. Joanie will facilitate this.

There is an overdose prevention task force and there have been a lot of groups meeting to try to fill this void i.e. Milestone is trying to expand the Home Team outreach. There will definitely be a gap as most of these folks don’t have MaineCare and funding is needed to help continue to serve this population. There were lots of questions raised about what kind of PATH services KBH intends to provide in the Portland area. We need to communicate with KBH and get more information including funding for this area. Members expressed concern about the PATH resources thatwill be allocated to this area and want both KBH and DHHS to know that there are many clients who will be adversely impacted. We should let them know what our concerns are. Jon made a motion that Rob send a letter on behalf of PCOC to DHHS and KBH asking that resources be allocated to the Portland area for PATH Services. Seconded by Joe. **All in favor so motion passed.**

**ESHAP Grant Applications:** These are due on Monday and most of the PCOC shelters have submitted them.

**This closes the Steering Committee portion of the meeting.**

**CoC Merger Discussion:** There has been discussion about the merger of the MCoC and PCoC. It is important to be mindful of this. There was a brief overview about the meeting of the MCoC and PCOC with HUD on May 4, 2016. At the meeting, the City of Portland said they could not continue to be the collaborative applicant and it was brought up to have MaineHousing be the collaborative applicant for the PCoC. There was a lot of discussion and the decision was made to have MaineHousing become the Collaborative Applicant for both CoC’s with the idea that the CoC’s would be working toward merging in the next year. Currently, the PCoC is a small CoC but it works well. The statewide CoC has a challenge in terms of covering the wide geographic area and it has a different process. One of the concerns is the PCOC has focused on Portland and they are the biggest city and have the most homeless people. There should be concern about whether PCoC would get lost at the state level if it merged. One key factor in this discussion is to have us do this the way we want to do it before we are told so we don’t lose control or get lost in the shuffle. Outside of the PCoC it is more challenging regarding resource allocation.

It would be helpful to identify the pro’s and con’s of the possibility of a merge. It would also be helpful to talk to HUD and have them answer our questions. The group brainstormed the following:

Pros:

* Help our PPRN (preliminary pro rata need)
* Less duplication
* System wide performance measures easier on a macro level i.e. Coordinated Entry
* ARD permanent housing would be increased
* More consolidation of SPC grants (if you merge, SPC is more competitive)
* Doing it before HUD makes us
* System wide reporting as state for PIT/HIC/AHAR
* Would improve the data reporting and collection
* More resources
* Consolidation of meetings

Cons:

* Keeping current levels of funding distribution per ARD and will HUD allow us to continue with the ARD as this is more beneficial than the PPRN.
* Decision making becomes broader
* More & bigger SPC grants (PSH goes to the top, other projects get pushed to the bottom)
* Need to look at numbers vis a vis tiers (tier 1 and tier 2)
* More people around the table making decisions
* Competing agendas
* MCoC meetings more structured in order to get the work done, vs. PCoC has a conversation because they are smaller and have known folks for years
* More voices to come to consensus
* Things will become more official
* Less autonomy
* PCoC has done reallocation, whereas MCoC has not.
* If MaineHousing did not want to be the Collaborative Applicant at some point, who could?

Next Steps: Rob will compile a list of questions. Paula noted that the MCOC Steering Committee has a strategic planning meeting the morning of Dec 15 and will be discussing the merger. This will be on the agenda for the full MCoC Dec 15 afternoon meeting. She suggested PCoC share the list of pros and cons with MCoC and encourage them to do the same. It was also suggested that PCoC meet with HUD, as HUD has offered to come back and discuss this in more detail. The merger discussion will continue at the December 22, 2016 agenda.

**Next meeting: Dec. 22, 2016 1:00-3:00 pm, 196 Lancaster St. Portland, ME Back Bay Room**