# **Member** Vickey welcomed all in attendance.

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), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Katie Spencer-White (MMHS), Rich Romero (OHI), Rota Knot (Tedford Housing), Sara Wade( OBH/DHHS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Abigail Smallwood (City of Biddeford), Christina Dingus (MaineHousing), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Janice Daku (RCAM), Jill Grazia (Shalom House), Rebekah Paredes (New Hope MidCoast), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Lisa McLaughlin (HSA), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Wes Phinney (YCSPI), Kobi Perry (WMCA), Kari Bradstreet (H&J), Aaron Geyer (COP), Beverly Hubbard (YAB), Bridgette Semler (New Beginnings), Brianne Brasslett (CHCS), Mary Wade (MSHA), Joe McNaly (Milestone), Julian Sherman (Hope House), Ann Martin (HUD), Johmmie Walker (Partners for Peace), Mike Shaughnessy (MSHA), Mindy Kane (Pinquis), Zach Reed (VOANNE), Beverly Hubbard (YAB),Katie Buckner, April Reed (MSHA), Kelly Watson (MSAA), Boyn Kronholm (BAHS), Janice Lara-Hewey (CC), M. Day (PHA), Kelly Walsh (COP), Khelsie Heiderman (PCHC), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD), Amy Sneirson (HRC), Julia Davidson, Megan Gean-Gendron (YCSPI), Alice Prebble (DHHS), Lisa McLaughlin (HSA), Leah McDonald (Preble Street), Ray Machaud, Heidi Rackliffe (ACAP), Julie Davidson (Caring Unlimited), and Donna Nadolny (PCHC)

Ken Capron (Hope Harbor), Marcie Dean (Next Step),

Marcie Dean

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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: December 16, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Ring Central**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

1. **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:** MCOC Minutes from the November meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. *Noelle motioned to approve November’s minutes, Awa seconded. No discussion. No abstentions. No objections. Passed unanimously.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of clients was observed.
2. **MCoC Tri-Chair Nomination/Re-Nomination:**

Nominations for the three year expiring term of tri-chair, currently being held by Norm Maze, will be accepted now through January 14th. Norm has been re-nominated. If there are additional nominations, all members in good standing will to vote through email to Scott, Vickey or Awa. A description of the position will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

1. **Big Thinking Topics: COVID 19 Continued Discussion:** Vickey 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 shared the survey will be made available at the January meeting of the SHC. Both the Omicron and Delta variants are worrisome factors contributing to a surge in cases amongst staff and guests. The quarantine hotel in Scarborough is currently the only one in Maine available to the homeless population. CAP agencies are able to assist with transportation for people from all regions to the hotel. Katie invited all to attend the weekly Thursday COVID response meeting and provided the log in information in the chat box. After weighing the need for social distancing with increased deaths by overdose, Joe announced Milestone is in the process of returning to a 41 bed capacity.
2. **PIT Data Collection Forms:**

April screen-shared a reformatted version of 2022 PIT unsheltered and Non-HMIS participating agency forms with updated verbiage on race which was changed to match new data standard language. *Awa motioned to accept the new PIT Data collection form. Jerry seconded.*  *It was clarified the ERA hotel count are being streamlined by MSHA for the CAP agencies. No abstentions. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

1. **SSVF Letters of Support:**

Vickey reviewed the historic practice of the MCoC writing letters of support for all Supportive Services for Veteran Families applicants. *Mike made a motion for the MCoC to write letters of support for SSVF applicants. Bill seconded.* *No abstentions. No* objections*. Passed unanimously.*

1. **Coordinated Entry Draft Assessment Feedback Session:**

In order to obtain feedback on the current drafted assessment policy, Erin K. presented an overview of both the process and the assessment tool. After explaining each segment of the 10 page tool and the numeric scoring, Erin clarified it is designed to be a phased approach that will be trauma informed. It was suggested the use of pronouns be evaluated. A survey link for feedback was posted in the chat box. Feedback from all the sessions will be incorporated into the drafting of coordinated entry before it is launched.

1. **Youth CES Update:**

Joe L. presented a new prioritization tool for youth coordinated entry. The new tool, based on the current tool being used in Washington as well as input from YAB and youth providers, includes seven questions plus basic contact information*. Cullen motioned for the new prioritization tool to be adopted in January 2022. Kate seconded.* *No discussion. No abstentions. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

1. **Legislative Updates: 10**

**Federal:** Cullen started the Federal update by mentioning the funding for FEMA hotels has been extended to April 1, 2022. Attention was brought to the “Build Back Better Act”

Infrastructure Reconciliation Package, the $1.75 trillion economic recovery package includes $150 billion in affordable housing investments with the following key funding:

• $25 billion in rental assistance for hundreds of thousands of households

• $65 billion to preserve our nation’s public housing infrastructure

• $15 billion for the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to build and preserve over 150,000 homes affordable to extremely low-income households.

**State:** The Legislature adjourned sine die on 7/19. The 2nd Regular Session of the 130th Legislature will begin on 1/12/22. Cullen reviewed the carry over bills supported by the policy committee and invited anyone interested to attend the committee’s monthly meetings.

1. **SHC Update:**  Katie started this month’s update by mentioning lack of affordable housing, increased numbers of people unsheltered, food insecurity, challenges with FMRs, inadequate scheduling of home inspections and difficulty with vouchers being accepted by hotels as shared themes through the councils three regions. Amy Sneirson of the Human Rights Commission attended council meeting announcing the commission is looking for cases to represent on discrimination with third party billing payments for housing. Erin Healy gave an update on the Hub launches.
2. **Long Term Stayers:**

Cullen updated the continuum by noting there has been 355 people placed in the Portland area. No reports given from Bangor, Ellsworth or Brunswick, however, Cullen noted work in those areas continues.

1. **COC Board Update:**

**General Updates**: Cullen, on behalf of the Board, asked for a motion to amend the Board bylaws in order to allow a fourth executive level position to be added to the Board reserved for a person with current or prior lived experience. *Katie made a motion to adopt the change in the bylaws for a total of 4 officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and an at large position for a person with lived experience. Bill seconded. None abstained. No one opposed. Motion passed unanimously.*

**CES:** This month’s updates were covered during the CES feedback session.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Beverly and Bridgette gave this month’s YAB update. YAB continues to work on a statewide resource guide for the local, state and national levels to serve as a guide for youth to gain knowledge of resources available when experiencing instabilities with mental health, substance abuse and housing. Anyone interested in joining the Board was asked to contact Bridgette.

## Safe Spaces, Safe Places: Creating Welcoming Areas for LGBTQ+ Youth was held on December 7th & 9th, anyone interested in hosting the training should contact Elijah at New Beginnings. Bridgette shared his contact information in the chat box.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

**Resource Committee:** There was a high turnout for the Community Health Shared Assessment event. The results of the assessment will be made available in April. Details for People with Lived Experience Committee will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website and will be discussed next month.

1. **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. Variant discussion.

All were encouraged to email Betty, Scott or any of the Tri-Chairs suggestions for January’s agenda.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm**

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