***SHC Membership:***

*MaineHousing*

*Maine Department of Health & Human Services:*

* *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS)*
* *Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS)*

*Maine Department of Corrections (DOC)*

*Maine Bureau of Veterans Services*

*Region I Reps:*

* *Cheryl Harkins*
* *Donna Yellen*
* *Ginny Dill*

*Region II Reps:*

* *Cullen Ryan, Acting Chair*
* *Donna Kelley*
* *Elise Johansen*

*Region III Reps:*

* *Josh D’Alessio*
* *David McClusky*
* *Tracey Hair*

*Statewide Homeless Council*

*c/o MaineHousing*

*353 Water Street*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

**May 13, 2019**

**9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Location: Department of Corrections Office, 25 Tyson Drive, Augusta, Maine**

**SHC meets regularly the second Tuesday of each month**

**Members:** Cullen Ryan (RII), Josh D’Alessio (RIII), David McClusky (RIII), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Donna Kelley (RII), Dan Brennan (MaineHousing), Cheryl Harkins (RI), Tracey Hair (RIII), Elise Johansen (RII), Donna Yellen (RI), Ginny Dill (RI), Randal Liberty (MDOC), Jeanne Lambrew (DHHS)

**Guests:** Scott Tibbitts (Maine Housing), Bruce Noddin (Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network), Ruth Lawson-Stopps (MaineHousing), Tia Knowlton-Basford (MaineHousing), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Robert Jones (VA), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Susan Gagnon (MDOC), Cheryl Harkins (Homeless Voices For Justice), Richard Hooks Wayman (VOANNE), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Mary Beth Twoomey (The Opportunity Alliance), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS).

**In conjunction with the new Agenda and Meeting format, brief written updates from several subcommittees, working groups and RHC’s were included in the materials provided before the meeting so these items will not be covered in depth here.**

**Introductions:** Cullen Ryan welcomed everyone and mentioned how happy he was to have the commissioners from both DHHS and DOC present.

Due to time constraints, the meeting started with a discussion by Commissioner Lambrew and Commissioner Liberty on **The Topic of Opioid use Disorder and the Number of Incarcerated Individuals who Overdose Upon Release From DOC Facilities:**

Commissioner Liberty noted, of the 77 deaths upon release, 36 were due to opioid use. There are currently 7,000 people on probation, many suffering from Substance Use Disorder. SUD is a major cause of criminal activity, and results in people with substance/mental disorders entering the criminal system. The questions, “how do we create better MH/SUD systems, so people can be directed to the right setting instead of being sent to jail” and “how to support people who are already in prison” were discussed. SUD is now seen as a medical condition and we need to address it as such. The biggest barriers to recovery are treatment, housing and employment. Commissioner Lambrew is looking at ways to use MaineCare to assist in locating medically assisted housing options by utilizing the wraparound services. Commissioner Liberty sited the success of vocational training with 60 people being certified as Automotive Technicians. Work Release programs (Rockland housing repairs for example), help break stigmas. Updated Legislation, with a 21st century approach is necessary. It is vital for ICMs to continue a comprehensive approach to case management based on the individual’s needs. The treatment needs in DOC and County jails vary due to length of stays and funding differences between counties. County Jails still operate very independently and are overseen by County Commissioners, not the state. Comprehensive Individual Treatment is timelier in jails due to the short stays and are key in the prevention of future incarcerations. Pilot programs in 3 DOC facilities will be launched on July 1, 2019, centering on medically assisted treatment 90 days prior to release. Commissioner Liberty recommended for all stakeholders to work together to address the challenges faced in assisting this vulnerable population in order to create better systems that will reduce the work load of ICMs, increase benefits, understand individual needs and aid communities in their support offerings for CJ exits.

The bulk of the meeting was focused on working to complete the DOC Blueprint for Ending Homelessness, building on the momentum of starting the meeting on the topic with the Commissioners and key stakeholders. Cullen updated the Blueprint throughout the conversation to incorporate key points. Susan offered to review the Blueprint and identify which items should be addressed at the state DOC level, and which at the County Jail level. Chet suggested holding this up against the DHHS Blueprint to find areas where the systems can work together. A small working group was formed (Susan, Ruth Rick, Cullen and Donna Y.) to review the Blueprint and develop a short list of ‘bullet points’ focus to on by June 11, 2019.

**Statewide Homeless Council Updates:** Governor Mills has appointed Stephanie Primm (KCHC) as the new Chair of the Statewide Homeless Council. Cullen offered to assist with the transition and will continue to serve as a Region II Representative to SHC. Cullen was applauded by the group for his service as Acting Chair.

**Policy Committee Updates:**

**LD 1294 -** “Dignity Bill” to investigate reports of harassment due to housing status. Going to be heard before Legislative Committee. Cheryl asked for people to sign on today to show support to the Human Rights Commission. The signatures will be shared with the Judiciary Committee. Cheryl will send an email for those present today and not able to sign for their organizations. Details of bills for 2019 Legislative Agenda are in packet.

**DHHS:** Waiting on the outcome of several pieces of legislation.

**MSHA:** Nothing pressing to report.

**Summary reports for RHCs and other working groups are located in the meeting packet**. The minutes from April were not reviewed at this meeting and will need to be considered at the next meeting.

**Next meeting ~~June 11, 2019~~ Location to be determined.**

**The June Meeting has since been canceled. The next SHC meeting will be July 9th. Details will be posted.**