



Meeting of the Maine Continuum of Care

October 17, 2019 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting at THREE locations via GoTo Meeting

- MaineHousing, 353 Water St, Augusta
- New Beginnings, 134 College Street, Lewiston
- Shalom House, 106 Gilman Street, Portland

Please try to attend at one of the group sites listed above. For those unable to attend a designated group site in person, GoTo Meeting information for joining the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone is listed below. If you want to setup a group site at your agency let Scott know!

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/352415877>

To join via phone, call: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122) Access Code: 352-415-877

(Please use either your phone or your computer audio to connect – do not use both!)

---Agenda Items---

1) Member Introductions	All	
2) Review & Approval of minutes*	All	*Need to Vote
3) Big Thinking Topic: Unsheltered homelessness	All	
4) State and Federal Legislation	Cullen	
5) Statewide Homeless Council Update	Cullen	
6) Regional Homeless Council Updates	All	
7) Long Term Stayers Update	All	
8) CoC Board Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates & any decisions made by the BOD – <i>Standing agenda item</i> • Strategic Planning Update – <i>Standing agenda item</i> • Coordinated Entry Update – <i>Standing agenda item</i> 	All	
9) NOFA Update	All	
10) 2020 PIT – <i>Standing agenda item</i>	All	
11) Brief Standing Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief, pertinent Committee updates as applicable 	All	
12) Next Agenda – Items for next month	All	
13) Any Other Business		

Next Meeting: November 21, 2019 1pm to 3pm

Please read all materials prior to attending the meetings in order to be prepared to participate in the discussion.

Materials posted at www.mainehomelessplanning.org Contact stibbitts@mainehousing.org for more information.

Meeting: Maine CoC
Date: September 19, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Location: GoToMeeting

Maine Continuum of Care

Attending in Portland: Norm Maze (Shalom House), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Bill Higgins (HA4A), Tyler Smith (Vets Inc), Amy Grommes Pulaski (GP Consulting), Cullen Ryan (CHOM)

Attending in Augusta: Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Alice Preble (DHHS-OCFS), Janice Daku (RCAM), Melody Fitch (Safe Voices), Leah Bruns (MaineHousing), Tracy Allen (KBH), Steph Primm (Knox County), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Brittany Hardesty (Bread of Life), Melanie Beaulieu (Family Violence Project), David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter)

Attending via GoToMeeting: Joe McNally (Milestone), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Emily Flinkstrom (Fairtide), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Brenda Leavitt (OHI), Rich Romero (OHI), Kari Bradstreet (Hope And Justice), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Ali Lovejoy (Preble Street), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Joann Oliver White (HSA), Nick St. Louis (BAHS), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Sarah Derosier (CHCS), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Janis Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Johnnie Walker (Partners for Peace), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland), Linda Waters (City of Biddeford), Sean Scovil (Community Care/Shaw House), Brian Bouthot (VOANNE), Joni Boissonneault (Portland Housing Authority)

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.

Member Introductions: Norm welcomed everyone, and each person introduce themselves. A reminder for all those calling in - please email Scott Tibbitts to be sure you are included in the minutes.

Review & Approval of minutes: Minutes were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Bill Higgins. There was no additional discussion. No one opposed. Minutes were accepted as presented.

NOFA

A draft of the NOFA was posted online at Maine Homeless Planning. The NOFA Committee met weekly. Information was solicited from special populations in an effort to maximize points. The committee has been working to address areas of the NOFA that we did not get score well on last year, for example this year we were able to include MOVE-ON MOU with PHA and MaineHousing, City of Bangor and others. We have a number of other MOUs with other entities as well. Thank you to all of the folks who helped get the MOUS signed in time for submission. We also have policies around racial disparity that address issues of poverty, race and homelessness.

The NOFA Committee plans to review their own application and pre-score to help strategize how well the MCoC will do.

Janice Daku graciously agreed to be a proofreader. She provided a handful of overall comments and recommendations. She shared these with Scott directly. He shared that there is a NOFA committee meeting in Portland on Sept 20. The goal is to submit next week.

The Board does not meet again before the submittal of the NOFA; therefore, the MCoC will need to approve the submission of the NOFA application today.

Janice D. made a motion to approve the submission of the completed NOFA, as presented, with the understanding that content will not substantially change, but it will be formatted for appropriate submission. Leah seconded. No discussion, no one opposed. This passed.

2020 PIT Update

Janice Lara-Hewey explained that the Resource committee has been meeting and tracking the overall process. They plan to schedule the Point In Time planning meetings to be the first Wednesday of each month from now until January, 9-10:30. Once this is confirmed, details will be shared. Contact Janice if you are interested in being on her email list.

The group is looking for people willing to take the lead in each part of the state, county or a smaller area. The group will also be creating a list of recommendations to improve planning out outcomes. Recommendations are expected for March, after the count is completed. Norm shared that the resource committee is interested in reaching out to other entities and asked for recommendations as well.

Leah explained that if we are unable to get an accurate unsheltered count, than it could be a loss of funding going forward. When a specific population- like veterans- truly canvass an area, they find people. She urges everyone at the COC to provide the resources that will be needed to give a full picture of unsheltered homeless in Maine.

Awa offered that there is a new hire at the City of Bangor who is responsible for outreach to the unsheltered homeless in that area and Awa will connect that person with Janice.

The group discussed Bangor's Point in (2) Week Count, and how it varies from the Point in Time Count. Awa Conteh informed the meeting that City of Bangor questioned the number of people reported in the report because the 04401 zip code covers 3 other towns in the area. Awa also expressed concern that although it was stated at a recent MCoC meeting that Bangor did not want to be involved in the Point-in-Week, her research concluded that the City officials who work with the homeless were not aware of this issue. Awa reiterated the fact that City of Bangor has been committed to working with the homeless for decades, as demonstrated by its paying shelter bed nights at homeless shelters through GA, its S+C program, and hiring an Outreach Caseworker to house the unsheltered in Bangor.

The group continued to discuss potential new outreach possibilities. Bill suggested outreach to Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, or other entities to do this work. Janice asked that any suggested groups submit their contact information so they can be informed of the process and expectations.

NOFA cont.

Scott presented the Ranking summary that will be presented to HUD as part of the NOFA submission at the MCoC Project Priority Listing. He highlighted a few items:

- MaineHousing's Rapid Rehousing is listed on the Tier 1/ Tier 2 line this year.
- The DV Bonus applications are highlighted in purple. If the entire MCoC NOFA application scores high enough for MCoC to qualify for the DV bonus, these projects would be funded from that. If the MCoC does not score well enough, DV projects could be funded from our regular allocation, based on their rank, not from the DV bonus money.
- There is one Shelter Plus Care Consolidation project as that is highlighted in green. The Consolidated app is not scored or ranked – just the individual apps that will be rolled up into it.

If all are approved, the Consolidated app will assume the rank of the highest scoring component app.

- We used all of the available DV bonus funding, and nearly all of the permanent housing bonus.

Discussion

OHI expressed concern regarding how the scoring was designed. Smaller projects that serve specific populations appear to get penalized compared to projects that can serve anyone. Their project, by design, can only ever serve two specific populations and therefore cannot receive any of the other population points in that section of the scoring tool. This could cause OHI to lose funding, especially because they are now in Tier 2 as a direct result of this how this one question impacted their score.

The group discussed OHI's concern. Next year, the MCoC will review the tools earlier in the process, and gather more stakeholder buy-in, but the population based scoring section has been the same for several years and was applied consistently to all projects.

A second project also stated that they lost points in the populations section, again, because of the nature of their project, not due to poor performance or lack of need for this program. MCoC should look at specific project types that serve specific populations, and find a better way to address them. There could be some technical assistance on how other CoC handle this.

Mike from New Beginnings explained that when you work with youth, the most appropriate form of housing is often transitional housing. However, according to MCoC Scoring, you get docked for providing transitional housing. In fact, you lose points multiple times in the scoring tool, such as under housing first, just for being TH. You should not lose points in several places for exact the same issue.

This might also be an opportunity for advocacy to HUD around Housing First, and HUD's prioritization. HUD docs points if not enough projects are housing first. But they also support Youth and agree the right model is transitional housing. HUD is not always consistent.

Amy acknowledged the members of the Selection Committee and thanked them for their work. Vickey thanked Joni for serving as chair of the group. Amy explained that the representation on the committee included Housing Authorities and CDBG entitlement communities, both of whom are required by HUD to get involved in the COC, along with representatives from United Ways. These are good organizational entities from which to recruit members for Selection moving forward.

Josh made a motion to approve the ranking and project priority listing as posted, seconded by Gerald. Discussion- Huston Commons is misspelled. And City of Bangor Project name is also incorrect. No further discussion. No one opposed. No one abstained. This was approved.

Awa thanked Scott and Vickey for their hard work.

Scott explained there are a few additional documents that need to be approved, including HMIS Policies and Procedures, Data Quality Plan and Best Practices, and HMIS Governance Model. Scott gave an overview of these documents and explained that they were posted a month ago but we did not have time to discuss and vote on them at our last full meeting.

Leah commented that there is an interim HUD rule, that has been interim for 8 years, that is still pending and some of these items are detailed in that document. Most of the items are around security.

Melody made a motion to accept each of these HMIS documents, this was seconded by Chet. Discussion- these are reviewed annually. No one opposed. No one abstained. This was approved.

Upcoming MCoC Big Thinking Topic: Debrief of process, the scoring tool, the selection process, etc.

COC Board Updates

CES Update: There was some information posted on Maine Homeless Planning that summarized the progress of the committee around access and assessment. The Committee drafted Policies and Procedures and has been reviewing those. It is expected they will continue to be reviewed annually. The goal is to have as minimal an impact on projects as possible while working to implement coordinated entry.

System Performance Measures: The board has been reviewing documentation and system performance measures and focusing on analysis of one measure each month.

Next Agenda Topics

New meeting topics: Unsheltered homelessness – appears to be increasing, how can we better quantify it, how do we address it → October. “Unsheltered Homelessness” will also be a standing agenda item.

NOFA debrief → November.

Any other business

City of Portland- The Council is considering the new homeless service center and working on their policies and procedures. The City Council’s HHS Committee is exploring shelter policies that will impact Portland shelters and could potentially impact the homeless system statewide. Two items they are considering are: adding a residency requirement; and capping/removing the low barrier status for Portland shelters.

Portland’s Emergency Shelter Assessment Committee (ESAC) meetings will focus on this topic for the next 3 months and extend the meetings by one hour to discuss this issue. Adam Harr manages the distribution list. Please contact him if you would like to be added to the list. The City is reaching out to various providers to gather their feedback on these changes.

Next Meeting: **October 17, 2019 1pm to 3pm**

Motion to adjourn at 2:35.