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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 email [blabua@mainehousing.org](mailto:blabua@mainehousing.org) to let Betty know and she will edit accordingly.

**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Betty LaBua (MaineHousing), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voice), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Elaine Grade (Knox County), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Mike Shaughnessy (MaineHousing), Julie Davidson (Caring Unlimited), Joe McNally (Milestone), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Katie Spencer-White (MMHS),Beverly Hubbard (YAB), Rich Romero (OHI), Dave McCluskey (Shaw House), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Kelsea Vincent (YAB), Molly Sirois (BOL), Noel Thibodeau (PCHC), Kari Bradstreet (HJP), Khelsie Heidemann (PCHC), Rota Knot (Tedford Housing), Bridgette Semler (New Beginnings), Sara Wade OBH/(DHHS), Melanie Beaulieu (FVP), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Emily Flinkstorm (Fair Tide), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Alice Preble (DHHS/OCFS), Tracy Allen (KBH), Terrence Miller (Preble Street), Aaron Geyer (COP), Abigail Smallwood

(City of Biddeford), Amelia Lyons (Dept. of ED.), Ali Lovejoy (Preble Street), Brianne Brasset, Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Christina Dingus (MaineHousing), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Donna Nadolny (PCH), Janice Daku (RCAM), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Jill Grazia (Shalom House), Ken Capron (Hope Harbor), Kelly Walsh (COP), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Rebekah Paredes (NHFW), Sharon Jordan (Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness), Susan Randall Homeless Advocacy For All), Tyra Parker (VOANNE) and Whitney Files (Knox County)

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and

Stephonie Gregg (YCSPI) and Kari Bradstreet (FVP).

[Reminder – If you call in, please email [blabua@mainehousing.org](mailto:blabua@mainehousing.org) to let us know you were there!]

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**Meeting Minutes: Maine CoC**

**Date: September 16, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Ring Central**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

1. **Member Introductions:**

Awa welcomed all in attendance.

1. **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:**

MCOC Minutes from the August meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

*Mike S. motioned to approve August’s minutes, Kate E. seconded. No discussion. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

A moment of silence to honor the passing of clients was observed.

1. **Big Thinking Topics:**

**COVID 19 Continued Discussion:** Awa opened the discussion by asking for any updates concerning COVID, any lessons learned throughout the pandemic, strengths discovered, what we can carry forward to the Continuum post-pandemic and if there is a qualitative survey update. Katie mentioned the survey is in the process of being designed and will be incorporated into the SHC October retreat. She will have something substantive for next month’s meeting. The increase of COVID cases, vaccine hesitancy and equitable access to treatment remain problematic to Maine’s vulnerable populations.

1. **NOFO Update:** The NOFO committee has been diligently reviewing this year’s NOFO application question by question. Scott screen shared an excel sheet showing what has been completed, what needs to be completed and key matters to bring to the attention of the continuum.

* This year there are points related to impacts of COVID-19 on DV, Mainstream benefits, and CES
* The deadline, for all agencies intending to submit a new, expansion, or transition project application to provide a brief summary for each project proposal was on Wednesday Sept. 15, 2021. The letters of intent requests for funding shows there will not be enough available funding. Since the CoC cannot request more funding than has been allocated, the projects will be scored and ranked (tier 1 and 2) to determine which projects will be submitted.
* The scoring and ranking tools were last used in 2019. They need to be redone and posted publicly ASAP.
* Volunteers are needed to take part in the selection process. Emily F., Bill H. and Alice P.

volunteered. Once the selection committee is formed, the volunteer list will be reviewed by the Board and names will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

* Discussion on how to best answer the question, *yes or no- the organization participated in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System between the months of May 2020 and April 2021,* led to the decision that since more time needs to be given in order to have a clear consensus, the COC will vote on how to answer it during next month’s meeting.

1. **YHDP Update:** All programs are in the process of moving forward towards implementation.
2. **Legislative Updates:**

**Federal:** Cullen started the Federal update by mentioning on 8/16, the USDA announced a 21.03% increase to SNAP beginning 10/1. With this permanent increase, the average SNAP benefit will increase by $36.24 per person, per month, or $1.19 per day. On 8/26 the Supreme Court ruled that that Congress must act before another nation-wide eviction ban can be put in place. In doing so, the Supreme Court’s ruling invalidates the federal eviction moratorium, eliminating vital eviction protections that have kept millions of households stably housed. Both Senator Collins and Senator King have voiced their support of The Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All (DASH) Act**,** legislation to make a generational investment to house all people experiencing homelessness. *Collin made a motion for a letter of thanks for supporting the legislation be sent to the senators on behalf of the COC.* *Janice motioned to accept. Noelle C. seconded. No discussion. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

**State:** The Legislature adjourned sine die on 7/19. In January, the Legislature will reconvene for the Second Regular Session, commonly referred to as the short session. Friday, Sept. 24, marks “Cloture,” the final day Maine legislators can file new bills for the coming session. Cullen urges for all in attendance to contact their elected officials in support of bills endorsed by the Maine Homeless Policy Committee.

1. **SHC Update:** During September’s Statewide Homeless Council meeting a robust conversation over impact of adding new shelter beds and the ESHAP funding formula led to passing a motion *For the SHC to form a sub-committee to address the impact of additional shelter beds on the system, utilize MSN as the sub-committee and have the MSN report suggestions on the process to the SHC.* It was decided Greg Payne should be invited to future meetings. The SHC will hold its annual retreat virtually on October 12, 2021.
2. **Long Term Stayers:**

Cullen started the update by explaining, in Portland, during the month of August, LTS were 39 times more likely to have spent time in jail and were 8 times more likely to have visited a hospital. No reports from Bangor, Ellsworth and Brunswick however, it was noted the work in those areas continues.

1. **COC Board Update:**

* **General Updates**: Cullen gave a brief update. The Board continues to examine system performance measures by looking at data from MSHA as an illustration to inform how best to utilize resources.
* **CES:** Leadership from Coordinated Entry, Service Hubs & Built for Zero met this morning to insure all groups are on the same page with the both the planning and implementation of CES and Hubs. The CES committee continues to work on drafting an assessment tool that is both comprehensive and trauma informed. Kate ended the update with an open invitation for anyone interested to join work sessions from 2-4 on Tuesdays.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**  Beverly gave this month’s update reporting YAB members have been busy this month being active participants in these events:
2. September 9-Youth Continuum
3. September 13-Capital Jam Briefing
4. September 13-15 Point Source Youth Conference
5. September 15-Ture Colors Training
6. **Standing Committee Updates:**

* **NOFO-** An update was given earlier. The committee will continue to meet on Fridays at noon until NOFO is completed. All are welcome to join.
* **Data-** No update
* **Veteran-** Dan undated today’s meeting on the 100 Vet Challenge. On day 45 of the challenge, 33 veterans have moved into permanent housing and 11 are ready with leases.
* **Monitoring:** Mike reported all project monitoring has been completed except for the HMIS project which MSHA cannot review.
* **Resource Committee-** Kate Easter and Andrea Mancuso conducted a VAWA training on September 10, 2021. A training on Fair Housing is scheduled for December 12, 2021. The committee is working on a trainings for G.A. and Diversion.

1. **Next Meeting Agenda:**

* Big thinking topic: Continued Discussion – COVID-19 One Year Later: Lessons learned throughout the pandemic, strengths discovered, and what we can carry forward to the Continuum post-pandemic. Qualitative Survey.
* NOFO review
* All were invited to email Betty, Scott or chairs agenda suggestions.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 pm**

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