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.

**Portland:** Vickey Rand (CHOM),The Norm (Shalom House), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Bill Higgins (HA4A), Jon Bradley, Mike Merrill (VOA), Amy Grommes Pulaski (GP Consulting),

**Augusta:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Sara Wade (SAMHS-DHHS), Chet Barnes (SAMHS-DHHS), David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Kelly Watson (MaineHousing), Laurie Murray (MaineHousing), Katie White (MMHS), Steph Primm (KCHC/SHC), Mike Shaughnessy

**Lewiston:** Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), David Lord (YAB), Rebekah Ferris (YAB), Shawn Haynes (YAB), Kris Pitts (YAB)

**Via GoToMeeting:** Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Molly Sirois (Bread of Life), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Janis Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voices), Dave McCluskey (Community Care/Shaw House), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Kelsey Brown (HUD), Joe McNally (Milestone Recovery), Jen Ouelette (York County Shelters), Craig Phillips (Tedford housing), Rich Ramero (OHI), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Joann Oliver-White (Homeless Services of Aroostook), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Johnnie Walker (Partners for Peace), Alice Preble (OCFS -DHHS), Andrew Parlin (Western Maine Homeless Outreach), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Donna Kelley (Waldo CAP), Linda Waters (City of Biddeford), Melanie Beaulieu (Family Violence Project), Tyra Parker (VOA), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street)

*[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: Dec 19, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: GoToMeeting**

**Member Introductions:** Vickey welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced 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.

***Awa Conteh made a motion to approve the minutes, this was seconded by Josh D’Alessio. There was no additional discussion. No one opposed. Minutes were accepted as presented.***

**Big Thinking Topic: Chair Nominations**

Each year one of the three chair positions is open for election. This year, the seat currently held by Awa Conteh is opening. Vickey explained that the MCOC received two nominations for persons interested in serving as MCoC Chairs. Because there are two nominations, each nomination would submit a short Bio and that would be posted on Maine Homeless Planning. Voting will occur between now and Monday January 13th. There will be one vote per eligible agency and along with the Bios, Scott will post the list of eligible voting agencies.

**SSVF Grant (not on the agenda)**

The SSVF grant application has been released. There was a request for a letter of support from Preble Street. In the past when a request such as this comes forward, the MCOC supports all applicants pursuing those funds.

***Scott made a motion that the MCOC will support any requests for support for all applicants for the SSVF grant. This was seconded. No one was opposed. This passed.***

**Federal Updates**

House and Senate reached agreement for a spending package. The House passed the package and the Senate was expected to vote soon after this meeting occurred.

The spending package is a compromise between the House and Senate versions. It looks favorable for many of the programs and projects that we have been advocating for, including some increased funding for youth etc.

There was a letter sent to Senator Collins about retaining the integrity of Housing First Programs. Senator Collins spoke out about this. The group discussed sending a letter of thanks to Senator Collins.

***Norm made a motion to send a letter of thanks to Senator Collins. Seconded by Craig. No further discussion, no one opposed. This passed.***

Note: Supreme Court will not review the law to remove persons sleeping on sidewalks. Only applies when there is no shelter availability.

**State Updates**

LR3386 – will be introduced as emergency legislation and has had support from DA and Sheriff’s offices.

A supplemental budget is expected because there still are funds and revenue. This will continue to be monitored. One item included LR2900 Act to Support Emergency Shelter program. To provide additional operational funding for shelters.

There were several pieces of legislation that passed the legislature, but have not been signed by the governor, including:

* LD775- To return Section 17 back to 2016 criteria.
* LD866- Act to support homeless youth to access college.
* LD1294- regarding the Maine Human Rights Coalition

**Statewide Homeless Council**

Steph Primm provided the SHC update, including:

* December Meeting- There has been a focus on involving law enforcement at SHC. At the last meeting we discussed FUSE.
* January Meeting – There will be a presentation by the consultants of the Gaps and Needs analysis. The CoC Board has been invited to be part of this discussion.
* February Meeting – There will be an extended meeting in February to review achievements and develop new goals. All are welcomed. Part of this is coordinating with Commissioners.
* We have submitted a grant application to the Gates Foundation for $100K to improve statewide public communication and messaging around homelessness, reducing stigma, etc. We worked with Alex Morse and are optimistic about getting funded.
* A future goal is to bring Shelter Network into SHC activities.

**Long Term Stayers Update**

Each region is working actively to reduce LTS. A few examples were shared of housing families and individuals.

**COC Board Updates**

There is no CoC Board meeting on Jan 2, instead the Board will be joining the SHC on Jan 14th to review the Gaps and Needs analysis.

At the last Board meeting, the Board reviewed their 2019 workplan and brainstormed items for the 2020 workplan. They will continue working on Coordinated Entry, Gaps and Needs recommendations, Monitoring, Scoring & Ranking, and System Performance Measures (SPM).

To better understand SPM, the board is exploring reports, created by the Ohio Balance of State, as to whether these reports can help inform and provide needed information here in Maine.

Melody Fitch, of Safe Voices, has left the CoC Board, and the DV Coalition has nominated Kathryn Easter to replace her.

***There was a motion to nominate Kathryn Easter to the CoC Board of Directors. This was seconded. No one was opposed. This passed.***

The Board is also accepting additional Board nominations. Please submit nominations to Scott or Amy before the MCOC January meeting

**CES Updates**

Rachel explained that the committee hopes to have a draft of the P&P for the Board to review at their Feb Meeting. They continue toward Implementation and Training.

**2020 PIT Update**

Outreach leads are needed. There are people who are volunteering to count in these areas, but no one who has volunteered to take the lead. The group is actively searching for additional volunteers. The group discussed upcoming meetings and possible volunteer networks.

**Maine Unsheltered Network**

Jon Bradley was introduced. Jon has been working with Atlantic Charitable Foundation, and one of their initiatives is to create an assessment of those who are unsheltered, particularly in Portland. This stemmed from outreach providers there who have indicated a growing number of persons who are not staying in shelters. The goal is to understand the numbers, the reasons, and how people are impacted by being unsheltered. They are looking for information about this population to understand this group and how it will impact planning services.

They are exploring whether to add a survey to be part of the Service Days during the Point In Time. It would only be a few additional questions around why they remain unsheltered, what are the health/mental health impacts, what is the interaction with the police services.

ESAC may be one group to administer the additional questions. The group has been working on the next draft. If the survey is completed, the results would be shared.

It was clarified that these questions would not be added during the night of the Point In Time but could be incorporated into Service Days in January. This is an elective option; it is not required. Jon has been working with university students who have expressed interest in getting involved.

Jon explained that the focus, at this time, is in the greater Portland area. If we would want to expand this beyond the Portland area, then that is a great future opportunity and up to this group to do.

Scott explained that there are question/concerns around how the data will be used. Will the results of this survey be used to ask shelters to change their operations? The MCoC would hesitate to support this if that was the case. Jon explained that this is mostly about gathering data. He has been working with the City, so they are involved. Another individual on the phone shared that this was discussed at ESAC, and there was no vote taken at ESAC. The MCOC cannot stop the Atlantic Charitable Trust from doing work in the community, however, as it pertains to the connection to the PIT, MCOC needs to consider this very carefully.

Vickey asked members of the MCOC to voice any concerns they may have about this assessment being done during the service day portion of the PIT Count. Among the comments:

* The more people involved in and connected to the PIT, the better.
* The PIT is very prescribed and limited, and this information could help better address some of the unsheltered need.
* Glad the new thinking is to stick to the service days - could create confusion if it was done the same night/day as the PIT.
* This is similar to the Youth Count that is now part of the PIT.
* Does the COC only want to do the PIT in service to HUD, or do we want to create a PIT that serves the needs of our community?
* Perhaps we can re-look at this to see how we can use the PIT to best serve our own needs. We can dedicate a full meeting to this topic.
* PIT has a lot of issues and doesn’t serve us (MCOC) well.
* The more information that is available to Maine, the better. The more people around the table, the better. It would be helpful to have this thoughtful conversation around the PIT.

While there was no direct opposition to this proposal, and recognition that it could lead the MCOC toward creating a more in-depth and thoughtful survey process moving forward, Jon stated that he was still re-working some of the language and would be happy to bring it back next month for further discussion.

**Committee Updates**

Resource Committee – Conducted a Fair Housing Training with a video connection option. There were 40 attendees, 15 at MaineHousing, the rest on-line. This was successful and we are looking to continue to offer trainings remotely moving forward.

Project Committee- Currently working to improve the process for monitoring. In agenda, there are two documents the committee has approved. 1) Monitoring Guide and 2) Monitoring application form.

***Craig made a motion to change bed occupancy rate to unit occupancy rate. This was seconded.*** There was discussion on how this may impact the youth rate. Could monitoring look at both beds and units that may affect youth projects differently. Unit inventory is fairer for families but may not necessarily be fair for youth. Can this be both? Yes. Mike tables this request and will look into the details. Craig agrees to withdraw his motion.

***Mike made a motion to approve the documents presented. Seconded by Craig. No one is opposed. This passed.***

Data Committee – The Data Committee created an HMIS User survey. This is both important and required by HUD. Participating is an important part of improving, also, Kat Freeman is reviewing the data and System Performance measures to ensure it aligns with HUD requirements.

Youth Committee– has changed their name to YDAH Planning. Conducted a Gaps and Needs Analysis. Rough draft will be submitted to HUD. MaineHousing will hire a Youth Planning Director in January.

HVAC Committee – Continue to work on ending Veteran Homelessness. 4 to 5 months we have hit the benchmarks.

Mike from New Beginnings added that a group has been meeting to discuss people with Intellectual /Developmental Disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. They will present at the SHC to help work with shelters around better serving this population.

**Any other business**

Thank you to Craig Phillips and best of luck. You will be missed. Many people express their thanks to Craig.

Have a good holiday and happy new year!

Next Meeting: **January 16, 2019 1pm to 3pm**