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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), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Katie Spencer-White (MMHS), Rich Romero (OHI), Sara Wade (OBH/DHHS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Abigail Smallwood (City of Biddeford), Christina Dingus (MaineHousing), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Janice Daku (RCAM), 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), Beverly Hubbard (YAB), Bridgette Semler (New Beginnings), Mary Wade (MSHA), Ann Martin (HUD), Mike Shaughnessy (MSHA), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Janice Lara-Hewey (CC), Khelsie Heiderman (PCHC), Julia Davidson (CU),Alice Preble (DHHS), Leah McDonald (Preble Street), Ray Michaud (Veterans Inc), Heidi Rackliffe (ACAP), Donna Nadolny (PCHC), Marcie Dean (TTD S), Melanie Beaulieu (FVP), Kat Freeman (Home fires), Mike Merrill (VOA), Tracy Allan, Rotta Knott (Tedford), Morgan Seeley Williams (ACAP), Nathan Voisine (ACAP), Cheryl Harkins (HVJ), Sarah Sullivan (ACAP), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Adam Han (COP), Theresa Dow-Leary(ACAP), Dave McClusKey (Shaw House), Susan Randal (Homeless Advocacy for All) and Ali Lovejoy (Preble Street)

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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: January 22, 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 December meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. *Rich R. motioned to approve December’s minutes as written, Kate E. seconded.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of clients was observed. Awa reminded everyone that GA can assist with burial expenses.
2. **MCoC Tri-Chair Nomination/Re-Nomination:**

An invite for nominations for the three year expiring term of tri-chair, currently being held by Norm Maze, was posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Norm has been re-nominated. There were no additional nominations*. Cullen motioned to approve Norm’s nomination as tri-chair. Dave M. seconded. No discussion. No abstentions. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

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. Jerry mentioned there has been an increase in the amount of both staff and clients testing positive. Rebecca H. let people know the outbreak at TTD’s Portland Shelter is over and praised Lewiston’s Quarantine Hotel for their collaborated assistance.
2. **PIT Updates:**

Maine’s 2022 Point-in-Time Count is taking place on the night of **January 25th** with Service Based follow-up days on the 26th, 27th, and 28th. Scott showed the PIT count website [www.pitmaine.org](http://www.pitmaine.org), where volunteers can sign up, be trained and down load surveys and forms. Susan Gagnon with the DOC will assist with the distribution of hand sanitizer and masks to volunteers.

1. **Hub Updates:**

Erin Healy from Community Solutions noted more than 50 people from around the state attended an optional zoom question and answer meeting on January 18th on *How to Build a Hub Team.* With the nine hubs launched the current focus is on hiring hub Coordinators. The RFPs will be reviewed and decided upon on the 20th and 21st of January. By January 28th the awards will be announced followed by a target hire date of March 1, 2022. The six month action cycle for the national Built for Zero Collaborative is scheduled to begin in May, 2022

1. **Legislative Updates:**

**Federal:** Cullen started the Federal update by mentioning the funding for FEMA hotels has been extended to April 1, 2022. Attention was brought to two pieces of legislation aimed at assisting homeless children.

1. The Homeless Children and Youth Act was introduced in the House by Congresswoman Sherrill and Congressman Van Taylor, and co-signed by nine other members of Congress. It aligns the HUD definition of homelessness with the definitions utilized by other federal agencies, increases data transparency within the current system, and allows localities to prioritize program models that best meet the needs of their communities.
2. The Helping Foster and Homeless Youth Achieve Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Jacky Rosen and Rob Portman. This bipartisan legislation removes barriers to higher education for youth experiencing homelessness and youth formerly in foster care by requiring federally-funded institutions of higher education waive application fees for foster and homeless youth.

On 12/16 President Joe Biden signed a debt ceiling increase into law, preventing the first-ever U.S. default. The measure lifts the government’s borrowing limit by $2.5 trillion, which is expected to allow the U.S. to cover its obligations into 2023.

**State:** The 130th Legislature’s current session will run from January 5-April 20, 2022. With 500 pieces of legislation under consideration Cullen shared a new tracking document as a resource to keep informed of the current bills, their sponsor, their title, their status & committee and any notes pertaining to status or action needed.

1. **SHC Updates:**  Katie started this month’s update by letting the continuum know during January’s SHC meeting Stephanie announced due to health reasons, she will be stepping down as Chair. Katie Spencer White has been appointed Interim Chair. Numerous accolades were shared by people in attendance for Stephanie’s hard word and gifted leadership. In February, the council in addition to continuing its ongoing work on the system redesign, will reconsider its leadership structure and its monthly meeting format.
2. **Long Term Stayers:**

Cullen updated the continuum by noting there has been 367 people placed in the Portland area with a 91.3% success rate. He explained, local data shows people experiencing homeless are 19 times more likely to be hospitalized and 45 times more likely to be incarcerated than be who are stably housed. No reports given from Bangor, Ellsworth or Brunswick.

1. **COC Board Update:**

**General Updates**: During January’s meeting the following three motions were passed.

1. Awa Conteh’s appointment as Board Vice President

*Cullen made a motion for the MCOC to ratify Awa Conteh’s appointment as Vice President of the MCOC Board. Katie seconded. None abstained. No one opposed. Motion passed unanimously.*

1. Bill Higgin’s appointment to the new Board Leadership Role of PWLE.

*Cullen made a motion for the MCOC to ratify Bill Higgin’s appointment as appointment to the new Board Leadership Role of PWLE. Awa seconded. Jerry abstained. No one opposed. Motion passed unanimously.*

1. The Board approved LHA as a referral source provided they meet the requirements of the EHV process and meet with the CES committee to work out the details.

**CES:** This month’s updates were presented by Kate E. The committee started examining feedback from the community on the assessment phase of CES with a two hour meeting held on 01/18/22.

In the interest of time, the committees consented to having a small sub-committee work on reviewing the feedback and reporting back their analysis to the entire committee. The design of the access phase will be the focal point of TAC meetings in February. The lease up rates for EHVs in Maine is currently 25% which is higher than the national average of 10%.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Beverly and Bridgette gave this month’s YAB update. Beverly spoke first, noting, YAB has been busy educating the populace on The McKinney-Vento Act, an act that provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness and ensures that homeless children and youth are enrolled in school. YAB is also researching the lasting effects of inclement weather on people living unsheltered.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

**Resource Committee:** The committee has been working on the details of the PIT count as well as starting to plan for 2022 trainings.

**Data:** The committee is in the process of drafting forms for custom data fields. Once these documents are ready they will be presented to the Board and MCoC for approval.

**HVAC:** The committee appraised the 100 Days of Housing and started to plan the committee’s next steps.

1. **Other Items:**

Scott brought to the attention of the continuum the matter of who will represent the MCoC as the collaborative applicant. *Awa moved to have MSHA collaborative applicant for the MCoC. Rich seconded.* *. No discussion. No abstentions. No objections. Passed unanimously.*

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 February’s agenda.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm**

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