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 Scott know and he will edit accordingly.

**Augusta:** Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Donna Kelley (KBH), Chet Barnes (DHHS), David Sovetsky ( Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), James Gagne (Prebel Street Veterans Services)

**Portland:** Rob Parritt (City of Portland), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Rebecca Hobbs (Family Crisis Services), Dave MacLean (City of Portland), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street), Adam Harr (City of Portland)

**Bangor:** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor)

**Lewiston:** Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings)

**On the Phone**: Melissa McEntee (RGH), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Janice Laura Hewey (Catholic Charities), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), David Beseda (YCSPI), MJ Boylens (Emmaus), William Higgins (HVJ), Elise Johansen (Safe Voices), Gail Garrow (OHI), Meredith Smith (CHCS)

[If I missed anyone or misspelled your name, please let me know]

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: July 20, 2017, 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from June 15 reviewed and Approved as submitted.

**Big Think Topic: Priorities.**

-We need to consider both MCOC priorities and HUD priorities. HUD priorities are important in terms of national trends, and especially in regard to NOFA Scoring, but Maine also needs to focus on other, local, issues that may not match with HUD’s. We also need to look at the similarities and differences between the old PCOC and MCOC priorities to find common ground. The Scoring tools used by each group last year were examined and were very similar in most areas. Both tools based a lot of points on Project Type (PH, TH, RRH…) and on what the funding was used for (Operations/Services/Rental Assistance), but HUD is moving away from that and focusing more on Performance – is the project helping people exit homelessness, regardless of PH, TH, Services, Operations, etc. HUD is also clarifying that ranking should be a separate process from scoring.

-There is funding available for a PH Bonus project – 6% of the final ARD amount (which we don’t have yet) but it does not appear that this would be ranked separately from renewals, so it could push other projects into Tier 2 if it ranked high. Historically, MCOC has tried to keep all renewals.

-It does not appear that MaineHousing would be providing Match funding for new bricks and mortar project development this year.

-We used to do a Gaps analysis to show what types of projects were needed and set priorities, but we have not really done that the last few years. We need to look at the whole system, including Portland now, and figure out what we need where.

- MCOC used to de-prioritize Service dollars, but all supportive housing needs to have a service component, whether that is covered by HUD funding or another source. Cutting off service dollars kills projects just as effectively as cutting off operations dollars if there is no other way to cover the costs. We need to support projects that are doing good work and meeting a need, regardless of type.

-There are two things going on here- Priorities for Funding, and Priorities for Need. Both are important, but they may or may not line up. We don’t want to focus only on the funding and end up creating a project we don’t need.

-Right now, HUD is putting a lot of focus on Homeless Youth – and we have a need for more housing options for Homeless Youth in Maine – there have been studies and forums and focus groups to back that up, locally and nationally.

-We also need to find a way to factor in geography. Many areas of our state have small populations, but the need is still there.

-We also need to create partnerships that will enhance our capacity and build networks – not every provider can provide everything their clients need in one program – we need to think as a system.

-The BOD will look at all of this and will bring recommendations back to the full group.

**Review of the NOFA:** Scott reviewed a list of highlights and changes in the NOFA this year. He is still putting together a ‘cross-walk’ to tie the NOFA Scoring outline to the actual Application.

-CoC’s can reduce funding to a project as a way of Reallocating. Chet is looking into this in regard to the Sponsor Based Shelter Plus Care Grant that was recently assigned to Milbridge Harbor. There were concerns at the time that Milbridge might not be able to use all the available funding. Reallocating a portion of it would resolves this, and the funding freed up could potentially be used to help cover costs associated with HMIS or Coordinated Entry.

-There are two questions in the CoC app about reallocation – basically are we doing it or have we done it, and if we have was it 20% or more of the ARD? PCOC did reallocate, and it might have been 20% of their ARD at the time, but certainly not 20% of our newly combined ARD.

**Steering Committee** will be meeting on the first Monday in August and setting up a schedule of ongoing meetings for the duration of the NOFA, due Sept 28th.

**MCOC Chair:** Awa has been nominated and has accepted. There were no other nominations prior to or at the meeting today. A **MOTION** was made to proceed to a Vote. 2nd and **PASSED**.

Awa was unanimously **ELECTED** to serve as the third Chair for MCOC!

**State and Federal Updates:** (see attached Policy Committee notes for more details)

**Federal:** A group of providers from Maine just returned from the NAEH Conference in Washington where they were able to meet with our Congressional Delegates (except Representative Poliquin). Senator Collins was particularly supportive of our efforts, including in her vocal opposition to the AHCA. MCOC will send Thank You Letters to Senators Collins and King.

-It is important that Maine continue to coordinate our various efforts, SHC, CoC, etc, and speak with one, united voice – it makes it much easier for our representatives in Washington to act on our behalf when we are clear and consistent.

**State:** There have been no new cuts to safety net programs, and some good news for TANF.

-LD808 would restore Section 17 Community Supports to people with a diagnosis of Bi-Polar disorder or PTSD.

-The 1115 Waiver, as written, would actually create barriers – this was not the change we were hoping for. The State will summarize the public comments they have received so far and there will be another opportunity to comments soon. Members are encouraged to participate.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** (full minutes, once approved by SHC, will be posted at [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) )

-Discussion of the concept of Opioid Health Homes (which are not actually homes)

-We believe we are at ‘Functional Zero” for Chronically Homeless in Shelters, in so far as we are now down to just 22 in the state who meet that definition and there is a BRAP Voucher available for each one of them. They still need to apply and go through the process – some may qualify for PNMIs.

-New statistics from MaineHousing show overall homelessness is down 9% since last year, there is a 21% decrease in the average length of stay in homelessness, and a 14% decrease in Veteran homelessness.

-Work continues on the Homeless Veterans By-Name list, which is proving very successful.

-Section 8 / HCV vouchers are still on hold.

-YANA (You Are Never Alone, a shelter in Saco) has voluntarily withdrawn from further ESG funding.

-There was a Press conference after the SHC meeting to talk about the new statistics, the new Maine Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness, and the Camden National Bank Hope@Home program which has so far given more than $186,000 to shelters across Maine.

**Regional HC’s:**

- Region 1 has elected Rob Parritt as a Representative to SHC.

-The Region 3 LTS Committee is connecting to a new Faith Based initiative that is providing free meals and attracting over 100 people sitting. The R3 group is sending a member to these events to talk to folks and provide information and referrals, when appropriate.

-Region 2 has elected Melanie Lamore Gagnon as a representative to SHC. They are working on their plans for Coordinated Entry roll out. They are looking at ways to use VI-SPDAT scores to better determine what sort of voucher and/or other types of assistance are most appropriate.

**Continuum Board of Directors:** Talked about setting priorities, Coordinated Entry, HMIS Documents. The NOFA was just released so there will be emergency BOD and Steering meetings next week. Project Committee needs to Monitor all projects.

**HMIS Governance Com:** Got through the Governance Documents – need to determine if the document itself will be signed, or if that should be a separate MOU/addendum.

**Resource Com: PIT planning –** Draft Methodology and Timeline documents were shared. The Resource Committee will work with the HMIS team to ensure everything lines up**. PIT will be January 23, with service based count continuing on the 24, 25, and 26th. MOTION to accept the proposed Methodology and Timeline. 2nded and PASSED.**

**We should look at how the PIT could/should integrate with Coordinated Entry.**

**All Committees** need to confirm or elect new Chairs, with a focus on getting Portland providers actively involved on all committees.

MEHVAC has asked to be added to the MCOC Agenda.

**Other Business**: None.

**Next Meeting:** August 17th, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00.