***SHC Membership:***

*MaineHousing*

*Maine Department of Health & Human Services:*

* *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS)*
* *Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS)*

*Maine Department of Corrections (DOC)*

*Maine Bureau of Veterans Services*

*Region I Reps:*

* *Cheryl Harkins*
* *Donna Yellen*
* *Vacant*

*Region II Reps:*

* *Cullen Ryan, Acting Chair*
* *Donna Kelley*
* *Elise Johansen*

*Region III Reps:*

* *Josh D’Alessio*
* *David McClusky*
* *Tracey Hair*

*Statewide Homeless Council*

*c/o MaineHousing*

*353 Water Street*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

**August 13, 2019**

**9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Location: MaineHousing , Augusta, Maine**

**SHC meets regularly the second Tuesday of each month**

**Members:** Stephanie Primm (KCHC),Cheryl Harkins (RI), Donna Yellen (RI), Cullen Ryan (RII), Donna Kelley (RII), Josh D’Alessio (RIII), David McClusky (RIII), Tracey Hair (RIII),

**Guests:** Scott Tibbitts (Maine Housing), Bruce Noddin (Maine Prisoner Re-Entry Network), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Alice Preble (DHH-OCFS), Christi Staples (CSH), Paula Weber (Mainehousing), Rick Hooks Wayman (VOA), Clyde Barr (MaineHousing), Mary Francis Bartlett (City of Augusta), Rebecca McGee (Maine Bureau of Veteran Services) , Jarad Greeley (MBVS), Joe McNally ( Milestone Recovery), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Tracy Allen (KBH), Peter Kraut (MaineCare), Melody Fitch (Safe Voices)

**Minutes:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing)

**Minutes** from July were reviewed – some minor edits were made – approved as amended.

**Brief written updates from subcommittees, working groups and RHC’s should be sent to** [**stibbitts@mainehousing.org**](mailto:stibbitts@mainehousing.org) **to be included with materials provided before each meeting.**

**Introductions and review of agenda –** a few things were moved around to accommodate folks who could not stay for the entire meeting.

**Criminal Justice Blueprint:** Cullen drafted a ‘cover letter’ to accompany the plan when we send it to the Commissioners. Some minor edits were suggested. He and others have already shared the Blueprint at various meetings where it has been well received, but this only makes it more important that we share with the Commissioners ASAP. Bruce also stressed the urgency of moving this forward – there are lots of changes at DOC, new Grants about to start, new efforts underway – it is critical that SHC get this information out there, at all levels, so we can begin building the connections and relationships outlined in the blueprint right now. We need to make sure the RHC’s have this on their next agendas and invite local corrections officials to the meeting to open a dialogue. Bruce will share with the Re-Entry Network – they can help spread the message in their areas. He also suggested that while it is important to have the Commissioners on board, often it is the Deputy or Assistant Commissioners who do the footwork and follow-up needed to keep things moving, so we should invite them too.

It was suggested that we ‘crosswalk’ this document against the DHHS Blueprint to be sure we are clear and consistent, and remove any contradictions or redundancies. All agreed this was important, but did not want to delay sending this Blueprint out. There was a MOTION that both Blueprints be sent to SHC members to review and discuss at our next meeting. PASSED. There was also a MOTION to send the CJ Blueprint to the Commissioners, their Deputies, the RHCs, and others ASAP and invite them to our next meeting. PASSED. It was asked if we also wanted to share this with the media. Not until the Commissioners have had a chance to review and discuss it, but Stephanie wants to develop a strategic, proactive, media and communications plan for SHC to handle just this sort of thing.

**Corporation for Supportive Housing:** Christi Staples provided an overview of the CSH brief on Optimizing QAPs for Supportive Housing (<https://www.csh.org/qap/>). For the past year, CSH has been looking at all the pieces –housing, services, and stakeholder groups and will utilize this data to identify barriers and opportunities. Even though Maine has rural areas which present unique challenges, Best Practice Models from Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island are being looked at. Time will be allotted for Christi on next month’s agenda.

**Brief Reports:**

**-Policy Committee-**President Trump has signed a “Budget Deal” not exactly a budget. In Maine, the current legislature seems interested in addressing issues that impact homelessness. SHC needs to take an active role in supporting changes. See Policy Updates posted with minutes from this meeting for more details.

**-Region I-** Members are interested in the MaineHousing recommended changes in the prioritization of HCVs in regard to STEP. Members would like some longitudinal data on STEP voucher utilization and on the changes to shelter funding.

**-Region II-** No report.

**-Region III-** The results of the PIW2 (2 Week Pit Count) were revealed: 81 Unsheltered Households (129 people), 48% had a working cell phone, 9% staying in car or camper, 9% in place not fit for habitation, 12 tents and 1 van on PCHC property and 58% identified as “from Bangor”. There was a 16% duplicate rate across all surveyed. Area shelters were full during the PIW2. There continues to be a need for a low barrier warming center. The City of Bangor has hired a homeless outreach person. PCHC currently has hospice workers coming into shelter to administer end of life care to clients. The question was brought forth, could this be something CES could incorporate as a way to connect with Hospice for alternative placement? Sadly, for some clients, the shelter is where they feel most comfortable.

**MCOC Report:** 2019 NOFA is underway. Rick asked if the COC prioritizes specific populations, for example youth. MCOC tries to ensure that all populations are served, but lets the applicants themselves determine what types of projects they want to develop. While it is true that there is currently only on MCOC funded projected dedicated to serving homeless youth, many other non-youth specific projects also serve youth in the 18 to 24 year old range. The ongoing Gaps and Needs Analysis should give us a better understanding of the scope and scale of youth homelessness statewide.

**LTS:** Hancock housed 1 of 2 LTS.

Portland housed 236, 100 still on list.

Bangor has 6 at PCHC. The Bangor LTS Group has been renamed CASPER.

**DHHS:** The OCFS is being restructured. The Youth RFP should be posted soon.

-SAMHS is looking at Housing and Services (Gaps and Needs). The BRAP Rulemaking Process is underway. RFP will be out soon. DHHS and MaineHousing are studying models for Recovery Residences, looking to develop more PNMI beds and services. Sheldon Wheeler will be leaving his position September 30th. Dr. Jessica Pollard will be filling the role. A thank you to Sheldon from SHC will be sent. Two ICMs have been hired, making them fully staffed. Stephanie asked Chet to join the SHC Innovations Team. Chet agreed.

**MaineHousing Report:**

**-Data Subcommittee-** Peter reported there have been 3 meetings of the IAP group so far, they are analyzing data to inform a proposal connecting and with Virginia and Michigan for best practice models.

**-Services Subcommittee-** Rich and Donna K. reported on gaps analysis-What does MaineCare cover? What does it not cover? The proposal will focus on the gaps identified.

**-Housing Inventory:** Lauren stated there will be a meetings on the 4th Fridays to discuss TA from CSH, in order to maximize current inventory and combine with services. Lots of great energy around this effort.

Cullen commented the changes in STEP are generally positive but thinks they put people who have housing in competition with people who are still homeless.

**-Consolidated Plan:** Paula W. reported the **Con Plan** had its first round of public hearings, the next hearing will be held August 29th @ 10:00. The document will be drafted in September. Then another public hearing will be held in October, with the document being completed in November for submission to HUD in December.

**-HTF RFP** will be posted today, August 13, 2019. Draft submissions are due in early October and final submissions in November. Cullen brought up the topic of Cost Caps and asked if they could be raised. He stated the cost to acquire a 4 unit building even without factoring in handicap accessibility, sprinklers etc. is already pushing against the Cap. Cullen also mentioned the amount of money not used last year shows the limits are too tight and there is now more money on the table that might go unused. While Caps on the amount of HTF money put into any given project might make sense in terms of stretching the funding or creating more projects, imposing a total cost Cap is creating a needless barrier. Even if a developer is able to secure funding from other sources to put with the HTF, the Cap on the total limits what can be done, and where. Paula commented she was in attendance for feedback on the timeline but would convey these other concerns. SHC wants to know if the time line can be extended. Paula will let MSHA know it is generally felt that 6-7 weeks is not enough time to find a location, a developer and contractors, obtain bids and identify town codes while competing with parties interested in securing properties for condos and Air B&Bs. How to best communicate reexamining Caps with MaineHousing was discussed. It was proposed to ask Lauren about the Caps at the next SHC meeting and maybe invite Mark W. and Dan B.

**New Topics:**

**Commissioner Participation-** Options for how to best invite commissioners and others to meet were discussed. Quarterly meetings as opposed to monthly meetings could more realistic due to scheduling priorities. It was also pointed out that participation by members of the Legislature would allow SHC to educate and inform them to help them better see the impact of the budget and policy decisions they are making. While it is critical to have Commissioners at meetings, at least quarterly, often, it is the Deputy Commissioners who are able to do the coordination and the footwork to make thing happen – we need to include them as well. It should not be all about getting them here just to listen to us – it should about us listening to them- finding out what they need, and figuring out how we can help them – with data, with resources, feedback loops, and system responses. Present the ideas, set priorities, and follow up at the quarterly meetings to check progress and make course corrections if needed. As a newly appointed Chair, Stephanie may have some clout to get people to the table, but we can all reach out to our legislators and encourage them to participate.

**Next meeting September 10, 2019 - MaineHousing Conference Room**