**Augusta:** Melody Fitch (FVP), Chris Bicknell ( NB) Donna Kelley (KBH), Brandi Farrington (KBH), Mike Mooney (NB), Mary Wade (MaineHousing) and Paula Paladino (MaineHousing).

**Tandberg:**

**Bangor:** Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Gail Garrow (OHI), Tammy Denning (Spruce Run), Catherine Sullivan (PCHC), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC)

**On the Phone**: Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Mike Tilton (Veteran’s Inc.), Alley Smith (Veteran’s Inc.) Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Jon Bradley (Preble Street), Tom Michaud (Milbridge), Christine Roberts (HUD), Melissa McEntee (Rumford Group Homes, Inc.) Janice Lara Hewey (Catholic Charities), Sheena Curry (Shaw House), Sally Tardif (Shaw House), Tricia Plourde (Western Maine Outreach), Melody Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (HJP)

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: October 20, 2016 Time: 1:00pm to 3:00 pm**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

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.

**Review of Minutes** Craig Phillips made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 7, 2016 meeting and Donna Kelly seconded the motion. Motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously.

**Program Component Type Changes:** Paula and Mary reviewed the document entitled “Program Component Type Changes for HUD CoC Projects” that described the approval process and the HMIS Process.

**Big Thinking Topic:** Today’s big thinking topic is the NOFA Debrief. Neither Betty nor Steve is in attendance so the scoring process will not be discussed today. Donna reported that there was a project committee meeting on Friday and they talked about interface of projects, monitoring and scoring. The Project Committee is tasked with monitoring projects relating to project components and their APR’s (Annual Performance Reports). Unfortunately e-snaps could not complete APR’s last year, so only a few projects could enter updated APR’s.

Typically APR’s are submitted to the Monitoring Committee who reviews them and then they create a monitoring threshold form, summarizing all of the projects. Annually the monitoring forms are reviewed and revised, and they go to Steering for review and then to full MCoC for a vote. The committee is working on this now and the forms should be ready by next month’s meeting. They also hope to create a separate monitoring form for the HMIS project. The projects are then reviewed and scored and projects are notified of the results of the monitoring. There was a question about the APR extension this year granted by HUD. Paula located the HUD notice and stated she would post this on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) website so that all MCoC Projects could review it.

**Steering Committee Update:** Please see the attached minutes.

**State and Federal Legislation:** Cullen provided an update. Please see the attached summary.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** Cullen provided an update. The SHC met on October 11. Minutes of the meeting will be posted to the Maine Homeless Planning website after the November 8th meeting when they are voted upon.

**Regional Homeless Council Updates:** Brief updates were presented. This month, the Region 3 Homeless Council went to Aroostook County and members found this to be very eye opening and helpful.

**LTS (Long Term Stayer) Update:** The Portland group met this morning and they reported that there were 70 LTS with 7 on deck to get housing for one group and in another, there were 22 LTS with 4 on deck. The Portland group is making headway on LTS including people outside (literally homeless) and those clients at Milestone.

**Vets at Home TA Update:** Phil reported that the HVAC has completed the Vets@Home TA and maxed out funding and they are at a juncture where they can ask for more TA if needed. There are 3 levels of assistance that can be offered with level one consisting of call in and on-site support. Phil has been talking with Heather (HUD TA contact) and he feels they are in a good place and most of what needs to occur can be done without HUD TA. Regarding that effort, as everyone knows there will be a Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday October 25, spearheaded by Adria Horn, the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services. While this is separate from the HVAC efforts, there is some overlap and it is a parallel process. The by name list is reviewed weekly and right now, the people on the list are those who need PSH and HUD VASH, which is not available at this time.

**CoC Board Update:** The Joint Board met last week and heard a well thought out data presentation by Josh which was well received. The TA providers informed the Board that the Board is in a good place and does not need additional TA, unless they have a specific request. There was discussion about the need to re-energize the HMIS Advisory Committee so it could review the Joint Governance document, data quality plan and other documents. There was a long discussion on funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant. Much of what was discussed is on this agenda as well.

**HUD Homeless Youth Demonstration Grant:** Jon and Chris gave some background on the youth grant. HUD is interested in ending youth homelessness and recognition of most of HUD CoC’s have been built around adults and families. In recognition of this, last year, they set aside 33 million dollars nationally including 4 for rural CoC’s. Jon and Chris shared what the homeless youth provides are are looking at and what they need from the MCoC. One possibility is for the Homeless Youth Providers become a formally recognized subcommittee of the MCOC similar to the Veteran’s committee, especially if they do apply for the Rural Homeless Youth Demonstration Grant. The homeless youth providers will be meeting next week and they will determine if they want to become a formal committee and make a recommendation to the MCoC.

After much discussion about this grant including the activity up to this point, a motion was made (and restated several times) by Cullen as “The MCoC supports the notion of applying for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Grant.” Ginny seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. There was no opposition, 1 abstention (MaineHousing) and all else were in favor of the motion. Therefore the motion was approved.

There was discussion about recommendation for formation of a committee and the logistics of applying. It was noted that MaineHousing needs to be the Collaborative Applicant to submit this grant. A suggestion was proposed to discuss logistics at the Steering Committee and have the CoC give Steering Committee the ability to make votes on behalf of the full MCoC. It was noted that we don’t need a formal vote but need a vote to allow Steering to make decisions on how this would work. Vickey made the following motion “The MCoC recognizes that Homeless Youth Provider Group as a joint standing committee of the MCoC/SHC” which was seconded by Ginny. The motion passed with all in favor:

Motion passed.

**HMIS Data Quality Plan:** At the Board meeting it was discussed each CoC would nominate 4 people to serve on the HMIS Advisory Committee. the MCoC needs to have 4 members nominated for that committee: Awa, Chet, Donna, Right now: who wants to be on this: Norm wants to nominate Vickey Rand, Awa second, Katherine to nominate Josh, Ginny seconds that, Awa nominated by Melody, and Vickey seconded, Janice nominated by Vickey, Awa seconded it. It was suggested to put the names together as a slate. Donna made a motion “I nominate Awa Conteh, Vickey Rand, Josh D’Alessio, Janice Lara-Hewey to represent the MCoC on the HMIS Advisory Committee” The motion passed with all in favor.

Unsheltered PIT County Methodology: “Resource committee members presented the PIT count methodology recommendations.  Members discussed the date for the night of the count as well as the dates for the service-based portion of the count to clarify the recommended date(s) comply with HUD standards.  Members voted to approve the methodology and dates recommended by the resource committee as recommended.  \*\*Note: members also agreed if additional information becomes available that indicates date(s) do not comply with HUD standards, the date(s) will be adjusted accordingly. Janice made the following motion: “The night of the PIT Count will be Tuesday, January 27, 2017 and it will be combined with a service based count and complete coverage count” which was seconded by Chris. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Rural Supportive Housing Initiative:** Not discussed as we ran out of time. Paula will send the information to Steering for a vote needed to submit this application by November 1.

**On-Line:** Vickey Rand (Community Housing of Maine), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Paula Paladino (Maine Housing), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor ), Chet Barnes (DHHS), Donna Kelley (Kennebec Behavioral Health),

**Meeting: MCOC Steering**

**Date/Time: 10/3/16 10:00 am – 11:45 pm**

**Location: Online**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Welcome/Introductions/Attendance:**

Meeting convened and introductions were conducted. Group welcomed back Paula.

**HUD Youth Demonstration Grant:**

The group involved in planning and organization of the demonstration project were scheduled to attend the Steering call, but a meeting was arranged with Maine Housing and the Office of Children and Family Services at the same time. Maine Housing as the Collaborative Applicant would need to be involved in this plan as well as the MCOC as the grant is for rural areas of the state. Ideally, the committee would be informed before this topic is presented at the full CoC meeting this month if a decision to apply for the grant is made. The goal would be to discuss this with the group doing the work and decide how best to handle it at the full CoC meeting. A few steering members may be available to have a pre-planning meeting.

**PIT Methodology:**

The Resource Committee requested to discuss PIT methodology at the next CoC meeting. Phil and Janice would like to present ideas about the unsheltered count. Ideally, they would like to get a head start and plan for training in different communities. Last year the PIT methodology was changed to allow for a service-based count that extends two days after the PIT. Steering questioned if planning work has been done with the PCOC. It was identified that it is significantly easier for MH as the HMIS lead if CoC reporting has the same methodology. Vickey will reach out to Phil and Mike will bring this up at the Resource meeting this Friday and possibly bring it to the CoC Board. Washington County would like to be included in the PIT this year.

**HMIS Data Quality Plan:**

The Steering Committee identified some concerns regarding the proposed HMIS Data Quality Maintenance Plan. It was recommended that the plan be circulated to Steering members and a decision should not be rushed into. Steering Committee requested a presentation from HMIS at the next scheduled meeting.

**Selection Committee Big Thinking Topic:**

* Discussion regarding the Selection Committee’s tasks between NOFAs;
* Monitoring & Scoring different project types (i.e. HMIS)

**Committee Updates:**

**Policy:** The Policy Committee is meeting this Friday October 7th at 3:00 and information will go out following.

**Project:** Donna reports the Project Committee hasn’t met since submission of NOFA. A reminder is going to be sent out to schedule a meeting. The committee is nearly done developing the 2016 monitoring threshold form.

**Scoring template:** The Scoring Committee has not met.

**Selection committee:** Has not met. On the MCOC agenda for Committee roles/next steps, etc.

**Veteran committee**: Phil was not present on the call. Expect that there will be a larger discussing at full CoC meeting.

**Resource:** The committee is meeting Friday October 7th at Family Violence Project in Augusta.

**Data:** See Maine HMIS Data Quality Maintenance Plan above.

**CoC Agenda:**

Big Thinking Topic - CoC NOFA Debrief including the Selection Committee tasks

Regular standing updates

Statewide Homeless Council

HUD Youth Demonstration update

HMIS Data Quality Plan

PIT Methodology and Planning

Upcoming discussions regarding CoC merger

**Other Business:**

CoC merger discussion – This was suggested as the Big Thinking Topic at the November meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, November 17th at 10:00 am.**

**Policy/Advocacy Update – 10/3/2016**

**Federal Legislation Update:**

**FY2017 Appropriations – Continuing Resolution (CR) –**Congress passed a continuing resolution on Wednesday 9/28 to fund the government past the start of Fiscal Year 2017, through December 9th. The bill involves slight across the board cuts in order to comply with the Budget Control Act, but otherwise programs will continue to be funded at their current levels. After passing the CR, Congress plans to adjourn earlier than expected.

When Congress finally does take up appropriations, they will be working with the following numbers:

* **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (Section 8)**: The Senate has proposed $18.36 billion, plus $11 million for a voucher mobility demonstration. The House has proposed $18.31 billion. The Administration budget proposed $18.45 billion. Administrative fees are below the Administration’s request of $2.08 billion, at $1.77 billion in the Senate and $1.65 billion in the House. No new vouchers would be funded under any of these proposals.
* **VASH:** $57 million for new vouchers in the Senate (of which $7 million is for tribal VASH). The House only included the $7 million for tribal VASH.
* **FUP:** $20 million for new vouchers in the Senate, targeted at youth aging out of foster care. $0 in the House. The Senate bill also included report language containing several provisions we have been pursuing, such as widening the age range to 14-24, extending the timeline to 36 months, and directing HUD and HHS to develop guidance and training materials to improve connections between housing and child welfare agencies, and remove barriers to access.
* **McKinney-Vento**: The Senate proposed $2.33 billion, which would cover renewals and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration described below. The House increased the Homeless Assistance Grants account by $157 million over the Senate’s number, for a total $2.487 billion allocation. We think that this is in recognition of the fact that, in the recent CoC funding round, HUD majorly shifted money toward high performing projects, which Republicans had been asking for. However, key districts lost funding in the reallocation, so the House targeted $40 million in ESG formula grant funding towards “communities that lost significant capacity.” Both of these are less than the Administration’s proposed $2.664 billion, which would have included funding for an additional 25,000 units of supportive housing to end chronic homelessness.
  + **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project**: $40 million in the Senate for testing strategies to end youth homelessness, out of a total Homeless Assistance Grants allocation of $2.33 million. $0 in the House. HUD recently released the first round of YHDP grants and CSH program staff are helping their communities develop proposals.
* **USICH Reauthorization:** The US Interagency Council on Homelessness sunsets in 2017. The Senate reauthorized it; the House did not. This is a key issue that will need to be worked out in conference.
* **HOME:** Both chambers matched the President’s request of $950 million, level with last year.
* **CDBG:**The House offered level funding from last year, $3.06 billion, and the Senate offered $3.0 billion, both greater than the President’s request of $2.88 billion.
* **SAMHSA mental health for the homeless programs:**$49 million increase to SAMHSA for opioids treatment, prevention, and overdose reversal and $30 million increase for the Mental Health Block Grant. Level funding for homeless programs.

**Fall 2016 Local Member Engagement Campaign (NAEH) -** Members of Congress are now home in their states and districts for the election season, returning to session Monday, November 14. This presents an excellent opportunity for a final push to increase McKinney spending by $237 million to $2.487 billion in FY 2017!

The $2.487 billion was in the House version of the T-HUD bill and represents the largest one-year increase for McKinney in 20 years! Now is the time to follow up with the housing staffers you met with and engage Members directly through our [Fall 2016 Local Member Engagement Campaign](http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fall-2016-local-member-engagement-campaign) while they are home! Here’s what you can do:

* [Host a Member for a site visit!](http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fall-2016-local-member-engagement-campaign)Hosting a Member of Congress for a site visit of your McKinney-funded program is the most effective thing you can do while they are home to engage them in the effort to end homelessness.
  + The *most important* members to engage are Members of the [House](http://appropriations.house.gov/about/members/transportationhud.htm) and [Senate](http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/subcommittees/transportation-housing-and-urban-development-and-related-agencies) T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittees, and Congressional Leadership.

**Make Room Campaign –** Make Room is a nationwide campaign aimed at bringing attention to and ending the rental affordability crisis in America. The campaign aims to give voice to struggling renters and elevate rental housing on the agendas of our nation’s leaders.

* + The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and more than 400 organizations across the country have joined with Make Room to send 1 million messages to Congress to get housing affordability on the national agenda by Election Day.
  + Use Make Room’s first-of-its-kind online advocacy platform <https://1-million-messages.makeroomusa.org/> to tell Congress to act now!
  + Organizations can also join the Make Room campaign by signing onto a national letter to Congress and use Make Room’s advocacy toolkit to raise awareness locally.

**H.R. 4888: Ending Homelessness Act of 2016** – ***No new action/update.***Introduced on 3/23 by House Financial Services Committee Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-CA). This legislation would provide $13.27 billion in new funding over five years to several programs and initiatives that would provide significant resources to end homelessness in America. These funds are in addition to the annual funding amounts for existing HUD programs.

**S.993/H.R.1854, The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act – *No new action/update.*** Introduced by Senators Franken (D-MN) - Cornyn (R-TX) and Representatives Collins (R-GA)-Scott (D-VA). The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (CJMHA) recently passed the Senate and the House Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support. It has beneficial provisions from the prospective of ending homelessness.  In Maine we have always seen a pattern where people with mental illness are swept into jails, as well as homeless shelters.  The people would be much better served and at far less cost in permanent supportive housing. The bill includes provisions around screening people who interact with the criminal justice system for mental health conditions and connecting them with services, at all points in the justice system from intake to transition.

**H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA)** – **Enacted – Signed by the President on 7/29/16. HOPWA modernization was also included within the legislation.** The Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act, provides the first comprehensive update to the nation’s low-income housing programs in 18 years, will improve federal rental assistance programs while retaining the core characteristics that make them effective. HOTMA will help address homelessness by:

1. Allowing local housing agencies to make greater use of project-based vouchers to assist the homeless (as well as veterans, the elderly, and people with disabilities);
2. Revising the rules for inspecting units that families with tenant-based vouchers wish to rent in order to get vulnerable families into homes more quickly, while protecting them from eviction if subsidy payments to an owner are suspended because a unit has developed housing-quality violations; and
3. Strengthening voucher assistance for former foster children, a group that faces a high risk of homelessness.

**State Legislation Update:** The Legislature has adjourned Sine Die and will return in January 2017, unless an emergency session is called.