



## MAINE STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNCIL

November 10, 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), Donna Kelley (WCAP, RII), Cullen Ryan (CHOM, RII), Cheryl Harkins (HVJ, RI), Ginny Dill (Shalom, RI), Josh D'Alessio (PCHC, RIII), David McCluskey (Shaw House, RIII) and Tracey Hair (HOME, Inc., RIII), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Alice Preble, (DHHS/OCFS)

**Guests:** Betty LaBua (MaineHousing), Tracy Allen (KBH), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), , Melanie Buber (HSA), Laurie Murray (MaineHousing), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Denise Lord (Maine Housing), Rota Knott (Tedford), Amelia Lyons (Dept. of Ed), Kelsey Brown (HUD), Jamie Blackburn (CSH), Kelly Watson (MaineHousing), Jenny Stasio, (TTD), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Rich Hook Wyman (VOA), Anna Smith (CSH), Sarah Gallagher (CSH), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Aaron Geyer (COP), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Cara Courchesne (MaineHousing), Sara Wade (SAMHS, DHHS), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voices), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Beth Hamm (DHHS), Anna Brewer (HVJ), Christina Dingu (MaineHousing), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Riley McNeil (HVJ), Mark Swann (Preble Street), Marta Velez, Joan Bautista, Shawn Yardley (Community Concepts), Sarah Day-Chess (The Home Base Project), Joe McNally (Milestone), Katie Spencer-White (MMHS), Megan Gean-Gendron (YCSPI), Mike Shaughnessy (MaineHousing), Patty Hamilton, Rebekah Paredes (New Hope for Women) Megan Connolly and Melissa McEntee (RGH), Meredith Pesce (Amistad), Steven McDermott (MaineHousing).

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

**Service HUB Status and Vote:** Stephanie welcomed all in attendance to weigh in with questions and opinions regarding 8 Service Hubs defining the Maine Homeless System Redesign. Stephanie reminded everyone to view this structure as an adjustable “starting point.” A lengthy conversation with the following list of comments and questions surfaced:

- How much work is involved in the restructuring?
- Additional qualitative and quantitative data is needed for understanding of the proposal.
- Headed in the right direction there is not enough information for a formal vote.
- Redesign will not dismantle the three SHC regions.
- Need to have a system that makes homelessness rare, brief and not reoccurring.
- Can't support or oppose without knowing how the HUBS will be funded.
- How will the HUBS collaborate?
- 8 is a good start, 3 is not enough for local autonomy.
- COVID has shown us that the current system is frayed and not working.

- There are missing pieces to the process - almost there but the decision should not be rushed.
- Should there be a separate meeting to decide the number of HUBs?

A mutual decision was made for the topic to be discussed at the Thursday Shelter Group meeting. The number of HUBs will be revisited and voted upon at the next council meeting.

### **Council Updates**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Cullen motioned for council to accept October's minutes. Cheryl seconded. October's minutes were approved.
- **Regional Updates:**
  - **Region I:** The high number of people who are unsheltered in Region I continues to be a topic discussed. There is growing concern over the inadequate availability of wash stations and bathrooms for the unsheltered.
  - **Region II:** No updates.
  - **Region III:** Shelters are full to capacity and there are currently 97 people living outside. There is a need for resources for people with no place to shelter.
  - **Legislative Updates:** At this point in time, no SHC action is warranted regarding State and Federal Legislation. With a lame duck congress, the stimulus package may be stalled until January. There was a 1/3 legislative turn over at the state level, all bills not passed will have to be reintroduced.
- **SHC Appointment Process:** The Governor and Legislature, in adherence to the protocol for personal board membership, have requested that each Regional Homeless Council nominate three people for each of their three Regional SHC Representative positions. Those who are interested should let their regional chairs know. It was asked if anyone is aware of people with lived experience who might be interested in being nominated to please reach out to them.

**RR Training Presentation:** Sarah Day Chess, from the Home Base Project, provided an hour overview of Rapid Resolution. Rapid Resolution is an intervention to assist clients who are imminently homeless or have just become homeless. It is client empowerment based using diversion to resolve the crisis immediately in order to return to safe, appropriate housing. 100 people will attend RR training by Sarah during the months of November and December. The slides from the presentation will be made available on Maine Homeless Planning website.

### **Pandemic Related Issues**

**Current Status:** Maine is experiencing an increase of people testing positive for COVID. The pandemic is a public health emergency for all experiencing homelessness. GA hotels are full in both urban and rural communities. The Thursday Shelter Group will compile a bulleted list of suggestions for Rich to reference as he crafts a letter to be sent to the Governor on behalf the SHC urging for more support and resources.

**Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020**