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:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Donna Kelley (KBH), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Stephanie Primm (Knox County Homeless Coalition), Cindy Namer (MaineHousing), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing)

**Portland:** Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Adam Harr (City of Portland), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street) Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Michelle Staples (YCSPI), Kera Pingree (Youth Advisory Board), Stacey Spaulding (Preble Street), Veronica Ross (The Opportunity Alliance)

**Bangor:** Dorathy Martel (Next Step), Catherine Reed (Partners for Peace)

**Lewiston:** Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Rob Liscord (Preble Street, VHS)

**On the Phone:** Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Alley Smith Morrissey (Veterans Inc.), Elise Johnson (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (Hope & Justice Project), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Jennifer Weatherbee (CHCS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Mike Tilton (EMS), Gail Garrow (OHI), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Mary J Boylan (Emmaus), Alice Preble (DHHS-OCFS), April Smith

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

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: June 21, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes of May 17, 2018 approved as submitted.

**Youth Action Board:** Chris Bicknell requested that MCOC allow some Planning Grant Funds be used to support the time and travel costs associated with Youth members attending YAB meetings and activities. There are currently 3 members and 3 more are expected to join soon- they would like to have geographic representation. There was discussion as to which travel reimbursement amount to use and other details.

**MOTION:** MCOC supports this request for funding, not to exceed a total of $5000, to cover costs associated with the YAB. **PASSED.** Chris and Cindy will work out the details.

**PIT Planning:** Janice presented this year’s PIT Methodology recommendations from the Resource Committee. There are no major changes from last year. MaineHousing will be responsible for the development of the forms, ensuring they align with HUD requirements, and for the HMIS/ Sheltered portions of the Count. The Unsheltered Count will be coordinated by the Resource Committee, including recruitment and training of volunteers, distributions and collection of forms, and the Service Based portion of the Count. The Night of the Count will be Tuesday, January 22, with the Service Based Count taking place over the following three days. There will, once again, be some Youth specific questions – the Youth Committee will need to work with MaineHousing to refine those. Our Unsheltered numbers were very low last year – about half of what they were the year before, possibly due to not having a specific target population to focus on, as we had with Veterans and Youth in recent years. We will need to work hard to ensure we have the support we need to accomplish the unsheltered count – the volunteers, the trainings, and the coverage.

**MOTION:** MCOC approves the Methodology proposed by the Resource Committee. **PASSED.**

**2017 MCOC NOFA Score Debrief:** Scott reviewed the Debrief information provided by HUD. In the Debrief, HUD looks at a selected subset of the questions from the NOFA, and compares the maximum possible points available to the number of points awarded to the CoC for each question. They also look at the total scores for each of the 4 Parts of the Application, and the overall total.

Part 1: CoC Structure and Governance, MCOC scored 39.25 out of a possible 50 points.

Part 2: Data Collection and Quality, MCOC scored 32.5 out of a possible 46 points.

Part 3: CoC Performance and Strategic Planning, MCOC scored 70 out of a possible 82 points.

Part 4: Cross Cutting Policies, MCOC scored 22 out of a possible 22.

Our Total Score was 178.75 out of a possible 200 (that’s 89%, roughly a B+).

The Highest Score in the country was 190.75.

The Lowest Score in the country was 57.75.

The Median Score was 147.5 and the Weighted Mean was 159.75 (CoC’s scoring below the weighted mean were more likely to lose money relative to their ARD.)

**State and Federal Legislative Updates:** There are renewed efforts to weaken and repeal the ACA. Both the House and Senate are working the Farm Bill – the Senate version looks better so far. Similarly, the Senate version of the THUD Budget appears better – unlike the House version, it would fully fund HCV and Homeless Programs. The THRIVE program includes changes regarding folks in recovery housing, but it would move from PH vouchers to create a TH type program.

The Maine Legislature is back in session trying to tackle some of the bills that had been left on the table, but of course, the Governor still has the option to veto anything they manage to pass.

A group of folks from Maine will be going to the NAEH Conference in DC in July and will meet with our delegation there.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** Met June 12. Discussed meeting protocols. All the usual updates. The PATH RFP is out. The State is shifting to a Fee for Service model for Substance Use Disorder – this could potentially have a huge negative impact on our low barrier shelters. MaineHousing’s new Housing Trust Fund RFP is out. There is a homeless focus but Cullen expressed concern that it may not help Chronically Homeless because the language is not specific enough. MaineHousing will discuss the Annual update to the Consolidated Plan at the August 7 CoC Board meeting and at the August 14 SHC, as well as in other forums. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Family homelessness, as several agencies are proposing to develop more shelter beds for this group. SHC felt the focus should be more on moving families quickly into housing, not shelters, and will be to work on a Long Term Stayer Family list to focus more efforts there. Kristen Jiorle presented information on Problem Gambling and how it may relate to homelessness. Rob Liscord presented on the progress made in resolving Veteran homelessness.

**Regional Homeless Councils:** R1 discusses Coordinate Entry updates and Family Homelessness. R2 conducted a training on DHHS rental subsidy programs, Shelter Plus Care and BRAP. R3 discusses an apparent increase in the number of encampments in the greater Bangor area.

**Long Term Stayers:** Portland now has 7 lists, though the first 5 are down to about 25 people, total. List number 6 is about 42 people, and list 7 is about 24. About 214 people have been housed so far. Bangor’s list was 3 people (though Josh reported here today that is now Zero!) and Brunswick is 3.

**MCOC Board:** Discussion at the Board meeting included: The 2017 Debrief; the upcoming NOFA; the Coordinated Entry training videos; and adjusting Coordinated Entry for Youth under 18. Chris suggested we need a larger discussion regarding CE for Youth as there are several issues, and this is a national trend – he is part of a group looking into it. It was suggested Chris bring this to the next Board meeting. The Board will not meet in July, so it was suggested Chris could bring it to the CE Group, but then is was clarified that the CE Committee has been dissolved, and the current group is just the BOD officers who meet specifically to resolve policy related issues that are sent to the HMIS Helpdesk. True, but this seems like a policy issue, so maybe they are the ones to go to. Stephanie added that some of these issues impact all ages and all agencies, not just Youth. Multiple entries are a huge problem, for example. We need to look at what other places are doing and see how we can improve our system. Veronica reminded everyone that 211 operators are NOT Housing Navigators.

**Board Members and Vacancies:** The Board currently has 13 members, but can have “no more than 21”. Some of the original members have stepped down and been replaced over the course of time. The following people have been nominated: Bill Higgins, Stacey Spaulding, Kerri Alley, Veronica Ross, and Rob Liscord. Rob respectfully declined, as he will be leave his position to return to school, but stated that the Veterans Committee will put forth a nomination soon. Procedurally, MCOC makes recommendations to the Board, and the Board then votes on the nominees. **MOTION:** MCOC recommends this slate of candidates for the Board to consider. **PASSED.**

**NOFA Committee:** Created by the Board to do the work associated with completing the NOFA Application, formerly done by the Steering Committee. Looking for interested members!

**The NOFA:** Just yesterday, HUD posted the NOFA. This post was shared on the Maine Homeless Planning site ([www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) ) along with a request that any agency intending to submit a New or Renewal Application inform MCOC. There will be a more formal request for this information posted soon. There is Bonus funding for DV programs that provide Rapid Re-Housing, and/or for Coordinated Entry for DV programs. The final deadline is September 18, meaning project level applications will need to be submitted to the CoC in esnaps well in advance of that date to allow time for review, scoring and ranking. More details specific to MCOC will be posted on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) site, and of course, applicants are encouraged to go directly to the HUD Exchange and Esnaps sites to access more information.

**2018 Maine Prioritization Chart:** Cullen reviewed the version most recently approved by the SHC. **MOTION:** MCOC accept and approve the 2018 Maine Prioritization Chart. Discussion: This is very focused on adult homelessness – not sure it really works for youth. Actually, the Youth line says that youth should be directed to youth specific resources. But how are they ‘prioritized’ vs adults. It should be a different tool, a different process, for example using the TAY-VI-SPDAT, designed for Transition Age Youth. The tool is not just focused on Adults, but specifically Single Adults. We lost points last year based on how we prioritize families. There are always nuances that no one tool can capture, the front line staff doing the work need to know how to apply the tool, and their knowledge of the clients and the resources, most appropriately. We can always come back and refine the tool again after the NOFA. The Motion was repeated, and **PASSED**.

**Preble Street Support Letter Request:** Preble Street is requesting a letter of support for their Basic Center Grant though the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). In keeping with our usual policy on such things, **MOTION:** MCOC will provide a Letter of Support to any participating agency applying for this funding. **PASSED.**

**Maine Consolidated Plan:** Paula Weber from MaineHousing will be providing information about and seeking input regarding this year’s annual update to the Maine Consolidated Plan. Paula will be at the Augusta meetings of both the Board, and the SHC. This is the preliminary round. Once the update is drafted, there will be a public comment period later in the fall.

**Monitoring:** Monitoring for 2017 has been competed, though the results are still being compiled. For 2018, if your project APR is due soon, remember to submit a copy to the Project Committee within 30 days of submission – do not wait.

**Youth Advisory Board:** Kera Pingree joined us by phone. Kera is a member of the recently crated Youth Advisory Board, a committee of MCOC. Kera has worked on issues surrounding youth homelessness with USICH, Chapin Hall, and the National Youth Advisory Council. We are fortunate to have her working with us. Welcome!

**Next Meeting: July 19 2018.**

**Please see the next agenda for more details.**