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:** David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Donna Kelley (KBH), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Rob Liscord (Preble Street), Rob Parritt (City of Portland), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Cindy Namer (MaineHousing), Kasey Villeneuva (Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope), Nikki Busmanis (211 Maine, United Way), Leah Bruns (MaineHousing), Derek Morin (The Opportunity Alliance/211), Joe Everett (The Opportunity Alliance), Wendi Dubois (The Opportunity Alliance), Janelle Bechard (Bread of Life Ministries), Dave McLean (City of Portland), Dan Brennan (MaineHousing), John Gallagher (MaineHousing)

**Portland**Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Michele Staples (YCSPI), Alli Lovejoy (Preble Street), Amy Grommes-Pulaski (Grommes Pulaski Consulting)

**Bangor** James Gagne (Preble Street), Donald Lynch (Families and Children Together), Keri Alley (Partners for Peace), Marcie Dean (Next Step)

**On the Phone:** Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Melanie Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Rebecca Hobbs (Family Crisis Services), Wendy Thomas (VA), Janice Laura-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Gail Garrow (OHI).

**Special Guests:** Teague Morris (Senator King’s Office), Mark Winter (Senator Collin’s Office)

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

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: December 21, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Special Announcement:** We were joined today by Teague Morris, from Senator King’s Office, and Mark Winters, from Senator Collins’ Office. Teague attended a meeting with us about one year ago when folks from the HUD Field Office came to visit us and discuss the pending merger of the Maine and Portland CoC’s. The Senators were paying attention, to the merger and to the other work we do here, and both have issued official statements of recognition that were entered into the Congressional Record.

Teague and Mark each read the statements from their respective offices, and both spoke eloquently of the work being done in Maine. [Copies of the statements have been posted on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) site and can also be viewed on the Congress.gov website: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2017/11/14/senate-section/article/S7211-1> ]

Cullen thanked them both and added that we in Maine are very fortunate to have two Senators who are so supportive of our efforts and supportive of federal efforts to end homelessness.

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from November 16, 2017 approved as submitted.

**Big Thinking Topic:** **Coordinated Entry:** Folks from The Opportunity Alliance, 211 Maine, and MaineHousing were here to help address some of the questions and concerns that have come up at recent meetings regarding the shift away from using Social Serve (with uploads to HMIS) to using 211, with direct HMIS data entry. Joe Everett explained that he and Cindy, along with other staff at both of their agencies, have been working on this for some time and it has finally come to fruition.

Leah Bruns began presenting a PowerPoint, going over some of the basic concepts of Coordinated Entry and how those have been incorporated into this model. Getting people from homelessness into housing is not easy. We have vouchers going unused, units that are empty, yet there are waitlists everywhere and our shelters are full. We need a better way to get people quickly into the housing they need, and Coordinated Entry will help. Leah’s presentation was cut short due to the many questions being put forth by those present.

The Board had wanted an actual ‘walk-through’ demonstration, showing how different people with different situations would be handled by the system – what questions would be asked, how are appropriate referrals determined, where do they end up? Joe said they would be happy to come back and do that, and that 211 is willing to modify their workflow on this in any way needed. There were also questions about where and when the VI-SPDAT questions fit in with this, and how can it be ‘consistent’ if not everyone is asked the same questions?

Cullen said that having 211 on board is great, but there are many concerns because so much new information is suddenly coming out that was not part of the discussion up until now. MaineHousing took the ball and ran with it, but now the rest of us need to catch up. James pointed out that the original plan was for the Pilot to expand from Region 3 into Regions 2 and 1 by now, but that never happened and now we are supposed to have a statewide system in place next month. We should implement what we have and continue to grow, develop, and modify the system over time. The focus should be on what works for the people who need help.

There is a meeting tomorrow to go over the CE training videos – everyone interested is welcome to attend – it may answer a lot of questions for folks. The next CoC Board meeting is January 4th. CE will be discussed there as well. Donna said that the information she was shown for the PATH Providers group was very helpful and she suggested that was the sort of information that people need to see.

**AHAR:** Has been submitted. Waiting for the inevitable follow up questions.

**State and Federal Updates:** (See Policy Committee notes for more details) Big thanks to Senator King for being consistently with us on the recent budget bill. Unfortunately, the bill that was passed will have many negative consequences for the people we serve.

MOTION: MCOC will send a letter asking our delegation to support legislation that funds housing and services. PASSED.

The State is looking at several important bills having to do with opioids, BRAP, and the 1115 Waiver.

**SHC:** Bob Pulster from USICH attended and among other things, encouraged Maine to apply for the upcoming Youth Grants.

DHHS has added 300 new Medical Treatment beds to their programs.

Continued our New Subsidy discussion.

The STEP program works for a small group of people, but not for the top Priority population identified in Maine – Long Term Stayers. MaineHousing needs to be able to provide an ‘outcomes’ report for STEP.

Vouchers alone are not enough – we need more housing.

Feedback was provided to Bob on how the National Plan could incorporate lessons learned in Maine.

**RHC’S:** Nothing new.

**LTS:** Portland’s first four lists are now down to 38 people and their fifth list is already down to 47 (from more than 80). Bangor’s list is down to 2 or 3. Rob and Steve from OSS met with Giff at Tedford Housing to discuss developing a LTS list in the MidCoast area.

**CoC Board Update:** The Board is working on Strategic Planning.

**Veterans:** The Board looked at the Veteran Committee Written Standards and recommend approval by the full CoC.

MOTION to Accept the Maine Homeless Veteran Action Committee Written Standards (these were posted on the MaineHomelessPlanning site prior to the meeting). PASSED.

Policies and Procedures will be reviewed next month.

The SSVF application is due Jan 12th and they are looking for a support letter from the CoC. MOTION that MCOC provide a letter of support for SSVF (Preble Street and Veterans, Inc. if they ask).

**Youth Demonstration RFP:** Not out yet.

**Point-in-Time Updates:** Resource Committee has posted forms, flyers and other information, Including County Level Leads so people will know who to contact if they have questions or want to be involved.

**Data Committee:** Did not meet.

**Project /Monitoring:** Had a presentation from MaineHousing in their ESG Monitoring Process. They provided feedback on additional item that could be included. It was very helpful. They also worked on the DRAFT CoC Monitoring forms, which are nearly complete.

**Other Business**: Vickey’s current term as one of the three Tri-Chairs of MCOC is up, so Nominations are now open to fill that position. Please check with anyone you wish to nominate to be sure they are willing and able to serve before you put their name forward. The term of office is three years and there is no term limit. Nominations may be sent to Scott or any of the Chairs.

**Next Meeting: January 18, 2018. Please see the next agenda for more details.**