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), Tony Veit (KBH), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings,) Donna Kelley (KBH), Vicky Dute (MaineHousing), Pam Magee (MaineHousing), Tia Knowlton-Basford (MaineHousing), Bill Olson (MaineHousing), Leah Bruns (MaineHousing)

**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.), Veronica Ross (TOA), Mike Merrill (VOA), Ken Capron (MemoryWorks), Bobby Marcroft (Preble St.)

**Lewiston:** Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings)

**On the Phone:** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Don Lynch (FACT), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Michelle Staples (YCSPI), Kari Bradstreet (Hope & Justice Project), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Sarah Derosier (CHCS), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Gail Garrow (OHI), Mary J. Boylan (Emmaus), Jarad Greeley (Maine Bureau of Veterans Services), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Christina Foster (MCEDV), Brian Sites (VOA), Travis Drake (VOA), Savannah Frost (WMHO), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voices), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Crystal Hatch (RCAM), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Janice Laura Hewey (Catholic Charities)

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

Reminder – If you call in, please email stibbitts@mainehousing.org to let us know you were there!

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: October 18, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes of September 13, 2018 were reviewed. Under Resource Committee, SOAR Training did not happen in Bangor– only Portland. Minutes approved as amended.

**Point-In-Time:** Janice provided an overview of where things are at. We currently have a list of Outreach Leads that does cover all 16 Counties, but we will need to recruit more folks to help as some of the coverage areas are very large. The PIT Crew is putting together an outline of the Lead responsibilities to help people better understand what they are signing up for.

**MCOC Tri-Chair Position:** Rob Parritt is resigning his position as an MCOC Chair. We have two nominations so far: Veronica Ross (TOA) and Bill Higgins (HVJ). Nominations will remain open until our November meeting. Please send nominations to Vickey or Awa. Voting will be done electronically between the Nov and Dec Meetings. One vote per agency, and an agency must be in good standing to vote. It would be good to maintain representation from the Region 1 area. Our Governance does not specify this as a requirement, and we certainly want to find the best person for the position, regardless of where they work, but regional balance is important to consider. Several members thanked Rob for his dedication and service during his tenure.

**MaineHousing Supportive Housing Vacancies:** Bill Olsen spoke about the approximately 300 Supportive Housing Projects across the state with MaineHousing funding, many of which include targets for serving tenants referred from homeless or DV providers, and that often have vacant units for long periods. MaineHousing has also placed about 50 Project Based Vouchers in some of these facilities over the years. These are such an important resource, we need to find ways to ensure that they are being utilized. Bill would like to improve the connections between MaineHousing’s Supportive Housing team and the Maine Continuum of Care, in order to increase referrals and help landlords and owners better understand the supports that are available. It might be helpful to have an MCOC representative attend some Supportive Housing Team meetings. There are currently 15 vacant units. Tia sends a list of these to Navigators twice each month. It was requested and agreed that this list should also be made available to other providers who could make referrals. A list of various eligibility criteria for the projects will also be made available to ensure appropriate referrals. If members have questions or concerns they may contact Bill at bolsen@mainehousing.org

**MaineHousing Supportive Housing Repair Program:** Vicky Dute spoke about this program that was developed by MaineHousing to help existing projects address serious maintenance or repair issues. Agencies must submit a complete application, they may submit an application for each qualifying projects, and they may request a minimum of $5,000 up to a maximum of $65,000 per project. The property will need to be inspected, as well as any financial reserved, and any work will need to have 3 competitive bids (if a project in a rural area has trouble finding 3 contractor to bid, call us). Awards will be a 0% deferred interest 30 year mortgage on the property and will include rent restrictions to tenants at or below 60% AMI. There is a program guide posted on the MaineHousing website or you may contact Vicky at vdute@mainehousing.org

**MaineHousing Staffing Changes:** Cindy Namer has left MaineHousing. Lauren Bustard will be covering the position of Homeless Initiatives Director for now. Several members expressed their gratitude for the many years of work that Cindy dedicated to issues related to ending homelessness and stated that her departure means the loss of a tremendous amount of history and institutional knowledge, as well as the passion and energy she brought to every discussion.

**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.)

**State:** Not currently in session – a good time to reach out and connect with local representatives.

**Federal:** There is new funding available for SUD housing but it is going through CDBG, not the CoC. MCOC and SHC will need to connect with Maine CEDC and start by inviting them to meetings if we want to be a part of this particular effort. There may also be funding to address the opioid crisis from other government entities. We should all share any information we find about such opportunities, keeping in mind that different sources will have different priorities and different requirements. We need to be able to develop projects that specifically address the needs and reduce the barriers related to SUD populations.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** In addition to the usual updates the council discussed the increasing numbers of people in encampments, and that hotels/motels in Bangor are no longer accepting GA payments. The GA office would still provide vouchers, and even offered to increase the rate.

-There was only one response to the latest PATH RFP, from KBH, so it has been put out to bid again. This is not a matter of performance or problems with KBH, the Governor’s office simply felt that one bid was not sufficient to proceed on a proposal of this size and scope. KBH has agreed to continue to provide services in the interim, but several of the local sub-contract agencies have said they will pull out without long term contracts.

-SHC had sent a letter to Commissioner Hamm, asking for a new Chapter under Medicaid for SUD Shelters, rather than forcing them to operate like PNMIs under the Fee For Service model. Implementation of Fee For Service change has been postponed until Jan 2020 to give the department, and providers, more time to look at other options.

-Youth providers are seeing an increase in the number of youth in state custody who are staying at their emergency shelters, some saying the state appears to consider this a ‘placement’ now. This could potentially have very negative impacts on the state’s CoC Performance measures.

-Christi Staples from the Corporation for Supportive Housing will be working with SHC over the next few months to help assess the available resources and make recommendations on how Maine can work to develop new Supportive Housing projects.

-DHHS has recently received two grants for a State Targeted Response and for Opioid Health Homes, totaling over $6M over two years.

**Regional Homeless Councils:** R3 nominates Tracy Hair from HOME, Inc. for SHC representative. Regions 2 & 1 are still seeking nominations for their vacant seats.

**Long Term Stayers:** No significant changes.

**MCOC Board:** Working mostly on Roles and Responsibilities and Coordinated Entry. Melody Fitch has been nominated to join the Board. Vickey and Josh recently attended a Rural Homelessness forum in Mississippi and brought back lots of good information.

**Committees:**

**The NOFA Committee:** Meets bi-monthly to address issues identified during the NOFA process.

**Data Com:** There is a training for Agency Admins tomorrow – lots of good info will be presented. Mary Wade is amazing – always helpful.

**Project/Monitoring:** Have been discussing process, not projects yet. Need clarification on the distinction between funds that are Recaptured vs. Deobligated. Monitoring will be done with participation from the providers – either in person or via GoTo. Still want an HMIS report for Monitoring. Gail is retiring and will be leaving the committee, and Donna cannot be as involved as she has been in the past. The Committee is seeking new members. Mike and Tia from MaineHousing conduct ESG Monitoring – it might be good to have one of them participate.

**Policy Com:** Covered above.

**Resource Com:** Covered above.

**Veterans Com:** Bobby, the new Co-Chair of HVAC, reported there were 139 veterans on the By-Name-List as of the end of September, many are LTS and 14 are CH. 84 were new in Sept and 60 were housed during the month.

**Youth Advisory Board:** Meets bi-monthly. Stacey Spaulding is leaving Preble Street, so we should consider finding another Youth provider for the BOD.

**Other Business:** Portland Public Library will not be available for our December meeting. Next month we will need to decide if we need an alternative location, or have Portland folks call in.

-Where does HUD stand on the BOLM Crosby Street change from TH to PH? MCOC approved the change, but other issues arose and there is no record of a formal resolution. Need to investigate.

**Next Meeting: November 15, 2018**

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