**Augusta:** Melody Fitch (FVP), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Donna Kelley (KBH), Linda Waters (City of Biddeford), Phil Allen (Preble Street), Kellie Pelletier (DHHS-OCFS), Paula Paladino (MaineHousing), Cindy Namer (MaineHousing).

**Bangor:** Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Gail Garrow (OHI).

**Portland:** Steve Ellis (Frannie Peabody Center), Mike Merrill (VOA).

**Phone:** Helen Rogers (Knox County Homeless Coalition), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Christine Roberts (HUD), Jen Weatherbee (CHCS), Ally Smith (Veterans Inc.), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Sharon Dean (Milbridge), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Kari Bradstreet (HJP), Catherine Sullivan (PCHC), Shana Curry (Shaw House).

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: November 17, 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** from October 20, 2016 –Minutes were reviewed and Phil Allen noted that he was in attendance. Minutes were approved as submitted with the addition of Phil to the attendance list. Motion to approve by Phil, seconded by Chris. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**CoC Project Ownership Transfer:** Jane Sturk presented a request for ownership transfer. On behalf of York County Shelters Programs, Inc. (YCSPI), MaineHousing’s Asset Management Department is requesting the approval of the Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care (MCOC) to transfer My Sister’s Place from Commons Housing Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of YCSPI, to YCSPI itself. Commons Housing Corporation was the sub-recipient of one of the grants under the 1996 Super-NOFA for which MaineHousing was the grantee. The purpose of the transfer is to allow Avignon Apartments, a Section 8 property also owned by Commons Housing Corporation, to become the single asset entity of that Corporation. My Sister’s Place fits more appropriately with the rest of the YCSPI supportive housing portfolio.

This requested ownership change will not result in any dislocation of the resident homeless population or change in operations or management. Phil Allen made a motion, seconded by Mike Merrill to approve the transfer of ownership of My Sister’s Place to YCSPI. **Motion passed unanimously by all voting eligible members present. The Chairs will draft and send a letter to HUD informing them of this.**

**Big Thinking Topic:** Melody announced that this topic was scheduled to be the discussion on having both CoC’s in Maine merge. Due to many MCoC members attending the Affordable Housing Conference today, the Steering Committee recommended that this be postponed until next month so that all members could participate in the discussion.

**Steering Committee Update:** Please see the November 7 Steering Committee minutes. Donna and Gail gave a presentation on the New Monitoring Forms and Process. There was a robust discussion on this and the impact the monitoring has on the CoC Scoring Process. After the discussion, Steve Ellis made a motion to approve the Scoring Template and process as designed with a second by Mike Merrill. Motion passed unanimously. It was noted that these documents are a foundation and that we can move forward with reviewing these again in early 2017 ahead of the NOFA.

**Federal and State Legislation:** Please see the November 4 update. Phil shared that he was at a national SSVF conference and he learned that all homeless services for Veterans from the VA will end in 2017 (the entire allocation) and he encouraged us to advocate for VA services to get funded at the level they are currently at or even more. Mike also shared that he works with Phil’s group and that the Grant Per Diem program is going to have changes in 2017 and that all GPD programs need to re-apply for funding and are at risk because it is a national competition.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** Donna gave an update of the November 8th Statewide Homeless Council. Participants spent time discussing what they would like to see in an ideal rental subsidy as well as brainstorming ideas on how to tackle the changing population that is staying outdoors and using spice and heroin? MaineHousing submitted a Housing Trust Fund plan to HUD but they have rejected it. It is not uncommon and many other states have had their plans rejected. MaineHousing is going to resubmit the plan and they believe the revised plan will be approved.

**Regional Homeless Council:** Region Two Homeless Council is sponsoring a training on Homeless Youth on December 9, 2016 at MaineHousing from 9:00 am-10:30. Topics include: causes of Youth Homelessness, survival strategies for youth experiencing homelessness, developmental issues, barriers to services and resources and interventions. The training is free and open to anyone and will be especially helpful for case managers and those working with homeless youth.

**Long Term Stayers Update:** There is continued progress and Portland is currently working with 3 lists. The original list of 70 is down, and there are very few people on the first two lists. The last list of 30, developed over the summer, is being worked on and they are working with people addicted to opiates and are using BRAP applications to help house people. The last list of 30 has housed 9 people already in two months. In Bangor, they do not have many LTS left. They have 6-8 at times and it fluctuates down to 3-4 and they have had good success in reducing figures.

**Vets at Home Update:** Phil and Steve provided an update. They are working aggressively on a platform for coordinated entry for veterans and need to tighten up some of the work they are doing. They meet two times per month to do case consultation for the veterans by name list.

On 10-25 there was a statewide strategic planning session and 85 people showed up. It was a success and a lot of people who normally aren’t at the table all felt part of the mission of ending veteran homelessness. HUD VASH update: They have issued 98% of the vouchers (196 total).

**Age 55+:** COP is seeing more of these folks. Rob did a report for Jon for a grant for seniors and OSS served 500 people over 50 last year and many are presenting with serious health care issues.

**CoC: Board Update:** A brief update was presented. The Board spent considerable time discussing the Rural Homeless Youth Demonstration grant and also received an update on the HMIS Governance Advisory Committee. They voted to approve the ESG Written Standards. In a previous meeting, Paula Weber attended to present information the Annual Plan, which is required to be submitted annually to HUD. This is posted on the MaineHousing website and it was open for public comment. There was also a presentation on System Performance Measures and Josh compiled and presented the data in a very interesting manner that was helpful in looking at the system as a whole.

**HMIS Governance Ad-Hoc Update:** The HMIS Advisory Committee chartered a course to be completed by February. Their next meeting is December 8 at 11:00am. They have three big documents to review and revise and their goal is to be done by February. They have requested for Amy to assist them and she will be attending meetings and taking notes.

**AHAR Update:** Paula gave an update on the AHAR which is due by December 2. This year, the deadline was moved up by two months and this is a very time intensive project that is required by HUD. The AHAR is the Annual Homeless Assessment Report and all CoC’s must report their data to HUD so that it can be presented to Congress. Paula shared that the AHAR data that must be provided includes utilization, numbers of persons served, demographic information (Age, race, ethnicity, disability, etc.), length of stay, destinations prior to and at discharge, and that all of the data is broken down by shelter, transitional and permanent housing for singles and then for families. Further the data is broken down by veteran information. She has compiled and submitted all 36 table shells and now HUD will review and provide feedback that needs to be incorporated by the December 2 deadline.

**PIT Update/Youth Pit Count Update:** The MCoC submitted an application which was accepted into the Rural Peer Network. The purpose is to develop the capacity of rural communities to provide non-time-limited supportive housing to youth age 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness and housing instability. The goal in phase one of this project is to focused on enhancing our 2017 PIT count for youth because HUD has announced that the 2017 PIT count will serve as the baseline year for measuring progress towards ending youth homeless. The Peer Network can help us learn from other communities and experts in the field on how to incorporate specific strategies that will enhance our count. Paula and Janice participated in an introductory phone call last week and there is the first of four remote learning calls this afternoon at 2:30, which Paula and Janice will be attending.

**Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting: December 15, 2016 1:00-3:00 pm**: