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.

**Attending in Portland:** Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Christian MilNeil(GP Consulting), Amy Grommes-Pulaski (GP Consulting), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Mike Merrill (Volunteers for America), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Ali Lovejoy (Preble Street), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street).

**Attending in Augusta:** Chet Barnes (DHHS), Mary Wade (MaineHousing), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Leah Bruns (MaineHousing), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Brandi Farrington (KBH), Janice Daku (RCAM), Brittany Hardesty (BOLM), Arwen Agee (VA), Betty LaBua (MaineHousing).

**On the Phone:** Meredith Smith (CHCS), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Sarah DeRosier (CHCS), Andy Parlin (Western Maine Homeless Outreach), Tyra Parker (VOA), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Jayne Jochem (City of Lewiston), Nick St Louis (BAHS), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor).

**The following people tried to call in but were not able to connect due to technical difficulties. The Chairs have determined these agencies will receive credit for attending:**

Marcie Dean (Next Step), Joann Oliver-White (Homeless Services of Aroostook), Melody Fitch (Safe Voices), Michele Staples (York County Shelters), Susie Whittington (VA), Brendon Meattey (VA), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Mary J. Boylan (Emmaus), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Melissa McEntee (Rumford Group Homes), Don Lynch (FACT), Brenda Leavitt (OHI), Johnnie Walker (Partners for Peace), Stephanie Primm (Knox County Homeless Coalition), Ken Capron (MemoryWorks), Alice Preble (DHHS-OCSF), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Amanda Richer (Homeless Advocacy for All)

[Reminder – If you call in, please email [stibbitts@mainehousing.org](mailto:stibbitts@mainehousing.org) to let us know you were there!]

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: March 21, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**• Review & Approval of minutes**

Bill H. moved to approve the February meeting minutes; Awa (by phone) seconded. Accepted unanimously.

**• MCOC Chair Vacancy**

There is an open chair position; accepting nominations immediately through Tues. April 16th. Nominations will be announced at April meeting; if more than one, we’ll review bios and vote electronically up to May 9th at 4 pm, then approve the results at the May meeting. If we have a quorum and only one nominee, we may vote in April. Send nominations to Scott, Vickey and Awa (all).

 • **MCOC Committee Presentation – Information and Committee Charters**

New committee charters have been posted to the website with meeting materials. **The data committee and monitoring committee’s proposed charters were still in progress and need to be posted for review this month.**

The resource committee’s charter was not yet ready to present, but members discussed a big-picture outline of what the committee is thinking about.

Chris Bicknell presented the proposed Youth Committee charter.

Scott Tibbitts presented the proposed NOFA committee charter. **Janice Daku (by phone) offered to help edit NOFA applications.**

Amy presented the proposed charter for the Selection Committee and requested volunteers. Selection currently has no chair and no standing committee members. Members must be comprised of non-COC funded members. **Bill H. volunteered to serve on the committee**.

Cullen R. presented the proposed Policy Committee charter.

There was some discussion of how committee work informs board actions and whether committee work required board approval.

Leah expressed that the charters are very helpful to a relatively new member of the COC.

 • **Data Sharing Work Group Document Review**

Mary presented the proposed Agency Participation Agreement update with proposed treatment of data for youth shelters (which will be treated similarly to data from Milestone, any entry created by them is not visible to the rest of the providers).  The second change is the addition of the PATH specific fields to the Additional Fields shared by all (in Appendix A).  **Cullen moved to accept the update to the Agency Participation Agreement; Leah B seconded.**

Discussion followed - Chris B. raised serious concerns about the sensitive HIV question being part of the first point of contact; suggested that question come later once we develop a trusted relationship. This would require a customization of our software system. **Cullen withdrew the motion given the concerns raised; Chet moved to ask Chris to put his concerns into writing so that we can share it with HUD and the software vendor; Leah B. seconded. The motion passed.**

**• State/federal legislative updates**  
Cullen delivered updates from Policy Committee regarding the legislature. A proposed SNAP rule from the Trump administration would time-limit SNAP benefits for unemployed persons after 3 months. Regional Homeless Councils are drafting comments on the rule change; Cullen asked for a motion for the Maine COC to deliver its own comments. **Bill H. moved to send comments on behalf of COC; Ali L. seconded. Passed unanimously.**

Cullen reported that a bill is under consideration for a rental subsidy program within MaineHousing for persons experiencing long-term homelessness. A public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday the 27th. Cullen reviewed other various other bills under consideration to help people with substance use disorders; many of these bills are scheduled for hearings on April 1 at 1 pm.

Chet expressed some concerns around rulemaking, particularly in regard to BRAP. BRAP is currently somewhat flexible, which allows them to help more people. Additional rules may limit the ability to use it this way.

Cullen also presented a quick update from the Statewide Homelessness council:

Last meeting had strong participation from Dept. of Corrections; began development of a SHC / DOC Blueprint to address homelessness. SHC also has a new website – still under development at [www.MaineSHC.org](http://www.MaineSHC.org) . Next meeting on April 9 will be hosted at the Maine State Prison in Warren.

**• Long Term Stayers updates from Portland, Bangor Brunswick and Ellsworth.**

Portland: 336 total, 226 housed

Bangor: 11, all have subsidies lined up

Brunswick: 14 individuals

Ellsworth: 2- both with vouchers in hand

* **Veteran By-Name-List**

Erin presented data on homeless veterans: as of March 5, there were 109 homeless vets statewide; 13 of them unsheltered (cars/campers); 11 chronically homeless.

Cullen applauded Erin’s work and discussed the scale of progress that has been made - Maine once had over 700 estimated homeless veterans and roughly half were estimated to be chronically homeless.

**• FY 18 NOFA Competition Debrief**

Scott presented the scoring results of the last NOFA application. We scored 144 out of a possible 200. Not so good. We usually score above the mean – this time we were below. There were a few errors in the application that cost us some points; some fresh eyes to look at our application before it’s submitted (as Janice D. has offered to do) will help. Expect the next NOFA to be out at the beginning of May.

**• PIT, HIC, and System Performance Measures**

Scott announced that PIT and HIC are due by the end of next month. System Performance report is due May 31. LSA report has been submitted for the first time; it is the new version of AHAR. We received feedback from HUD TA and are reviewing those to fix a few errors.

**• Regional Homeless Council Updates**

Cullen presented updates from region 2 and region 3; input for statewide homeless councils. Norm Maze presented an update from Region 1.

• **MCOC NAEH Conference Scholarship Opportunity**

Remaining planning grant funding available this year could be used for COC voting members or people with lived experience of homelessness to subsidize travel/registration at the annual NAEH conference in DC. Vickey and Scott have prepared an application form and instructions; it needs to be posted to the group site. In order to keep things as simple as possible it will be a set rate, and it is not intended to cover all expenses, only to help. Conference registration opens in early April and fills quickly, so be on the lookout for the application materials soon and let people know this scholarship can help. **Chris B. moves to spend this money on scholarships; Leah B. seconds. The motion passes unanimously.**

**• Youth Committee – Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program NOFA announcement, process, and application**

Chris B. presented an overview of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and Maine’s proposed application for funding. YHDP is an opportunity to fund a coordinated community response to end youth homelessness – a 2-year grant with 1-year extension. If awarded, Agencies will have a chance to apply for funding for specific programs within the framework. TA from HUD is included. Announcements of awards are expected this summer. The application is due May 15; requires MOU with local child welfare agency.  **Norm M. moved to support the application from the collaborative applicant, Chris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Also of note: Senator Susan Collins and HUD Secretary Ben Carson will be visiting New Beginnings tomorrow.

* **MCOC Board update**

Lots of good work being done, thanks to Amy, around strategic planning and updating various documents

**• Coordinated Entry Update – Standing agenda item**

Leah B. prepared a one-page summary of the Coordinated Entry program with roles and responsibilities of providers. The document has been approved by the board and CES committee and will start being handed out to locations around the state. The hope to use this format as a regular Newsletter to keep people informed. CES is also connecting with the Maine Shelter Network (Shelter Directors Group) to get their input on CE going forward.

**• Brief Standing Committee Updates:**

Monitoring has a new chair: Mike Shaughnessy from MaineHousing.

Data committee met Tuesday, discussed data quality and improving the process.

Resource committee is focused on its new charter.

•  **Other Business**

Numerous members were unable to call in; Vickey stated that if they were unable to call in, it makes sense not to penalize them for “missing” the meeting.

**Chris B. moves to communicate the issues to the entire group and announce that failure to call in will not count as non-attendance (not seconded).**

**Scott moved, Bill seconded to post the issue on the website and ask people who tried and failed to call in to contact Scott so that they can be marked as present. The new motion passed unanimously.**

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Next Meeting:  April 18, 2019 1pm to 3pm

**Submit agenda items for the April meeting to Scott, Awa or Vickey.**