Disclaimer: These notes are not intended to represent direct quotes, things may not be in chronological order, and ideas may not always be accurately attributed. If you have corrections or comments, please let Scott know and he will edit accordingly.

**Augusta:** David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Dan Fleming (Shaw House), Donna Kelley (KBH), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Jessica Wood (DHHS-OCFS), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing).

**Portland:** Rob Parritt (City of Portland), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Joe McNally (Milestone), Adam Harr (City of Portland), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Michele Staples (YCSPI)

**Bangor** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), James Gagne(Preble Street)

**Lewiston:** Rob Liscord (Preble Street)

**Presque Isle:** Steve Eyler (Homeless Services of Aroostook)

**On the Phone:** Alley Smith (Veteran’s Inc.), Melanie Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Jennifer Weatherby (CHCS), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Veronica Ross (The Opportunity Alliance), Keri Alley (Partners for Peace), Rebecca Hobbs (Family Crisis Services), Wendy Thomas (VA), Marybeth Paquette (RCAM), Janice Laura-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Shannon Flood (Next Step), April \_\_?\_\_

[If I missed anyone or misspelled your name, please let me know]

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: November 16, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from October 19, 2017 approved as submitted. (Thank you, Kelly P.!)

**Big Thinking Topic:** Coordinated Entry

We are still looking for “Champions” to help lead roll out efforts in Regions 1 & 2.

It was announced at the last CoC Board meeting, and shared here today, that we are now partnering with 211 Maine. Several members expressed concerns about the timing of this change so late in the process, and why are they only finding this out now. Others pointed out that we had originally hoped to use 211, but thought it would take too long to work out and we needed something by January. Josh felt that this was good and will allow entities like hospitals, who have concerns about sharing info, to use 211 to help people access information about resources for housing and shelter. It will also allow the CoC to collect basic data about those referrals because 211 will be using HMIS. This raised questions about HMIS licensing. Some shelters have volunteers at their front desks who collect data on paper because they don’t have HMIS Licenses. Josh said they still use paper forms too, and someone enters the data later, it’s not a problem.

The CE Pilot has been using Social Serve to collect data, which was then imported to HMIS, but Social Serve was bought by a different company and is no longer the best option. Despite the change, we are still on track to have a basic statewide system up and running by the January deadline, and it will continue to grow and develop over time. We are not sure yet if the system will utilize ‘Call Point’ or ‘Client Point’ – MaineHousing’s HMIS Consultant is investigating the options. Either way, the questions 211 will ask, and the data they will enter, will line up with the initial CE Assessment developed and approved by the CoC.

The system will not be able to see if there is a bed available at a specific facility at a specific time and put someone in it – our providers do not enter real time bed inventory data – but it will show a list of potential options that the client might pursue. A call to the program will still be needed to determine availability and eligibility. This will give us data on the number of calls, referrals, turn-aways and other important measures. We will need to implement Data Sharing for this to be fully functional, but that is another topic. Because 211 is accessible from any phone or computer, it provides a ‘no wrong door’, client focused means of accessing information and referrals, reduces barriers, and will standardize the initial assessment process. Members with further questions or concerns were encouraged to contact Josh and participate in the CE sub-committee meeting on Monday. We should also invite folks from 211 to our next meeting to discuss this further.

**Point-in-Time Updates:** County Leads have been identified in most areas, still need a few more. PATH will be the lead in Cumberland County, and while they are ‘statewide’ they do not have the resources to be the lead agency everywhere. Leads do not have to be strictly Homeless Providers.

The forms are for Outreach are very much the same as the ones for non-HMIS shelters, and very similar to last year’s. Instead of different colored paper for Shelter, Unsheltered, and Youth, the different types are identified by shapes at the top of each page – easy to see in the dark, and can be printed on standard paper. To save space, instructions are on a separate sheet. DV providers will have their own forms, and will submit via a secure server like last year. MaineHousing will be developing training videos so that everyone will have access to view them at any time, as often as they like. HMIS users will also be able to print and update their HIC (Housing Inventory Chart) information soon. Non-HMIS providers will have these forms sent to them for updates.

**MOTION** to approve all forms and use of videos for PIT/HIC trainings. **PASSED**.

**AHAR:** DRAFT AHAR reports were submitted last month for Abt to review. Final submission is due Dec 1st. Most of the issues with the draft data had to do with incorporating the York County data in with the rest. In the past, we had to report out on York County separately as a ‘sample site’, but we got permission to not do it that way anymore. The HMIS Team is following up with any agencies that had specific data issues that will need to be cleaned up (like children under 5 who were not properly group with a family and look like they were at a shelter alone.)

**Shaw House Waterworks Change Request:** Shaw House is transferring ownership of their Waterworks project to the Caleb Foundation, and Community Care will provide the Service Component. There are 10 units (out of 35 total) that are still bound by HUD covenants to serving homeless individuals. 3 of those are currently dedicated to serving Chronically Homeless. In addition to CoC approval of the transfer, they are asking that these 3 beds be ‘Prioritized’ for CH, rather than ‘Dedicated’, as they have had difficulty finding eligible tenants, and reducing the support services component to just 20 hours a week. There were questions about the role of the Resident Services Coordinator and the reduction of hours. It was explained that the RSC would primarily be referring tenants to case managers at other service provider agencies, not providing case management directly. In this way, the tenants would still be receiving the same level (hours) of all appropriate services, but these would be provided by other agencies, not by the RSC. (Shaw House had been receiving ongoing renewal funding through the CoC for these services up until last year, but that funding was lost and the agency has struggled to find a way to continue to serve these tenants.) Most MCOC members seemed satisfied with this explanation. While a few still expressed concern, they felt the overall proposal was the right move, and that HUD would have an opportunity to address and clarify the RSC model and the reduction of hours, if they had concerns about these changes not fulfilling their covenants.

**MOTION:** MCOC supports the change of ownership of the Waterworks project and the change to Prioritized for the three CH beds. **PASSED.** Chairs will send a letter to HUD.

**Youth Demonstration RFP:** HUD will be releasing this sometime in December. Maine did apply last year, but was not awarded funding. Some felt that this was because MaineHousing, as Collaborative Applicant, was fully supportive of the effort, but the reasons given in the debriefing things like not having a Youth Leadership Team, and not have an actual Youth sign off on the plan. Maine was encouraged to apply again. This would bring about $1M over 3 years.

**State and Federal: Fed:** Both the House and Senate versions of the GOP Tax Bill would negatively impact housing and services. Senator Collins has said she has concerns, but has not stated that she would oppose it. Representative Poliquin is likely to approve it, saying things will be worked out later. MOTION: MCOC will send letters to all asking them to oppose. PASSED. News Flash: the House just passed it. It still needs to go to the Senate.

State: 64 Bills were approved, but not LD2744, the bill for Preble Street’s Support and Recovery for Opioid Users. They will appeal.

**SHC:** Met on Tuesday of this week. Topics included:

* Is LIHEAP Documentation crating barriers to SNAP?
* BRAP is frozen to all but Category 1 applicants (still taking apps)
* Discussion of the need for a new type of subsidy for SUD clients
* Turn-away data – will CE be able to track this?
* ESAHP Training Jan 12
* MaineHousing is auditing ESG, should we ask them to audit CE too?
* Some changes made to the Prioritization Chart
* Changes to GDP programs
* Veteran’s Stand Down had 75 vets attend

**RHC’S:** R1: meeting next week. R2: no meeting since last MCOC. R3: Reviewed lists of clients suspended from PCHC and BAHS. Most were for very good reasons. Many of the suspensions were temporary and have timed out, but not sure the people know this. Need to clarify permanent vs temporary suspensions.

**LTS:** Rob and Steve from Oxford Street recently visited Tedford to discuss developing a list there.

Bangor just housed their longest long term stayer!

**CoC Board Update:** Strategic Planning session Nov. 27 in Portland. Topics to be discussed will included: Coordinated Entry; Data Sharing; Data Standards, especially “Start Date” vs “Move-in Date” (will address with HUD); Mission and Vision of the BoD; Structure and process questions

**Committee updates:** Vickey encouraging people to attend/join committees. We need more people.

- **Project /Monitoring** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month. Looked at forms. Need to develop a new tool in order to monitor the Planning Grant.

- **Policy** meets by conf call at 3:00 the Friday before the Statewide Homeless Council. (No meeting)

- **Steering** meets by conf call 10 to noon the 1st Monday of the month. How do we improve the MaineHomelessPlanning site, or create a whole new site, and can we use CoC Planning $ for this?

- **Data** meets by GoToMeeting and 10:00 the 3rd Tuesday of the month. (No meeting yet.)

- **Resource Committee** meets the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-4. Discussed PIT, and the role of the Resource Committee in tracking membership of other committees (it’s too complicated).

- **Special Populations Committee – Veterans** meets the 1st Tuesday of the month from 1-3. Working of By Name List, and integration with HMIS. Currently have about 100 veteran’s listed, 26 of them Chronically Homeless. Takes an average of 105 days to house once identified. Need to bring that to 90 days or less.

- **Special Populations Committee – Youth** meets the 1st Friday every other month. Reviewed Youth PIT forms, changes at Shaw House, training needs, and new Youth group in Brunswick.

**Other Business**: none

**Next Meeting:** December 21, 2017 from 1 – 3 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR DECEMBER We will be at the Maine State Library, 230 State Street Augusta.