**Maine Continuum of Care**

**Lived Experience Advisory Committee Charter**

**Section 1. Purpose**

The Lived Experience Advisory Committee will function in an advisory capacity to the Maine Continuum of Care (MCoC). The committee is intended to ensure that the voices and perspectives of individuals with current and/or past lived experience of homelessness are heard and considered in the decision-making process of the MCoC, and provides a way to share recommendations and feedback on the CoC and its programs and services. The committee may be called on to collaborate with and/or support other committees of the MCoC for the purposes of evaluation and systems improvement.

**Section 2. Responsibilities**

The Lived Experience Advisory Committee is key to developing a homeless response system that provides fair and effective services to those most vulnerable in our population. The committee will be responsible for making recommendations for improvement, providing input on development, and sharing feedback on improving the quality and types of services provided.

*The Lived Experience Advisory Committee exists to:*

1. Support the development of policies and procedures which impact homeless services in Maine.
2. Ensure that the MCoC is supporting programs, policies and procedures that are mindful of and take into consideration the expertise of people with lived experience.
3. Create forums and other meetings to engage persons with lived experience in the community.
4. Assist in leading focus groups that provide feedback on the homeless response system and specific issues to the MCoC.

**Section 3: Membership**

1. The Lived Experience Advisory Committeeis comprised of members of individuals of the community with lived experience, the MCoC, and the Collaborative Applicant (CA).
2. Membership will be advertised and promoted to add members to the committee.
3. Membership may include, but is not limited to, representatives from: MaineHousing and MCoC-funded agencies.
4. All members must comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy of the MCoC.
5. The Lived Experience Advisory Committee chair/s must be persons with lived experience and will be elected by members of the committee.

**Section 4: Meetings**

1. Meetings occur monthly.
2. Trainings are scheduled quarterly and as needed or as opportunities arise.

**Section 5: Resources**

The Lived Experience Advisory Committeerequires the following resources:

1. Information from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding training opportunities and resources.
2. Information from MCoC regarding resources which benefit persons with lived experience.

**Section 6: Communication**

1. The Lived Experience Advisory Committee will share information regarding trainings and resources as needed and appropriate.
2. Other suggestions or recommendations will be documented and submitted to the MCoC, as relevant.

**Section 7: Trainings and Guidance**

The Lived Experience Advisory Committee will provide:

1. Annual trainings on issues related to people with lived experience of homelessness or at risk of homelessness to the MCoC in collaboration with the MCoC Resource Committee.
2. Guidance to the MCoC on matters of lived experience.