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 Paula know and she will edit accordingly.

**Augusta:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Donna Kelley (KBH), RJ Pinkham (Bread of Life Ministries), Phil Allen (Preble St.), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Beth Crowe (FVP)

**Tandberg/Phone:** (no video, so not sure who was at a Tandberg site and who was on the phone)

Vickey Rand (CHOM), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Steve Ellis (Frannie Peabody), Rob Parritt (Oxford Street Shelter), Betty Palmer (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Helen Rogers (Knox County Homeless Coalition), Chet Barnes (DHHS), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Christine Roberts (HUD), Tom Michaud (Millbridge), Sheena Curry (Shaw House), Gail Garrow (OHI), Ally Smith (Veterans Inc.), Janice Lara Hewey (Catholic Charities/PATH), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Heidi \_\_?\_\_\_ (CHCS), Catherine Sullivan (Hope House), Michelle Staples (York County Shelter Programs), Amanda Cost (Spruce Run), Melanie LaMore Gagnon (Safe Voices),

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: May 19, 2015 Time: 1pm to 3pm**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes** from April 21, 2016 –Motion to approve by Cullen, seconded by Steve. **Approved as submitted**.

**Big Thinking Topic: System Priorities**

The Project Committee has updated the Priorities Chart. The only significant changes were ESG related. Using “Length of Stay” will need to be discussed – it no longer lines up with one of HUD’s performance measures, but programs and MCOC may still wish to use it so it was not removed. Steve E. made a **MOTION** to accept the updated chart, it was seconded by Melody, and **PASSED** without opposition.

Cullen said that, given the current definition of Chronically Homeless, Maine could potentially solve homelessness for those who meet the criteria, but Maine has chosen to target Long Term Stayers, creating our own definition, and focusing on a broader group of people that includes but is not limited to CH. He suggested that Long Term Stayers should be prioritized for Shelter Plus Care rather than letting it go unused while waiting for someone who meets the HUD CH definition to apply. Chet pointed out that HUD CH language is currently written into S+C contracts – this was proposed, voted on, and approved by MCOC to align with HUD’s CH focus. Those contracts are in place, but MCOC can propose that S+C change the language on any future contracts going forward. A **MOTION** was made that MCOC request that DHHS re-state S+C priorities to align with MCOC prioritization.

Discussion: This would still place CH first, but would allow an available S+C voucher to go to a LTS if no one meeting the CH Definition were currently on the wait list, or to the next highest priority category if no CH or LTS were on the list, etc…

-Phil said Veteran’s Services is using the VI-SPDAT and prioritizing based upon vulnerability, not just length of time homeless. They have many Vets who fall short of the CH definition, for various reasons, mostly lack of documentation, but they have high vulnerability scores and need to be prioritized. Shouldn’t MCOC be looking at vulnerability too, not just waitlists or Length of Stay? Prioritizing CH, LTS, or any group based on how long they have been homeless is a great idea, but we are seeing gaps in that methodology – people who do not meet those definitions but still desperately need help.

-Donna said that in the past her programs often had units empty for long periods waiting for a CH client to arrive – they now use vulnerability as part of their prioritization.

-Cullen clarified that Priority 1 on the Chart is LTS & CH *or* VI-SPDAT flagged as Vulnerable.

-Rob said that Portland’s LTS Initiative is starting to see folks returning to shelter who have a long – though not recent – history of homelessness. The ability to be flexible and use a combination of factors – LTS, CH, Vulnerability Score – allows them to better serve those most in need. As LTS and CH numbers continue to go down, we should shift to a greater emphasis on Vulnerability.

-Cullen disagreed – Vulnerability should not take precedent over the length of time someone has been homeless.

-Chet asked that we bring this back to the S+C question.

-Vickey suggested we can have a broader discussion on all MCOC priorities at a later time, but there is a motion on the table proposing that S+C change their prioritization.

-Ginny pointed out that there is currently no way for S+C to incorporate VI-SPDAT scores, but we can look at that as our Coordinated Assessment process develops.

-The **MOTION was RESTATED** as: MCOC asks that Shelter Plus Care be allowed to house the next highest Long Term Stayer, who otherwise meets all criteria, when no Chronically Homeless applicants are available. Motion was Seconded.

-Preble Street and Kennebec Behavior Health abstained. There were no objections. The motion **PASSED.**

Cullen then made a **MOTION** to update the MCOC Prioritization Chart to “Meet the Long Term Stayer definition of the Statewide Homeless Council” and not use the specific parameters, which are subject to change. The motion was seconded and **PASSED** without objection.

**Steering Committee:** Voted to approve MaineHousing as Collaborative Applicant for MCOC. Other items will be covered under other committee reports below.

**State and Federal Legislation: Federal:** THUD Budget is making its way through the House and Senate. At this point there appears to be increased funding for some housing programs.

**State:** Still many concerns regarding changes to Section 17. If you are having trouble getting services under Section 17 for someone who is homeless, contact Cullen or Chet. You can also look at the MaineCare Manual on line, Section 17, from the 2nd paragraph on there are definitions that may help clarify some points.

**SHC (Statewide Homeless Council):** Met on the 10th and discussed that access to BRAP has slowed; that there has been an approximate 35% decrease in the payment rates for Crisis Intervention Services; MaineHousing is continuing to look at ways to implement Housing First; Draft Point-in-Time numbers were reviewed and some corrections were made.

**Regional Homeless Council:** No updates.

**Long Term Stayers:** The First list is now down to 5 people. The Second list is down to 38. Bangor has now housed all but 3 people from their original LTS list.

**Vets@Home:** Making great progress in establishing a Coordinate Assessment model with TA from Heather Rhoda, who is reportedly very impressed with the coordination between the Veterans programs and the CoC’s here in Maine.

**CoC Board:** The Pilot program on Coordinated Assessment in Bangor is going well. During the recent visit from HUD, Portland CoC voted to begin looking at the possibility of a merger with MCOC. HUD was encouraging about this, though there are pros and cons to consider. MCOC did not have a quorum present during the HUD visit so was not able to take any formal action. This should be discussed in detail with the full group, but time wise, it is certainly not going to happen prior to this year’s NOFA.

Portland CoC has now asked MaineHousing to be their Collaborative Applicant as well. HUD said there were no regulations to prohibit one entity from serving in this role for more than one CoC. A **MOTION** was made and seconded that MCOC support MaineHousing being the Collaborative Applicant for the Portland CoC. (This is not required, it is simply to ensure that the process is transparent and that MCOC does not consider this to be a conflict of interest.) **PASSED.**

**NOFA Update:** Registration is completed. The Grant Inventory Worksheets are in process now and are due to the HUD Field Office May 26th. MCOC has asked all Grantees to confirm or correct their line item information and returnit to MaineHousing by the 25th. HUD says they will have the GIW’s returned to the CoC’s by June 27th and NOFA should be out shortly after that!

Tier 2 Awards were announced. MCOC lost 4 Tier 2 Projects (some CoC’s lost all T2’s).

**Bread of Life Ministries Request:** BOLM is requesting approval from MCOC to change their Crosby Street Transitional Housing program to Permanent Housing. This program received Continuum Development funds many years ago, but does not receive ongoing renewal funding.

A **MOTION** was made and Seconded to approve the change. **PASSED** with no objections. The Chairs will draft a letter for BOLM to present to MaineHousing and HUD to seek their approval.

**Maine Homeless Veterans Action Committee**: A **MOTION** was made and Seconded to make this group a standing MCOC committee. **PASSED** without objection. The MCOC Governance will be amended accordingly.

**PIT/HIC:** A big Thank You to Paula for all her work putting this together, making all the edits and corrections, and getting the information to HUD on time. The Maine version of the PIT Report will be posted on the MaineHousing website.

**Resource Committee:** Will be hosting a GA discussion, and an MCOC 101 training, Friday June 10th at MaineHousing, in conjunction with the Region 2 Homeless Council meeting.

**Other Business:** None.

**Next meeting:** June 16, 2016 1:00-3:00 pm.