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), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Janelle Bechard (Bread of Life), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Melody Fitch (Family Violence Project)

**Portland:** Rob Parritt (City of Portland - OSS), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Jeff Tardiff (City of Portland - FS), Bill Higgins (HVJ), Adam Harr (City of Portland), Veronica Ross (The Opportunity Alliance), Mike Merrill (VOA), Alley Smith (Veterans Inc.), Joanie Klayman (Preble Street)

**Bangor:** (location not available)

**Lewiston:** Rob Liscord (Preble St), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings)

**Presque Isle:** Steve Eyler (Homeless Services of Aroostook)

**On the Phone:** James Gagne (Preble Street), Michele Staples (YCSPI), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Melanie Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (Hope & Justice Project), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Jennifer Weatherbee (CHCS), Wendy Thomas (VA-VASH), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Mike Tilton (EMS), Rebecca Hobbs (Family Crisis Services), Jessica Wood (DHHS-OCFS), Alice Preble (DHHS-OCFA), Gail Garrow (OHI), Melissa McEntee (RGH), Mary Boylan (Emmaus), Amanda Cost (Partners for Peace), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Donald Lynch (Families and Children Together)

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

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: February 16, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from January 18, 2018 were APPROVED as submitted. However, the wrong call in number was posted on the agenda for this meeting. The new number is 866-6426.

In an effort to improve and streamline taking attendance, we are asking one person at each location to email Scott a list of the attendees there, and for everyone calling in to individually email Scott to let him know ([stibbitts@mainehousing.org](mailto:stibbitts@mainehousing.org) ).

**Big Thinking Topic:** **Coordinated Entry Implementation:** The committeeis now meeting weekly, Tuesdays from 10 to 12 in Portland with a call in option. They are working on the ‘script’ for the initial triage/assessment and lining that up with HMIS. They will next be working on Policies and Procedures, starting from the draft that Leah provided and incorporating the new work flow.

**State and Federal Updates:** (see Policy Com notes on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) for more details)

**Fed:** There is another Continuing Resolution in place until March 3rd. The President’s proposed budget includes huge cuts to support programs and a proposal to increase the tenant portions of rents from 30% to 35% in subsidized housing. This may seem small, but it would be devastating to people on limited, fixed incomes and could lead to dramatic increases in homelessness.

**State:** There are currently 5 bills we have been watching. LD 1711 and LD 1771 both attempt to address the opioid crisis. There is a bill that proposes changes to BRAP, including reducing the tenant portion of rent to 30% of income. While this may sound good for the tenant, it would be devastating to the program itself because the program will need to pay that much more, resulting in far fewer vouchers overall. Could the State re-direct any surplus from the HOME fund to address homelessness? State HOME funds are used for a number of different types of programs, and the legislature often taps into it for other things, so there is not likely to ever be any surplus. Another bill is looking at the concept of Recovery Residences, and considering the SHC’s new subsidy proposal. Mark Swann, ED of Preble Street, has shared information opposing the current proposal to restrict sales of Naloxone to anyone under 21. There is a 30 day comment period.

**SHC:** (minutes will be posted on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) once approved)

DHHS has 16 PNMI beds under development in Bangor. 10 beds are proposed for Portland and other projects are being looked at. There are over 100 people currently waiting for PNMI beds. Referrals need to have qualifying ANSA and LOCUS Assessment scores.

-Reviewing the ‘Blue Print for Ending Homelessness” that SHC presented to DHHS some time ago, while not formally recognized by the Department, they have actually made progress in some areas.

-The Governor has nominated George Gervais to be the new Director for MaineHousing. Now it goes to the legislature.

-The new Maine NHTF RFP will include a supportive housing component.

-Section 8/HCV is currently only available as vouchers turn over.

-The STEP program is reporting a 79% success rate, based on data three months after exit. Some providers pointed out that people may be returning to homelessness outside that three month timeframe. Dan Brennan said MaineHousing is open to feedback about the program, but some elements, like the 24 month maximum and the 90 day check-ins, are related to the funding.

-The Prioritization Chart was reviewed and there was discussion of how Unaccompanied Youth should be a ‘higher’ priority. They are currently category “P2”, but are on the forth row down on the list. The Chart is intended to show how limited resources should be prioritized, it is not intended to show that any one population is more or less important than another.

-Perhaps SHC can develop a model for an ‘ideal subsidy for youth’.

-SHC provided a letter of support regarding FYSB concerns with the ages served at Maine youth programs. Someone from Senator Collins’ office will be visiting New Beginnings next week to discuss this.

-VASH is at 92% utilization. DV providers will soon be switching to a new data system.

**RHC’S:** R3 – Good meeting, new programs attending. R2 – Pine Tree Legal did a Fair Housing Training, talked about STEP. R1- Also spent time talking about STEP.

**LTS:** Portland Shelter numbers have been high, largely due to the severe weather that had been occurring. The people remaining on the LTS lists are the highest needs folks who, quite understandably, take longer to engage in the housing process.  Kudos to Chet and DHHS for their work on the PNMI openings. Bangor list is at 3 – one of them has been on the list a very long time, the other two are fairly new – and all three currently have vouchers in hand. Brunswick has started their LTS list, but no numbers are available yet.

**CoC Board Update:** Discusses Strategic Planning, Roles and Responsibilities, and of course, Coordinated Entry.

**Steering Com:** Had a literally existential discussion and has recommended to the Board that Steering be dissolved, since its work is now largely redundant with work done by the Board and/or the full COC. We will still need an ad hoc committee to deal with the NOFA.

**Project /Monitoring Com:** Meeting on the 26th to discuss revamping old forms and processes or starting from scratch with something new. They have been looking at the HUD templates, and at how MaineHousing does ESG Monitoring. Changing the forms will also mean needing to change the scoring and ranking processes, as these are all connected. Still need to look at MCOC Priorities.

**Data Com:** Nothing new – meeting next week.

**Resource Com:** PIT Debrief meeting notes will be posted. PIT will be a quarterly topic so things do not get put off till the last minute. Recent Fair Housing Training was very well attended. Looking for more participation from R3 providers.

**Veterans Com:** Annual State of Veteran Homelessness in Maine meeting was held Jan 31. Lots of progress is being made. There are currently 110 veterans on the By-Name list, down from 192 originally. They have gone from housing about 13 veterans/month to housing about 20 per month.

-VOA is Requesting a letter of support to change 5 of the beds at their Huot House project from “Hospital to Home Beds” to “Service Intensive Beds” because they have found the hospital referral requirement is too restrictive and has resulted in having to turn people away. **A MOTION** was made that MCOC provide a letter in support of VOA changing 5 beds at Huot House from the “Hospital to Home” to the “Service Intensive” category. Seconded and **PASSED.**

**Youth Com:** Last month MCOC voted to apply for the recent YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program). At Steering it was mentioned that this grant could potentially become a Continuum Renewal if it involves CoC Eligible Activities, so we need to be aware of that. The grant is intended to address issues such as programs operating in silos, and youth being shoehorned into programs designed for adults. It will require a coordinated community effort, and active involvement by homeless and formerly homeless youth. We are starting from the last application (submitted in late 2016, but not awarded funding) and updating from there. The minimum ask is $1M, with 30% available upon award and the balance available later for project development. Preble Street was the Lead Agencylast time. They will not be able to take that on at this point but are still very supportive of the effort. MCOC will also need to be very involved in this, so any potential renewal issues would be planned in advance – it would not be a surprise.

-The 100 Day Challenge in Farmington is going well and is now about half way through.

**Other Business**: We are now the “Maine Statewide Continuum of Care” according to HUD, because we are the only one – there is no longer a ‘Balance of’ prefix needed to distinguish us from any other CoC jurisdictions within the same state.

-OMB has issued their usual 30 day comment period prior to approval of the CoC Registration Process. There have been no changes to the registration process itself, so this is simply a formality, but it does mean the NOFA clock is ticking.

**Next Meeting: March 15, 2018. Please see the next agenda for more details.**