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:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), David Sovetsky ( Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Janelle Bechard ((Bread of Life), Paula Weber (MaineHousing), Cindy Namer (MaineHousing), Linda Grotton (MaineHousing)

**Portland:** Rob Parritt (City of Portland), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street), Adam Harr (City of Portland), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Veronica Ross (The Opportunity Alliance), Bill Higgins (Homeless Voices for Justice)

**Bangor:** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Chet Barnes (DHHS), Gail Garrow (OHI), James Gagne (Preble Street), Donna Kelley (Kennebec Behavioral Health)

**Lewiston:** Marybeth Paquette (RCAM), Rob Liscord (Preble Street), Alley Smith (Veterans, Inc.), Janice Laura Hewey (Catholic Charities), Melanie Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices)

**On the Phone**: Mike Tilton (EMS), Elaine Gray (Knox County Homeless Coalition), Giff Jamison (Tedford Housing), Dan Fleming (Shaw House), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide)

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

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: August 17, 2017, 1:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from July 20, 2017 reviewed and approved as submitted.

**Consolidated Plan -Overview**

Paula Weber from MaineHousing reviewed the annual updates to Maine’s Con Plan, as required by HUD, which deals with ESG, HOME and HTF. There is a 5 year Con Plan with Annual Action Plan updates that address things like CAPER, performance, Citizen Participation and CoC Participation.

At this point, Paula is collecting preliminary input prior to drafting this year’s Annual Action Plan. She is here to give MCoC an opportunity to contribute. This meeting is the last step of the first phase. The draft should be out some time in October and there will be another chance for feedback before the final version is submitted to HUD November 15th.

If anyone wants to be on the email list, contact Paula or Scott with their email address. Comments at the meeting included:

**-**STEP is great, but it’s 20% of the overall funds available to the shelters. 50% of the homeless populations are ineligible for RRH so many shelters have trouble using STEP vouchers. Are we allocating too much to STEP? Too much emphasis on using STEP may push people into a voucher that’s not the right fit for them.

- STEP is a great resource but isn’t for shelters like OSS and PCHC. Can some of that money be redirected to another type of program, or moved to ESG?

- STEPfunds are FedHome, not ESG, so it cannot be used the same way ESG funds can.

– Does the Plan recognize C.E.? (Yes) Can any of these funds be used to help with the opioid crisis? (Not sure as STEP it is not long term housing)

- Back in early 2016, a local shelter did not apply for ESG – the area lost ≈$100,000.00. Is there any way the area could recoup that loss? Funds are not geographically targeted but Paula will look into it.

- There was some talk of supporting non-shelter navigators. ESHAP currently allows for Navigators who are working with clients who are not staying at a shelter.

**-** A“Shelter without walls” concept might be a solution – it would take an agency to step up and still meet ESG Performance. Need to be careful not to duplicate PATH efforts.

**-**At the LTS meeting this morning, there was frustration regarding folks with opioid addiction cycling through programs/housing/etc. It would be good to have some sort of quasi transitional housing option, with subsidy but not strict lease requirements – maybe weekly rent?

-Maybe a Recovery model – could an agency take on the leasing rather than put it on the individual?

**MCOC NOFA SCORE APPEAL TO HUD –** We finally received a response. They said no. The way they answered the question did not address the inconsistencies, but pointed to their process as far as looking at and scoring each application on its own – not comparing them. It would be difficult to petition for any sort of reconsideration at this point.

**Review of NOFA Timeline and Process**

Project level applications due August 30th. Selection results out by September 13. Final submission to HUD September 28th.

* NOFA Committee – meeting mostly Fridays – on August 18th, part of the meeting will be looking at who we can ask for specific information – youth/vets/etc.

**Review of Scoring Tools for New and Renewal Projects**

There was discussion of the scoring tools and prioritization. We don’t have any sort of Needs/Gaps Analysis right now. Clyde, MaineHousing’s data guy, looked at utilization based on PIT. We could do monthly/quarterly reports if the CoC would like. We had a good start on this back when Kat Freeman and Heather Rhoda were doing some HUD TA with us – but nothing since.

-We need to be careful aboutusing a tool that has not been vetted and reviewed.

-We understands, just presenting the concept. Letting MCoC know that MaineHousing could do this or something similar.

**-**Data Committee used to do a Gaps Analysis like this – it’s been a while.

**-** Gaps and Needs is a requirement but we didn’t post one so we can’t use it this time.

**Governance:** Consolidation Committee has developed a new DRAFT based on MCOC and PCoC. Just need language for Youth Committee section. Will post “final” version and vote next month.

**Preble Street:** Request to be the Grantee for Florence House and Logan Place (from Avesta). HUD has approved this, PCoC approved it, but HUD has not caught up as far as the GIW chart. **MOTION –** Preble Street be considered the Grantee for attendance and Monitoring purposes. **2nd and PASSED.**

Also, there are some issues with drawdowns related to the transfer of these grants so Preble Street is requesting they not be scored negatively due to Avesta/HUD draw down issues. **MOTION** to not score Preble Street on these draw downs. **2nd – discussion –**

**Scott** – Agrees in theory but how will that impact scoring? What are the mechanics?

**Chet –** Other programs have had troubles with LOCCS. Are we going to score them for things beyond their control?

**Vickey –** HUD provided a letter clarifying that this was due to the transfer, not some other issue.

**Josh** – suggests giving Preble Street the mean score on this so it’s not going to push them up or down.

**Donna –** There may be other projects impacted by LOCCS issues. Do we do the same for them?

No opposition – **MOTION PASSED.**

**MOTION –** MCoC, Across the board, eliminate the quarterly draw question for renewals.

**WITHDRAWN**

**CLARIFY THE MOTION –** If there are any issued relative to drawdowns beyond the control of the Project Applicant, they will not be penalized if they provide documentation. **2nd and PASSED.**

**State and Federal:** Senate and House on Recess.

Good time to thank Senator Collins for her stand on AHCA

Likely to get a Continuing Resolution Budget which would not be good

**State**:

- The Act to Fund Support Services for Housing First died. The Act to Restore Community Support Services under Section 17 for people with Bi-Polar and PTSD also died.

- DHHS 1115 waiver application – The Department did make some changes. There will be a 30 day comment period soon. Cullen will share info.

**-** September 8th R2HC will have a training by Maine Equal Justice.

**SHC –** Met last week:

- Maine Housing – Vouchers can be used across jurisdictional lines – Effective January 1, 2018.

- All the regular updates

- LTS now at 41 in Portland and between 4 and 6 in Bangor

- DHHS and Maine Housing have been working together with shelters focusing on LTS lists.

- MaineHousing looked at VI-SPDAT scores related to housing referrals to see if it the right tool.

- PNMI – cannot refuse to accept a eligible client.

**-** Maine Housing is now able to release approximately 40 vouchers.

- According to Cullen the RHC’s are giving lots of feedback that STEP is not always the best option.

- Message from Maine Housing: If a resource or program is not working, let us know and we will try to fix it. Always open to feedback.

- Trying to establish Vulnerability using a combination for LOT and vulnerability

- Opioid Health Homes

- School Liaisons

- DV – now the coalition has a contract with DHHS, rather than individual agencies.

- Next SHC in Portland so everyone can attend the Grand opening of Huston Commons at 10:00 a.m. SHC will follow at 11:15 at 196 Lancaster Street.

**RHC –** R3 - no meeting. R2 – no meeting. R1 – nothing to report

**LTS –** Good discussion at Portland LTS meeting this morning. Many of the remaining LTS folks have very serious issues. “Typical” housing solutions are not likely to work. There are 39 people on by name list. Bangor – fluctuating between 4 to 9 people. Now at 3 – housed one today.

Brunswick is working to develop LTS list/process for the mid-coast area. Tedford had several LTS families and has worked hard to house them all.

**Board of Directors –** met a lot last month. Got the scoring tools done!

-Consolidation Committee is finalizing Governance – NOT meeting again until October.

- Region 2 CE trainings will be sometime in October

- LAASH Annual meeting September 6th – hoping to have CE training – 3hours for this meeting – but timing-wise with NOFA, we are probably going to push this back.

**HMIS GOV AD HOC –** Tentatively completed all tasks. Docs will go to Board of Directors. If approved they will be posted. Have to have these done so they can be attached with the application.

**HMIS RFI –** HUD Procurement Policy says such contract need to be looked at be every 5 years. Maine Housing has to do one for HMIS. The RFI is a Request for information. It was sent out. Seven companies responded, one being Mediware, our current provider (they bought Bowman). All responses were reviewed for threshold, only 4 met all criteria. Cindy followed up with those four regarding pricing, operation and migration.

Aquovida - $322,000 1st year – migration, setup, operation

Foothold - $105,000 1st year – migration, setup, operation

BitFocus - $250,000 1st year – migration setup, operation

Bowman – no migration or setup

We’ve had our ups and downs with Bowman, but things have gotten better. We have an Account Rep who visits regularly. A New version is coming out next year with a new reporting system. MaineHousing recommends staying with Bowman for another year and seeing how that goes.

If the CoC does want to put out an RFP we need to figure out where the money will come from.

**-**The Advisory committee wanted this to come to the full CoC with the recommendation to wait for version 6, and if we are going to put more money into this, it should be to improve this system.

-The new Bowman/Mediware Rep has actually met with Oxford Street Shelter to work out some issues. Feel like they are more receptive and responsive.

**MOTION –**MCOC supports recommendation to stick with Bowman. **2nd – no opposition.**

**Committees:** updated list posted today.

-Need to add Youth Committee to Governance

-Need more info on Veterans Com. (ME HVAC?)

-We need to be consistent with what we name the committees. Some of these coms are referenced in other Docs/groups.

**Other Business**: None.

**Next Meeting:** September 21, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00.