



MAINE STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNCIL

July 14, 2020

Minutes

9:30-12:30

Virtual Location: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/352415877>
and/or call 1(646)749-3122, Passcode 352-415-877

Members: Stephanie Primm (KCHC, SHC Chair), Tracey Hair (HOME, Inc., RIII), Donna Kelley (WCAP, RII), Cullen Ryan (CHOM, RII), Cheryl Harkins (HVJ, RI), Donna Yellen (Preble Street, RI), Ginny Dill (Shalom, RI), Josh D'Alessio (PCHC, RIII), Dan Brennan (Maine Housing)

Guests: Betty LaBua (MaineHousing), Tracy Allen (KBH), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Rich Hooks Wayman (VOA), Katie Spencer White (MMHS), Alice Preble, (DHHS/OCFS), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Melanie Buber (HSA), Denise Lord (MaineHousing), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Laurie Murray (MaineHousing), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Rota Knott (Tedford Housing), Bruce Noddin (DOC), Kathryn Temple (DHHS/SAMHS), Arwen Agee (VA), Sara Wade (SAMHS, DHHS), Teague Morris (Sen. King's Office), Chris Rector (Sen. King's Office), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voices), Jenny Stasio (Through These Doors), Tara Kosma (New Beginnings), Meredith Pesce, (Amistad), Frank D'Alessandrio (MEJ), Jamie Blackburn (CSH), Sarah Gallagher (CSH), Susan Giambalvo (Caring Unlimited), Mike Shaughnessy (Maine Housing), David McCluskey (Community Care), Anna Smith (CSH), Peter Merrill (MaineHousing), David Simpson (DOC), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland), Heidi Rackliffe (ACAP), Heidi McCarthy (City of Lewiston), Kelly Watson (MaineHousing), Susan Gagnon (DOC), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Amy Sneirson (MHRC), Amelia Lyons (Dept. of Ed), Rosie Boyce (CIPSS), Allison Gallagher (MaineHousing), Brad Sealfon, Melanie Beaulieu.

Minutes: Betty LaBua (MaineHousing) and Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing)

Approval of Minutes: Due to oversight, minutes from the council meeting held on June 9, 2020 were not brought forth for approval. June's minutes will be reviewed at the August Meeting.

Moving Ahead with CSH: Stephanie declared "*A New Day for Homelessness in Maine*" as she introduced Jamie Blackburn, CSH team leader for Maine. Jamie, in turn, announced that CSH staff members, Sarah Gallagher, Anna Smith and Sue Augustus will also be working in Maine. After reintroducing CSH as a touchtone organization for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing, Jamie and Sarah outlined the three objectives for Maine as being;

1. Identify and establish a *Regional Approach Service Delivery Model*
2. Build a housing pipeline by creating 200 affordable housing units
3. Provide ongoing support and technical assistance to ensure collective goals are met

By using the *Connecticut Coordinated Access Networks* as well as the *PCHC WISH* models as a starting point and by utilizing the SHC, a Leadership Bench and smaller working groups, a data-driven regional approach to ending homelessness will be developed through cross system collaboration. **Members of the Leadership Bench are:**

Stephanie Primm	Chair, Statewide Homeless Council and Executive Director of <i>Knox County Homeless Coalition</i> and <i>Hospitality House</i>
Lauren Bustard	Senior Director of Programs, <i>MaineHousing</i>
Laurie Murray	Director of Homeless Initiatives, <i>MaineHousing</i>
Beth Hamm	Deputy Commissioner, <i>DHHS</i>
Cullen Ryan	Executive Director, <i>Community Housing of Maine</i>
Mark Swann	Executive Director, <i>Preble Street</i>
Jessica Pollard	Director, Office of Behavioral Health, <i>DHHS</i>
Chris Bicknell	Executive Director, <i>New Beginnings</i> and YHDP Lead
Rich Hooks-Wayman	CEO, <i>Volunteers of America</i>
Arwen Agee	VA Homeless Services Coordinator
Cheryl Harkins	Homeless Voices for Justice and Lived Expertise Advocate
Noelle Coyne	Director of Shelter and Housing Services, <i>Safe Voices</i>
Josh D'Alessio	Associate Director, <i>Penobscot Community Health Care</i> and Vice-Chair of the Maine CoC
Rosanna Spearrin	Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and Lived Expertise Advocate
Susan Gagnon	Director of Adult Community Corrections
Amelia Lyons	State Director, Maine Migrant Education Program and Homeless Education State Coordinator

CSH's recommendation to use the 8 DHHS districts as a possible model to collect regional data lead to a conversation on how best to harness data. Questions on how to bring in new systems both regionally and statewide to address the diversity in needs of rural and developed areas were voiced. CSH will create a blueprint map incorporating the 3 Homeless Regions, the 8 DHHS Districts and other researched outlines as key components. Alice mentioned the importance of not solely using HMIS data when conducting research because there are NON-HMIS providers throughout the state.

The CSH team proposed the following timeline:

June-August 2020

Listening Sessions with Stakeholders, Data Gathering and establishing a Leadership Bench

August-December 2020

Working Groups are established, Deliverables are set for each group or topic and OneMod is completed and presented to the SHC.

January-May 2021

Using the results of the OneMod and working groups, a plan is drafted. Feedback period for the Leadership Bench.

June 2021

Final System Re-design will be presented to the SHC and stakeholders.

Maine Human Rights Commission: Amy Sneirson outlined the hard work regarding the efforts of the Maine's Human Rights Commission to document discrimination faced by people experiencing homelessness. On March 19, 2020, Maine's Governor signed into law a bill (Legislative Document 1294) directing the Commission to conduct a two-year program recording and reporting on how often people in Maine are discriminated against because of homelessness. This project will let the Commission educate Maine's Legislature on how often discrimination based on homelessness is happening and how best to address these unfair practices. Amy garnered SHC membership support with a request to help distribute the MHRC homeless pilot project brochure and homeless information card. Amy accepted the invitation to attend the weekly Shelter Leadership Meetings. The SHC will assist by posting the two documents on the Maine Homeless Planning website, sharing them with case managers and distributing them to agencies.

Updates:

Federal Legislative: At this point in time, Congress is still negotiating the fourth stimulus package. Federal unemployment is scheduled to be terminated at the end of July.

State Legislative: The Second Regular Session of the Maine State legislature adjourned *sine die* on March 1, 2020. When the Legislature reconvenes LD 2056 (FUSE) and LD 1909 (Emergency Shelter Funding), will be voted on.

Region I: Homeless Voices for Justice spoke at South Portland's City Council meeting. Cheryl reported the council members were very responsive to the sanitation and housing needs of people experiencing homelessness. Hunger in hotels is a big problem. This issue will be discussed at the Shelter Leadership meeting on Thursday. All are invited to attend these Thursday meetings. Betty will send invites to SHC mailing list.

Region II: Rent payment standards continues to be an ongoing major concern. Ironically, the lack of evictions reduces the number of available units which exasperates the already low amount of affordable housing.

Region III: Region III did not meet, however, Josh reported concerns over what was going to transpire when the wellness centers close and the second COVID wave arrives. Lauren asked for the topic of where and how much hotel space will be needed when the anticipated second wave arrives be addressed at the Shelter Leadership meeting on Thursday.

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 9:30-10:30**

Maine Statewide Homeless Council | c/o MaineHousing | 26 Edison Drive | Augusta, ME 04333

Developing policies and strategies so that everyone is pushing in the same direction to end and prevent homelessness in Maine.