**Maine Homeless Policy Committee**

Meeting minutes 5/10/19

In attendance: Ginny Dill, Cullen Ryan, and Vickey Rand

**I. Minutes. The minutes from 4/5/19 were approved.**

**II. Items of current focus.**

**Federal and State**. The group reviewed federal and state policy issues. Please refer to the State and Federal Legislation update (see attachment).

* The group discussed that Freddie, Fannie, and Ginnie Mae are all down on receipts, which will effect available funding unless Congress authorizes additional funding. There is a $7-8 billion gap, which will need to be addressed in addition to addressing the caps.
* The group discussed the FY 20 budget process, and the need to raise the caps imposed by the Budget Control Act. If the caps are not raised there would be across the board cuts, i.e. “Sequestration.”
* The group discussed President Trump’s Poverty Policy Proposal, which per the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CPBB): “The Trump Administration yesterday [floated a proposal](https://cbpp.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fcb519d4a06d032e8e2bbf63f&id=e90f4667fd&e=b7692ad2d9) to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. This policy would over time cut or take away food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to. If the [poverty line is altered](https://cbpp.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fcb519d4a06d032e8e2bbf63f&id=7fa23eed48&e=b7692ad2d9) in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages.”
* The group discussed HUD Proposed Rule amending implementing of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended (Section 214), which was posted in the Federal Registrar today, 5/10. The proposed rule would bar U.S. citizens and eligible immigrants from receiving federal housing assistance if they share a home with an immigrant family member who’s ineligible due their immigration status. The proposed rule would also specify that individuals who are not in eligible immigration status may not serve as the leaseholder, even as part of a mixed family whose assistance is prorated based on the percentage of members with eligible status. The current rule allows for mixed-status families; under this new rule, every single member of a household must be of “eligible immigration status.” HUD acknowledged that this rule could displace more than 55,000 children, all of whom are legal U.S. residents or citizens. Approximately 25,000 households, representing about 108,000 people, now living in subsidized housing have at least one ineligible member, according to the HUD analysis. Per Diane Yentel with NLIHC: “Tens of thousands of deeply poor kids, mostly U.S. citizens, could be evicted and made homeless because of this rule, and – by HUD’s own admission – there would be no benefit to families on the waiting list.” There is a 60-day comment period, which closes on 7/9/19. To view the proposed rule and submit comments go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/10/2019-09566/housing-and-community-development-act-of-1980-verification-of-eligible-status>
  + ACTION ITEM: There was a motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously, to submit comments in strong opposition to this rule, and send a letter to Maine’s Delegation urging them to intervene and strongly oppose this proposed rule.
* The group reviewed the Maine Homeless Policy Committee 2019 Legislative Agenda.
* There was discussion regarding bills of note making their way through Committees in the Legislature. Please see the State and Federal Legislation update for more information.

**III. Meeting Dates**. The group meets the Friday prior to the Statewide Homeless Council, which is typically the first Friday of the month, but sometimes is the second Friday, at 3pm. **The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2019 at 3pm. Call-in number: 1-585-632-5063 Access Pin: 83009**