**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Betty LaBua (MaineHousing), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Melanie Bubar (Homeless Services of Aroostook), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Rich Romero (OHI), Ginny Dill

(Shalom House), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Katie Spencer White (MMHS), Donna Kelley (Waldo CAP), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voice), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Kat Freeman (Home Fires Consulting), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Alice Preble (DHHS), Kelly Watson (MaineHousing), Sarah Wade (DHHS), Andrew Parlin (WMHO), Bridgette Sonler (YAB), Heidi Rackliffe (ACAP), Katherine Temple (DHHS), Melanie Beaulieu (FVP), Elaine Grade (Knox County), Mary Wade (MaineHousing), Kelsey Brown (HUD), Amanda Cost (Partners for Peace), Brian Bouthot (VOA), Molly Sirois (BOL), Francine Stark (MCEDV), Rota Knott (Tedford Housing), Erin Kelly (Preble Street). Susan Randal (Homeless Advocacy for All), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland), Brianne Brasslett (CHCS), Sarah Derosier (CHCS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Nick St Louis (BAHS), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Tracy Allen (KBH), Morgan Connolly (?), Leanne Pomroy (Preble Street), Kelsea Vincent (YAB), David McCluskey (Community Care/Shaw House)

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

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 email blabua@mainehousing.org to let Betty know and she will edit accordingly.

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: August 20, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: GoToMeeting**

1. **Member Introductions:**

Norm welcomed all in attendance.

1. **Review & Approval of minutes:**

MCOC Minutes from the previous meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

***Noelle made a motion to approve July’s minutes, Kat seconded. No discussion. No objections. Passed unanimously.***

1. **Big Thinking Topics:**
* **MCEDV CoC Application Discussion:**

Scott set the stage by providing the historical context of MCEDV’s 2020 NOFA application denied renewal of funding for the position of Domestic Violence Specific CE Funds Coordinator. MCEDV did receive funding for the position in 2019. Scott explained due to its vulnerable position on the NOFA application funding was not renewed. Francine Stark conveyed to all in attendance the position has been filled by Kate Easter and asked for expertise on how to strengthen this year’s application. It was agreed the initial application was very good, the problem was with the scoring process. If there is a NOFA this year, the coalition’s application should be prioritized. If there is not a NOFA this year, Scott will ask HUD’s local field office if a new application can be submitted on its own independently. Utilizing funds from the COC Planning Grant and from the Cares Act were put forth as options to maintain the position. Kat made a motion for MSHA to set a meeting with HUD to review options for the coalition. Chris seconded. No discussion. No objections. Passed unanimously.

* **How to get GA to enter information into HMIS:**

To insure actual data, an accurate number of people being placed in hotels is crucial. General Assistance Offices and Shelters are placing people however only shelters are entering folks into HMIS. GA can not enter data due to licensing issues. Step one will be to reach out to Anthony, the Statewide Coordinator of GA, asking him what identifiable data is being made by GA Offices and what is the best way to obtain this data. This topic will be placed on next month’s agenda.

* **COVID 19 Continued Discussion:**

Josh reported PCHC’s use of the rapid testing on 120 people is working well. Opposed the long wait time swab and send tests require, rapid testing results are turned around in 20 minutes. This shortens the amount time people seeking shelter have to wait before being able to take advantage of available bed space.

1. **Legislative Updates**

Vickey provided a summary of the nine paged legislative packet.

* **Federal Legislation**

In terms of Federal Legislation the biggest item in front of us continues to be it the status of the 4th stimulus package. A draft has passed the House but continues to be debated in the Senate. Vickey alerted all present to the proposed rule change “Admission or Placements Determinations Based on Sex” (Federal Register of 7/24/20. This rule, if finalized would have a negative impact on transgender and nonbinary people seeking shelter. Chris motioned for the MCOC to submit a comment in opposition to this proposed rule change, Noelle seconded. No discussion. None opposed. Kat Freeman abstained (by email). Additionally, Vickey raised a flag to the recently enacted rule (with no opportunity to comment) “Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice” (Federal Register of 8/7/20) which repeals the Fair Housing Rule. Motion made by Josh for the COC to write Senator Collins in opposition of this rule, V. Dill seconded. No discussion. None opposed. Kat Freeman abstained (by email). Vicky will draft both motions and will pass them on to the chairs to sign.

* **State Legislation**

The 129th legislature has yet to reconvene. Both the FUSE Bill and the Bill to Increase Funding to Homeless Shelters have bipartisan support and will be voted on when legislature is called back into session.

1. **SHC**

Scott gave an overview of August’s SHC meeting. Updates were presented on these programs: -COVID-19 Rent Relief: Renters are eligible for up $1,000.00 for three months -COVID-19 Shelter Relief Grants: Funding will be available beyond the August 31, 2020 deadline. -Rapid Rehousing: COP, PCHC and KCHC will be the agencies assisting people housed in wellness centers and hotels. Dr. Lisa Letourneau ended the meeting with explanation of the different modes of COVID testing.

1. **Long Term Stayers**

**Bangor-**Numbers are high, many are staying in hotels, working with the city to form a new LTS group.

**Brunswick-**No update. **Portland-**Continues to meet as a small group focusing on highest need individuals.

1. **COC Board Update**
* **Coordinated Entry Committee**

Erin stated the committee has meet with TAC. A portion of the next CES Meeting will be dedicated to the TA process. The committee will be led with two additional chairs; Giff Jamison and Kate Easter.

There were no other Board Updates discussed.

1. **Brief Standing Committee Updates:**
* **NOFA-** Did not meet. Will meet again when NOFA’s status is formally announced.
* **Resource-** On September 11, 2020, Amelia Lyons will conduct a training on McKinney-Vento. The topics eligibility for homeless students, how to contact district liaisons and homeless student’s rights will be addressed.
* **Data Committee-**Mary Wade stated there are currently an inordinate number of agency admin level users and regular users. MCOC Board passed motion for admin level users who haven’t logged on in three months be inactivated with the need to retake training to activate. Regular users it would be six months. Mary made motion for COC to approve policy changes for inactive users. Rich seconded. None opposed. No discussion. Passed unanimously.
1. **Next Agenda:**
* GA data collection
* All invited to email Betty, Scott or chairs agenda suggestions.

**Next Meeting: October 15, 2020**

**1:00-3:00**