**PCOC Meeting Summary**

**Back Bay Room, 196 Lancaster Street**

**April 27, 2017**

**Attendance**: Rob Parritt (CoP), Jon Bradley (Preble Street), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Veronica Ross (TOA), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street), Adam Harr (CoP), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Donna Kelley (KBH), Rob Liscord (Preble Street)

**Minutes** from March 23, 2017 were reviewed and **approved** as submitted.

**New Business:**

Veterans updates: Rob L. spoke about the SSVF Community Involvement Survey. The VA requires that SSVF programs seek CoC input and the survey is the tool they use to show this is happening. The Survey was posted on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) site for providers to access and review. If you have not, please do so very soon and let Rob L. know if you have any questions or comments.

-The HVAC (Homeless Veterans Action Committee) is working to refine the new Homeless Veterans By-Name List. There are currently 22 individuals on the list, 13 of them qualifying as Chronically Homeless.

-The Veteran numbers on the DRAFT Point-in-Time reports seem rather high when compared to this. The PIT information is self-reported, and does not hold to the same standard as the VA does in terms of verification, or discharge status.

**The Merger:** There was a Consolidation Committee meeting this morning. The group discussed committee structures, functions, and organization. They will meet again on May 25, from 1 to 4, and ongoing as needed.

-There was a MOTION that all the current PCOC members join the regularly scheduled MCOC meetings scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month from 1 to 3. PASSED. Though the May 18th meeting will be extended till 4 to allow more time for merger related discussions. MCOC meetings already utilize Tandberg Teleconferencing and have a reservation at the Portland Public Library for these meetings.

-There was concern as to how PCOC projects and priorities will be factored into the MCOC processes. The Consolidation Committee will be looking at that, and will present recommendations to the full group, but the biggest way to ensure this is for current PCOC members to participate on the committees that develop the monitoring and scoring tools, and in the larger groups discussions.

-How will the Board and Steering Committees function – which one is in charge? The way the Committee envisions it at this point is that the Board will deal more with policy related things and Steering will deal more with the day to day work, especially related to the NOFA, but really it is up to the full group to determine exactly who will do what. It will evolve over time.

PIT Updates: Draft PIT numbers were reviewed. In addition to the Veterans question, above, it was pointed out that the Sub population numbers appear to be missing (ran the wrong reports on this, but the data is in the system), and that Chronic Numbers seem too low, considering the long list of people signing up for, and eligible for, the new units at Huston Commons. Again, PIT data is largely self-reported information. There was a MOTION to approve submission of the data PENDING investigation and if need be correction of the questionable areas in regard to Veterans, Chronically Homeless, and Subpopulations. PASSED.

**Jon Bradley is Retiring:** Jon has announced that he will be retiring near the end of June, and was going to suggest opening nominations for a new PCOC Co-Chair, but in light of the merger, there are likely to be changed to that structure anyway (MCOC currently has 3 chairs and PCOC has 2; the new group is not going to need 5 Chairs). Jon also serves on SHC and several other committees and someone will need to take on some of those roles and ensure that Portland is well represented.

**Huston Commons is now OPENED!** They had over 120 referrals and from these they have narrowed it down to ‘a very eclectic cohort’ for the 30 available beds. Seven have already begun moving in. Preble Street, in partnership with MaineMed, submitted a SAMHSA Grant that would provide Service in these Housing First units as well as in some scattered site units, following a Harm Reduction model for SA treatment targeting IV drug users. They anticipate the grant would eventually serve 50 people over the course of 5 years. This is also a ‘no-fail’ model, where the housing and treatments components are not directly tied to or dependent on each other.

**Maine DHHS Homeless Youth RFP:** Preble Street responded to the RFP, but apparently no agency in Region 1 was awarded the grant. In Region 2 New Beginnings received a conditional award. No one was sure if any agency in Region 2 was awarded. Preble Street and Opportunity Alliance did receive 6 month extensions of their existing programs.

**HUD Visit and Youth Forum:** Reminder that HUD Field Office Representatives will be in Maine on Friday, May 12th, for a CoC meeting to discuss Coordinated Entry, the Merger, and Collaboration with local Public Housing Authorities. They will be at the Maine State Library in Augusta from 10:00 to 12:00 and the meeting will be connected via Tandberg video teleconference to the Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor Public Libraries. There will be a DHHS sponsored Homeless Youth Forum that same day from 12:30 to 4 at the Augusta Armory.

**The CE Pilot:** Josh D’Alessio called in to talk about the Coordinated Entry Pilot program, the Region 3 roll out, and to answer any questions from Portland providers. Rob P. and Steve E. will be going to Bangor next week to see how the pilot is working.

-The CoC BoD provided the outline and recommendations for the CE process, and that has now been developed into a set of 18 questions available on-line through a Social Serve app. It is accessible by computer, or smart phone, or the information can be collected on paper and entered later (but then you don’t get the on-line referrals). The 18 questions are designed to establish some very basic information that will help with preliminary referrals: DV status, Veteran status, Housing status, and so on to determine what the most appropriate referrals would be.

Q: Is everyone just sent to the nearest shelter with an open bed? A: No. In fact, many folks who might have shown up at the shelter on their own in the past are now diverted from entering the shelter and helped to find other options.

Q: What happens when the shelters are full? A: The same thing that happens now, they need to keep looking, but now that can be done much faster, and were are able to keep better track of how many times this happens, and where people eventually end up.

Q: What about people who are not actually homeless? A: It used to be people would call the shelter and ask “Do you have a bed open?” and if the answer was yes, they would come in and if the answer was no they would hang up. That’s as far as it usually went. Now when people call the shelter, the conversation is very different. They are asked these other questions to see if the shelter is even appropriate, or if there are other options. It’s really Coordinated ‘Assessment’ more than ‘Entry’, since it does not always lead to entry into a shelter – and that’s a good thing.

Q: Besides the shelters who id participating? A: GA, Hospitals, police, not yet integrated with 211 but that is in the works and will really improve the availability of referral information.

Q: How much training is required? A: Not a lot – it only takes about 5 minutes to go through all the questions, it’s very straightforward, as you get more familiar with the tool it becomes more of a conversation, not just going through a list of questions.

**Other Business:** none

**Next Meeting: May18, 2017, with MCOC.**