



Meeting of the Maine Continuum of Care November 21, 2019 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting at THREE locations via GoTo Meeting

- MaineHousing, 353 Water St, Augusta
- New Beginnings, 134 College Street, Lewiston
- Shalom House, 106 Gilman Street, Portland

Please try to attend at one of the group sites listed above. For those unable to attend a designated group site in person, GoTo Meeting information for joining the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone is listed below. If you want to setup a group site at your agency let Scott know!

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/352415877>

To join via phone, call: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122) Access Code: 352-415-877

(Please use either your phone or your computer audio to connect – do not use both!)

---Agenda Items---

1) Member Introductions	All	
2) Review & Approval of minutes*	All	*Need to Vote
3) Big Thinking Topic: NOFA Debrief & Project Applicant TA/ Q&A	All	
4) State and Federal Legislation	Cullen	
5) Statewide Homeless Council Update	Steph	
6) Long Term Stayers Update 6a) Unsheltered	All	
7) CoC Board Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates & any decisions made by the BOD – <i>Standing agenda item</i> • Strategic Planning Update – <i>Standing agenda item</i> • Coordinated Entry Update – <i>Standing agenda item</i> 	All	
8) 2020 PIT – Standing agenda item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth/Unsheltered/Non-HMIS forms* 	All	*Need to Vote
9) YHDP Update – CoC Decision Making & Signatory Responsibilities	Chris Bicknell	
10) Brief Standing Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief, pertinent Committee updates as applicable • Data Com – HMIS User Survey 	All	
11) Opening of Nominations for MCOC Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Nominations to Scott – voting in Jan. 	All	
12) Next Agenda – Items for next month	All	
13) Any Other Business		

Next Meeting: December 19, 2019 1pm to 3pm

Please read all materials prior to attending the meetings in order to be prepared to participate in the discussion.

Materials posted at www.mainehomelessplanning.org Contact stibbitts@mainehousing.org for more information.

Meeting: Maine CoC
Date: October 17, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Location: GoToMeeting

Maine Continuum of Care

Attending in Portland: Norm Maze (Shalom House), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Bill Higgins (HA4A), Amy Grommes Pulaski (GP Consulting), Cullen Ryan (CHOM)

Attending in Augusta: Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Tia Knowlton-Basford (MaineHousing), Kelly Watson (MaineHousing), Laurie Murray (MaineHousing), Brittany Hardesty (Bread of Life), Alice Preble (DHHS-OCFS), David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Katie White (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter)

Attending via GoToMeeting: Melody Fitch (Safe Voices), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Rindy Fogler (City of Bangor), Elizabeth Brunton (City of Bangor), Wade Betters (City of Bangor), Torelin Jager (City of Bangor), David McCluskey (Community Care), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Joe McNally (Milestone), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Johnnie Walker (Partners for Peace), Kari Bradstreet (Hope And Justice), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Steph Primm (SHC/ KCHC), Jen Ouellette (YCSP), YAB Members

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.

Member Introductions: Awa welcomed everyone, and each person introduce themselves. A reminder for all those calling in - please email Scott Tibbitts or Awa Conteh to be sure you are included in the minutes for attendance. Chris Bicknell introduced several youth attending the meeting. Awa also introduced City of Bangor police officers and Homeless Outreach Caseworker who are involved in the homeless outreach program.

Review & Approval of minutes: ***Minutes were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Chris Bicknell made a motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Norm. There was no additional discussion. No one opposed. Minutes were accepted as presented.***

Big Thinking Topic: Unsheltered homelessness

Bangor: Awa introduced Bangor Police officers and Homeless Outreach Caseworker. Awa, Rindy and the police officers shared the work they are doing together in Bangor. Rindy explained that about a year ago, Bangor began to see an increase of homeless and unsheltered persons. Last winter, the police department lobby became a defacto shelter for 15-20 people, this was in addition to the Bangor Area Shelter, and the additional warming center that was opened down town.

The City Manager created a task force to address this issue before the next winter. This group recommended adding a homeless outreach caseworker, who could work with the police department and providers to visit homeless encampments, and connect those who are homeless with housing. This was presented to the City Council and was approved (the only new position approved this year.) This provides an example of how the Bangor City Council has shown a commitment to reducing homelessness and helping people to find housing.

The broader community is stepping up as well. There is a church in town that is working to open as a warming shelter this winter.

The City has seen an increased number of encampments. The Police department will not dismantle an encampment unless it becomes violent or offensive. If this happens, they will try to connect individuals with resources that are available. Some individuals refuse assistance, while others are very grateful. There is a new community officer who is meeting people where they are. They have been able to house over 8 households recently. The biggest challenge is finding landlords. Bangor has also created a small fund to help address small expenses, repairs, etc.

Another challenge is getting a mental health diagnosis, lack of which can prevent individuals from accessing appropriate housing. Getting a mental health diagnosis can be time consuming and difficult. However, the city has reached out to several mental health care providers (Community Care, Higher Ground Services, LLC, and Dirigo Counseling Clinic, LLC) who were willing to quickly do assessment and if appropriate, provide letters of diagnosis for those who do not have one. This initiative has significantly helped clients when they apply for homeless housing programs that require such diagnostic documents.

Cullen states that more people living outside is an issue all over the state. The measures that are being taken in Bangor are great initiatives! When Bangor was launching this program, they presented it on the local news stations. The response was a number of landlords who called to see how they could help. Thank you.

Portland: At the ESAC Committee meeting they discussed how they could include the unsheltered in the monthly homeless counts. They are also exploring how to connect ESAC, unsheltered, and Long-term stayers reports. The goal is to create a list of recommendations to the City of Portland to include in their new shelter system. They are also discussing how to address those who cannot stay in shelters due to behavior or other reasons.

State and Federal Updates

Federal- There is Continuing Resolution for funding. Both the house and senate have THUD budgets, higher than last year, in their plan. The Continuing Resolution continues through November. Cullen highlighted many of the federal legislation items that are relevant to the Continuum.

There was a question regarding the Olmstead Act- Deinstitutionalization, which has stated limits for the number of persons staying in one location. The last administration interpreted this in a way that negatively affected Milestone and Hope House. Cullen shared his knowledge and concern over this situation. He offered to follow up on this with the new administration.

State – There are two new bills currently that relate to our work.

One bill works to address the persons who are frequent users of our most expensive services: emergency rooms, jails, etc. This is called Frequent User System Engagement (FUSE). LR 3086. Cullen read the details. The premise is that once people are housed and stable, they stop ricocheting between systems. The MCOC expressed interest in requesting this to be considered during the legislature's emergency session.

Craig made a motion to support that LR3086 be considered by the Maine Legislature during the emergency session. This was seconded by Awa. There was no discussion, nor comments. It passed unanimously, with MaineHousing and DHHS abstaining.

A second bill would provide an additional \$3m in emergency shelter operations funding to run alongside of the ESHAP program to address emergency shelter needs. This is separate from the HOME fund.

The group requested additional information, which was not available at the time of discussion. Cullen offered to share the information via the listserv, and each person could reach out individually, or collectively on a letter together, with a goal of having this bill considered by the legislature. Awa offered to work with Cullen on this. Possible bill title/ Number: LR2900, Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access to Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine.

Statewide Homeless Council

Cullen provided an overview of the topics covered in the meeting on Oct 8th, including FUSE, Coordinated Entry, long term stayers, intensive case management, the criminal justice blue print, rental services, various housing models, and the youth demonstration project. CHS is providing Technical Assistance. The group discussed Peer Navigation around mental health and substance use.

Regional Homeless Council Updates

Region 1- ESAC topics discussed: statistics on persons that are unsheltered; the new Homeless Service Center including planning, coordination, advocacy, policy, design, etc; ESHAP and data on the success rate after assistance ends; and the transition from STEP to HCV.

Region 2- The group discussed the impact of Fair Market Rents decreasing, and the difficulty in hiring and retaining staff for homeless providers.

Region 3 – Discussed the warming center for greater Bangor Area, the Blueprint, and the NE Workers and the NOFA.

MaineHousing is exploring how they can assist warming centers. Lauren is creating a group of individuals to help discuss and address this issue, including defining a warming center and determining whether HOME funds can be used. They would like to know how they are operating throughout the state. Lauren is looking for people to participate in this group and share. *Please contact Lauren if interested.*

Long Term Stayers Update

Awa thanked Mary Wade who sends the LTS HMIS list; very helpful.

Portland- 230 housed, 94% success, less than 100 people on the list.

Bangor- discovered many people outside. Official count is in single digits

Ellsworth – 1 LTS,

Brunswick continues to have success housing families – 5 LTS

Question: how do we help or assist asylum seekers or immigrants? HUD vouchers require Head of Household (HOH) to have a green card. Sometimes GA can be used to assist that demographic.

COC Board Updates

The board discussed System Performance Measures, Coordinated Entry, Governance documents- including Governance, Bylaws and Charters. They approved the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Of note, the NOFA was completed nearly a week early and that crew was thanked and acknowledged. Awa thanked Vickey and Scott for their hard work.

Strategic Planning- Amy explained that the Board is systematically working toward all the items on their workplan. The next step will be to begin looking at System Performance Measures and data more closely going forward.

NOFA Update

Next month is NOFA debrief and Technical Assistance for applicants for. Bring your notes and ideas for November.

2020 PIT Update

Next meeting Nov 6, (1st Wed), 9-10:30am. They will begin recruiting volunteers, specifically in rural parts of the state, but all over the state will be needed.

Note: for rural encampments, its best to bring persons who have worked in that community in the past.

Committee Updates

Resource Committee- There will be a new training on Fair Housing at MaineHousing. This would be held during the Region 2 Homeless Council regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 8. They have worked to provide this training virtually, and it will also be recorded. They will likely use GOTO.

Data Committee – They are working on a user survey, which is supposed to be done annually. Next meeting is Monday 21st. The survey will come to MCOC for approval.

Next Agenda Topics

Big Thinking Topic: NOFA debrief → November

Any other business

No additional business.

Next Meeting: **November 21, 2019 1pm to 3pm**

Policy/Advocacy Update – 11/4/2019

Federal Legislation Update:

FY20 Budget & Appropriations – No new update– On 9/27 the President signed a short-term CR to fund the government through November 21.

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae – Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and Ginnie Mae are all down on receipts, which will affect available funding for HUD unless Congress authorizes additional funding. Just to keep housing where it is currently, there is a \$7-8 billion gap which will need to be addressed in addition to raising the caps.

➔ **Senate Appropriations FY 20 THUD Bill – Update** – On 10/31, the Senate voted 84-9 to approve a spending bill for HUD programs for FY 20. The bill provides HUD programs with more than \$11.9 billion above the president's FY20 request and \$2.3 billion above FY19 enacted levels – an amount likely sufficient to renew all existing rental assistance contracts and to provide level funding or modest increases to most other programs. The bill also includes a package of amendments with bipartisan support, including several that support affordable housing in rural areas. An amendment offered by Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) would allow USDA to extend rental assistance agreements for projects financed by existing Section 514 or 515 loans for up to 20 years, ensuring residents in these properties can remain affordably housed for a longer period of time. The Senate and House will now have to conference their T-HUD bills, as there are differences between them. Detailed information on spending levels included in the Senate T-HUD bill can be found in the attached budget chart from NLIHC.

House Appropriations FY 20 THUD Bill – No new update – The House approved its FY20 THUD funding bill. In total, the legislation provides \$137.1 billion in budgetary resources, an increase of \$6 billion above the 2019 enacted level and \$17.3 billion above the President's budget request.

House Appropriations Labor, HHS, & Education Allocation Would Increase RHYA Funding – No new update – On 6/19 the House passed its H.R.2740, 'Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020' which would fund HHS for FY 20, among other agencies. With this bill RHYA would be funded at \$147 million in FY 2020--- a 15% increase from FY 2019. This would also fund the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (EHCY) at \$100 million---a 7% increase from FY 2019.

SNAP Proposed Rule – Update – The Trump Administration is expected to reopen the public comment period on a proposed rule to end broad-based categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) after new analysis from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), SNAP's administering agency, suggested almost one million children could lose access to free school meals if the rule were implemented. It is anticipated the rule will be re-opened for 14 days. The rule received more than 127,000 comments during the 60-day comment period. Original analysis of the rule's impact indicated that, if implemented, as many as 3 million low-income people would be kicked off the program, and 500,000 children would no longer qualify for free school meals. According to the new analysis, as many as 982,000 children could be impacted by the rule change, with 497,000 children shifting from free to reduced-price meals and 40,000 children losing eligibility for the program altogether.

HUD Proposed Rule amending implementing of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended (Section 214) – No new update – The proposed rule, published on 5/10 in the Federal Registrar, would bar U.S. citizens and eligible immigrants from receiving federal housing assistance if they share a home with an immigrant family member who's ineligible due their immigration status. The proposed rule would also specify that individuals who are not in eligible immigration status may not serve as the leaseholder, even as part of a mixed family whose assistance is prorated based on the percentage of members with eligible status. The current rule allows for mixed-status families; under this new rule, every single member of a household must be of "eligible immigration status." HUD acknowledged that this rule could displace more than 55,000 children, all of whom are legal U.S. residents or citizens. Approximately 25,000 households, representing about 108,000 people, now living in subsidized housing have at least one ineligible member, according to the HUD analysis. Per Diane Yentel with NLIHC: "Tens of thousands of deeply poor kids, mostly U.S. citizens, could be evicted and made homeless because of this rule, and – by HUD's own admission – there would be no benefit to families on the waiting list." There is a 60-day comment period closed on 7/9/19. To view the proposed rule go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/10/2019-09566/housing-and-community-development-act-of-1980-verification-of-eligible-status>

HUD Proposed Rule Re. Fair Housing Disparate Impact – No new update – On 8/16 HUD released a proposed rule that would make changes to fair housing rules, specifically regarding its interpretation of the Fair Housing Act's disparate impact standard. Per the NLIHC this change would "dismantle an important enforcement tool for combatting discrimination, further restricting access to housing for people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, LGBTQ people, victims of domestic violence and others." Comments were due by 10/18 and can be submitted here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/19/2019-17542/huds-implementation-of-the-fair-housing-acts-disparate-impact-standard>

President Trump's Poverty Policy Proposal – No new update – Per CBPP: The Trump Administration yesterday [floated a proposal](#) to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. This policy would over time cut or take away food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to. If the [poverty line is altered](#) in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages.

HR 4300: Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act – No new update – On 9/12 Rep. Madeline Dean (D-PA) reintroduced an improved version of the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act to expand the availability of FUP vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. This House Financial Services Committee unanimously ordered the bill to be reported on 9/20.

HR 4302: Homeless Assistance Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Sherman (D-CA). This bill would authorize public housing agencies to share certain data regarding homeless individuals and families for the provision of housing and services, and for other purposes. This House Financial Services Committee unanimously ordered the bill to be reported on 9/20.

 **S 2613: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – New** – Introduced by Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). The bill would establish federal grant programs to address the unmet needs of people experiencing homelessness and would authorize increased funding for existing programs including the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), project-based rental assistance (PBRA), and project-based vouchers (PBVs).

HR 3620: Strategy and investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2019 – No new update – Introduced by Rep. Lacy Clay. This bill was passed by voice vote in the House on 9/10. This bill would permanently authorize the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization program, expand the use of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) vouchers, and create an advisory committee to help the agency develop a comprehensive strategy to maintain the agency's rental housing portfolio, which provides more than 415,000 affordable homes to low-income people living in rural areas. The bill has been received by the Senate and assigned to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

Housing Finance Reform Testimony Before Senate Banking Committee – No new update – On 9/10, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, HUD Secretary Ben Carson, and Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Mark Calabria testified before the Senate Banking Committee about the White House's plan for housing finance reform. They emphasized the need for administrative reforms to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, while citing their preference for Congress to enact comprehensive changes. Under the White House proposal, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would no longer be required to uphold a "duty to serve" rural communities.

HR 1856: Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 – No new update– Reintroduced by House Financial Services Committee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA). This bill would provide a path to end homelessness in the United States, and for other purposes. This bill passed the House Financial Service Committee on 3/28. This legislation is a comprehensive plan to ensure the lowest-income people have safe, decent, and affordable homes. The bill invests \$13.27 billion over five years to address the shortage of affordable housing and combat homelessness by providing 410,000 new affordable homes for the lowest-income households. The bill earmarks \$1 billion annually to the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and \$50 million each year for rental assistance to be used in conjunction with HTF-created housing. Within Congressman Waters' bill is a 75% set-aside that will help create new supportive housing throughout the country. Additionally, this bill would permanently authorize appropriations for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Act and permanently reauthorize USICH.

S 923: Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act (companion bill: HR 1978)– No new update – Sponsored by Senators Feinstein, Murkowski, and Congressmen Lieu and Stivers. This bill would bill authorize \$750 million in grants annually for the next five years for local governments. It also conditions federal funds on a grant recipient's ability to provide not only housing but also comprehensive services like mental health care, substance abuse treatment and job training.

HR 2399: Homes for Our Heroes Act – No new update – Sponsored by Rep Peters (CA-52), this bill seeks to expand HUD-VASH eligibility to Veterans who are not dishonorably discharged, but who have not received supportive housing services from Veteran's Affairs, and greater transparency about implementation.

HR 508: Trafficking Victims Housing Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Beatty. This bill would require a study and report on the housing and service needs of victims of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking.

HR 232: Landlord Accountability Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Nydia Velazquez. This bill would amend the Fair Housing Act, to prohibit discrimination based on use of section 8 vouchers, and for other purposes.

HR 715: HOMeS Act of 2019 – No new update – Sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers. To amend section 428 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide incentives to grantees under the Continuum of Care program to re-house all former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S 8: Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act – No new update – Sponsored by Sen. Marco Rubio. This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes.

 **Trump Administration Proposed SNAP Rule – No new update** – Per the Food Research & Action Center: The Trump Administration's [proposed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) rule](#) would time limit food benefits for unemployed and underemployed people who can't document sufficient weekly work hours. They would lose SNAP eligibility after three months. Comments were due 4/2/19.

HR 1724: The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019 (HEASHFY) (companion bill S 789)– No new update– This bill was introduced by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) in the Senate, and by Representatives Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Don Young (R- AK). HEASHFY amends the Higher Education Act to simplify eligibility for federal financial aid and to improve outreach, resources, and policies for homeless and foster youth. The legislation:

- Streamlines the process of applying for and receiving financial aid;
- Helps students access housing;
- Designates a higher education liaison to help students access services;
- Asks states to grant in-state tuition rates to those students who haven't had stable residency;
- Ensures that college access programs identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college; and

- Requires the U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about a student’s independence, simplify the FAFSA, and publish useable data and reports.

S 2615 Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO) – **New** – Introduced by Senator Collins along with Senators Cassidy, Cardin, and Cantwell. This bill is the Senate version of the House’s HTC-GO bill. The Senate bill would bring more value to Historic Tax Credit projects, improve access to the credit, and encourage investment in smaller rehabilitation projects. Key provisions of the bill:

- Increasing the credit from 20 to 30 percent for projects with rehabilitation expenses of less than \$2.5 million;
- Making it easier to meet the substantial rehabilitation test;
- Creating greater flexibility for nonprofit organizations to access HTC benefits; and
- Eliminating the HTC basis adjustment requirement which will bring more value to all HTC projects by increasing the basis of rehabilitated historic buildings for building owners and eliminating the so-called 50(d) rules.

State Legislation Update: Cloture occurred at the end of September. The Legislative Council met on 10/23 to consider which of the 400+ submitted bills will be considered as emergency legislation in the second Legislative Session.

Housing & Services

- **LR 3086, An Act to Create a Frequent Users Systems Engagement Collaborative** – Rep. Morales. *Introduced as an emergency bill in the second Legislative Session.* This bill would bring together the Maine State Housing Authority, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Statewide Homeless Council, the County Jail System, the Department of Corrections, and other stakeholders to wrap services and housing around the 500 highest users of various high cost services, including emergency shelters, emergency rooms, policing, jails, and prisons, so that they can be stabilized in permanent housing and supported with services in the community. The goal of this Act is to create a coalition of stakeholders to replicate the successful FUSE program in Maine. *Update: This bill was not approved by the Legislative Council to be introduced as emergency legislation. The bill sponsor has appealed this determination.*

Homelessness Related Bills

- ➔ **LR 2900, An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine** – Rep. Gattine – *Introduced as an emergency bill in the second Legislative Session.* This bill would provide an additional \$3 million in operations funding for Maine shelters (that would run alongside the ESHAP program, not as part of the program). *Update: This bill was approved by the Legislative Council to be introduced as emergency legislation.*

Color key-code: Bills highlighted in yellow have been carried over into the next Legislative Session. Bills highlighted in green have been sent to the Governor for signature but have not become public law (“held by the Governor”). Bills that became public law, previously reported in these updates, have been removed but are available upon request.

Affordable Housing

- LD 48, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless (Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland). This bill would authorize a \$15 million bond, to go to referendum, to invest in the creation of housing for people experiencing homelessness, to be administered by MaineHousing. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**

Support Services

- LD, 775, An Act To Expand Community Support Services for Certain Adult Members of the MaineCare Program – Rep. Gramlich. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 17, Community Support Services to include access to services to persons who have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, panic disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. In practice, this would revert back to the previous Section 17 (pre-March 2016) eligibility criteria. **The bill went for the Governor’s for Signature, but is being held by the Governor. “Held by the governor” means that the governor neither signed nor vetoed the bill and it did not become law without her signature after 10 days because the Legislature adjourned before 10 days were up. The bill will become law if this Legislature comes back into session unless the governor returns the bill within 3 days after their next meeting starts.**
- LD 1404, Resolve, To Provide Support Services and Funds to Prevent Homelessness – Rep. Brennan. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- LD, 763, An Act To Ensure the Availability of Community Integration Services – Rep. Rachel Talbot-Ross. This bill provides funding to increase reimbursement rates in the Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 17 for community integration services to \$24.25 per quarter-hour. This would increase the rate for Section 17 CI services. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**

Food Security and Basic Safety Net Assistance:

- LD 795, Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to Food – Rep. Craig Hickman. This constitutional resolution declares that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to acquire, produce, process, prepare, preserve and consume and to barter, trade and purchase the food of their own choosing for their own

nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature – listed as Unfinished Business in the House as of 8/26.**

Other Homelessness Related Bills:

- LD 46, An Act to Establish a Substance Use Disorder Clinic at the Cumberland County Jail – Rep. Michael Brennan. This bill would provide funding (\$250,000 in each year of the biennium) to create a substance use disorder clinic at the Cumberland County jail. On 5/28 both the House and Senate passed the bill to be engrossed as amended. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- LD 510, An Act To Authorize Funding for Transitional Housing for Women Veterans and Their Families – Rep. Bettyann Sheats. This bill would provide a one-time \$150,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 2019-20 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope to provide suitable housing for women veterans in transition and their families. **Carried over into any special or regular sessions, or both, of the 129th Legislature.**
- LD 866, An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine – Rep. Michael Brennan, & Rep. Charlotte Warren. This bill requires institutions of higher education in the State to designate an existing staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of higher education. The bill also requires institutions of higher education to give homeless youth priority for on-campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless youth housing during school breaks and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of school. The bill also expands the tuition waiver for state postsecondary educational institutions to include tuition waivers for homeless youth. **On 6/18 the bill was taken from the Special Appropriations Table and subsequently finally passed. The bill went for the Governor's for Signature, but is being held by the Governor.**
- LD 1294, Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Implement a Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues – Rep. Talbot-Ross. **The bill went for the Governor's for Signature, but is being held by the Governor.**