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), David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Melody Fitch (FVP), Chet Barnes (DHHS), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Tony Veit (KBH)

**Portland:** Vickey Rand (CHOM), Rob Parritt (City of Portland), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joanie Klayman (Preble St.) Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Erin Kelly (Preble St.), Rachel Boyce (Preble St.), Bill Higgins (HVJ), Veronic Ross (TOA), Carolyn \_\_\_\_ (HVJ), Christina Foster (MCEDV), Kelly Walsh (Through These Doors), Stacy Spaulding (Preble Street), Amy Grommes-Pulaski.

**Bangor:** (was told this location would not be available)

**Lewiston:** Mike Mooney (New Beginnings)

**On the Phone:** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Mike Merrill (VOA), Don Lynch (FACT), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Donna Kelley (KBH), Michelle Staples (YCSPI), Melanie LaMore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (Hope & Justice Project), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Sarah Derosier (CHCS), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Mike Tilton (ESM), Gail Garrow (OHI), Alley Smith Morrisey (Veterans, Inc.), Nick St. Louis (BAHS), Catherine Reed (Partners for Peace), Mary J. Boylan (Emmaus), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Jarad Greeley (Maine Bureau of Veterans Services)

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

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: September 13, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes of August 16, 2018 approved as submitted.

Reminder – If you call in, please email [stibbitts@mainehousing.org](mailto:stibbitts@mainehousing.org) to let us know you were there!

**The NOFA Application:** The 2018 MCOC NOFA Application is *almost* complete - just need to add a few attachments. The final DRAFT was posted prior to the meeting so that everyone would have a chance to look it over and bring any questions or concerns to the meeting today. People thought the Application looked great. HUD seems to be focusing more on what the Continuum as a whole is doing, and not just on what the specific funded Projects are doing, and the application captures that.

**The DRAFT** **Ranking and Project Priority Listing** was also shared prior to the meeting but this is not yet finalized as there is one appeal that has yet to be fully resolved. Two earlier Appeals have already been resolved, so at least we know our new appeals process is working. All of the Appeals were related to errors and/or miscommunications in the Monitoring Process, which directly impacted the Scoring results. The final Appeal, if approved, would move one project up 2 rows, and those two projects would each move down one row. This will not change where the Tier 1/Tier 2 line falls or which projects end up above or below that line.

**MOTION** that MCOC approve the 2018 NOFA Application for submission to HUD. 2nd & **PASSED.**

**MOTION** to approve the Project Priority Listing PENDING resolution of the appeal. 2nd & **PASSED.**

**The NOFA Committee:** During the process of completing this year’s NOFA Application, the Committee developed a ‘Parking Lot’ list of items that will need to be addressed before the next NOFA. Rather than kicking these cans down the road until we are crunched for time, the NOFA Committee will continue to meet throughout the year to deal with these issues.

**FACT Family Shelter in Bangor:** Don Lynch from FACT (Families and Children Together) asked to be on our agenda today to discuss his efforts to open a Family Shelter in Bangor, where there is currently no general shelter that can accommodate families. FACT has been providing Navigator Services in the area and has worked with about 75 families since January, but has not been able to provide shelter. They have recently acquired a building in Bangor and they are working with the city on zoning and code issues to allow for use as a two family shelter that could accommodate up to 10 people. Rob P. applauded Don for stepping up to meet the need – this has been a gap in the safety net in that area for a long time. Don said they have received lots of local support from the community, and only a few concerns, which they immediately addressed. One local resident even wrote them a ‘Welcome to the Neighborhood’ letter. Craig P. said he was very happy, though a bit jealous, to hear of the warm reception they are receiving. Efforts to establish new shelter locations in Portland and Brunswick have not been so well supported by those communities. Gerald B. from HOME, Inc. and Catherine R. from Partners for Peace also expressed their strong support for the effort as both of their programs regularly receive calls and referrals for families from Bangor that their programs are not able to accommodate. When asked, Don said that FACT does intend to apply for ESG funding to help this Shelter in the next ESHAP Application cycle, though he is still learning about that part of the process.

**State and Federal Legislative Updates:** (please see the Policy Committee notes posted with the most recent Statewide Homeless Council agenda on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) site.)

**Federal:** SNAP faces a big threat in the House version of the proposed Farm Bill, but the Senate version would fix things like work requirements being implemented in a negative, even punitive way, and proposals to increase the tenant portion of rent in subsidized housing. There are increases to HUD and Homeless Assistance funding, which is good, but still only brings us back to 2010 levels. Senator Collins worked very hard on this and MCOC should thank her. There are also several Youth related bills, one of which would modify the definition of who qualifies as a homeless youth, which could result in over-stretching the available resources. Another targets FUP vouchers to youth leaving foster care. The THRIVE act seems like a good idea – proposing to provide rental assistance to the SUD population – but it would take those funds away from regular Section 8/HCV – replacing a permanent subsidy with a temporary one. They should find another way to fund this.

On the **State** level, the Legislature is not is session so now is a good time to contact your representatives, invite them to visit your programs and educate them about how they can help.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** Met on Tuesday this week. All the usual updates. Had a lengthy discussion on the new DHHS Fee for Service funding model and the negative impact it will have on at least two of the state’s low barrier shelters. The way it is designed, these shelters would have to become ‘PNMI’ (Private Non Medical Institutions), but by law a PNMI facility can only have up to 16 beds, and these shelters are much bigger. SHC is recommending that Shelter Based Personal Care Services be deemed MaineCare billable under a different section of MaineCare – maybe even a new section – to remove them from the PNMI limitations.

**Regional Homeless Councils:** R1 had a presentation on Recovery Residences. R2 & R3 did not meet again since our last MCOC meeting.

**Long Term Stayers:** Portland has placed 230 LTS’s in housing in the last 3 years, with a 95.2% success rate. Bangor LTS list is still in the single digits. Brunswick numbers are also very low.

**MCOC Board:** Dealt mostly with NOFA and CE related issues. The next CE meeting will be Friday Sept 21 at 1:30 at the Waterville United Way office with representatives from 211. MCOC received a nomination from MCEDV for Melody Fitch to join the Board. **MOTION** to approve the nomination and send the recommendation to the BOD. **PASSED** unanimously. This now just needs Board approval.

**Committees:**

**Data Com:** More determined than ever to get HMIS generated reports for use in Monitoring.

**Project/Monitoring:** Also seeking HMIS generated reports for Monitoring. This would eliminate many of the errors related to differences of interpretation or calculation and transposing errors that led to so many problems and appeals this year.

**Policy Com:** See State and Fed Updates, above, and Policy Com notes posted on the MHP site.

**Resource Com:** Starting PIT planning in earnest. Will have more details next month. Putting together a list of team leaders for different areas for the unsheltered count and open to recruitment ideas. The Committee also helped organize SOAR Trainings in Portland and Bangor, and there will be another at the Region 2 meeting in Augusta in December. There is also an online SOAR training that will be available in October – it is a 20 hour course, very detailed. The committee is also updating the now very old “Maine Continuum of Care 101” document we used to use to help inform and educate new members.

**Veterans Com:** Preble Street has a new Veteran Housing Services Director, Dan Hodgkins, who will also serve as co-chair of the HVAC (Homeless Veterans Action Committee). Erin Kelly is now managing the Veteran By-Name-List, which currently has 133 total Veterans identified, and is averaging 93 days from the time a Veteran is identified and place on the list until they are housed. In July and August, 52 Veterans were housed from the list – 17 of them Chronically Homeless.

**Youth Advisory Board:** The Coordinated Entry Learning Collaborative is focused on developing CE that works for Youth populations and they are helping youth providers in Maine utilize data, make connections, and identify resources to improve how our system works for youth.

The Schoolhouse Connection provides Technical Assistance and advocacy on policy issues related to youth homelessness. They will be conducting 3 forums in Maine, October 9th in Portland, October 10th in Lewiston, & October 11th in Brewer. There is a flyer with more information posted on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org).

Youth Providers are also continuing to work with Matt Aronson to implement some of the strategies proposed in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant that Maine submitted (even though we did not get the grant – this time.) MaineHousing is seeking information from HUD to see if Planning Grant funds can be used to support Matt’s work here. There will be a forum scheduled late fall/early winter to discuss where all this is going.

**Other Business:** Many thanks all around to everyone who played a part in helping to complete this year’s MCOC NOFA Application!

**Next Meeting: October 18, 2018**

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