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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), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Abigail Smallwood (City of Biddeford), Janice Daku (RCAM), Alice Preble (DHHS), Jennifer Needham (New Begginnings), Tracy Allan, (KBH), Rotta Knott (Tedford), Dave McClusKey (Shaw House), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Sarah Drosier (CHCS), Jill Grazia (Shalom House), Brianne Brasslett (CHCS), Joe Locke (MSHA), Joe McNally (Milestone), Adam Harr (COP), Jace Farris (Hub 8), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Keely LeBlanc, Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), David Sovestky (MMHS), Jessica Chow (Hub 4), Pam Morin (FVP), Katie Buckner (HUD), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Ann Martin (HUD), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Mike Shaughnessy (MSHA), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD) and Jennifer Weatherbee(CHCS).

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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: April 21, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Ring Central**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

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

MCOC Minutes from the March meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. *Joe McNally motioned to approve March’s minutes as written, Janice Daku seconded. No discussion. No one opposed. Passed unanimously.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of people experiencing homelessness was observed.

1. **Big Thinking Topics**

In lieu of a formalized Big Thinking Topic, Norm asked if anyone had any matters to be brought forth to the continuum. Joe M. mentioned the need for Day Spacing and concerns over the potential fallout from the impending closure of FEMA hotels particularly the impact on shelter providers and their staff. Adam Harr from the City of Portland cited they are currently working with a broker to house 280 singles. MMHS’s depopulation plan for the hotel in Augusta entails reintegrating 16 singles back into their shelter as well as utilizing GA and ERA support to assist in finding housing for 8 families. The SHC is discussing the topic of the Closing of FEMA hotels and its impact on the shelter system and will be scheduling a strategy session in early May.

1. **PIT Updates:**

Maine’s 2022 Point-in-Time Count took place on the night of **January 25th followed by** Service Based days on the 26th, 27th, and 28th. Scott announced the count numbers are very close to being finalized however, the MCOC will not meet before the submission deadline of April 29th. Scott asked for a motion to approve the MSHA team to finalize and submit the PIT and HIC.

*Cullen put forth the motion for the MCOC to approve the MSHA team to finalize and submit the HIC and PIT Count. Bill Seconded. No discussion. No one opposed. Passed unanimously.*

1. **Hub Updates:**

Tara updated the continuum by first mentioning eight of the nine Hubs have hired Coordinators. Hub 1/York reported it is in the process of conducting interviews. A total of 5 Hubs (1, 2, 6, 7 and

9) have joined the Built For Zero Initiative. Representatives from MSHA and the five Hubs will travel to Chicago for training and to strategize its first six month action cycle.

1. **Legislative Updates:**

**Federal:**  Cullen started today’s update by mentioning the funding for FEMA hotels has been extended through the end of June. Next, attention was brought to the introduction of two new Bills: 1. Homes for All Act**-**The bill would invest $1 trillion in dramatically expanding public housing and the national Housing Trust Fund and would guarantee housing as a human right. The Homes for All Act would invest $800 billion over 10 years to build 8.5 million new units of public housing. The bill would also invest an additional $200 billion over 10 years in the national Housing Trust Fund to build 3.5 million new permanently affordable homes for extremely low-income families.

2.HR 7196 Flexibility in Addressing Rural Homelessness Act-The bipartisan Act would allow Continuums of Care in rural areas to operate with more flexibility in spending homelessness funding provided through the “McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.” The legislation would allow McKinney-Vento funding to be used for short-term emergency housing in motels or hotels, repairs to make housing fit for habitation, and staff training and capacity building

**State:** On 3/18 Governor Mills released her change package for the FY22/23 Supplemental Budget. The following portions of the budget were highlighted:

• $22 million in one-time General Fund dollars to create an Emergency Housing Relief Fund at MaineHousing to address homelessness, including providing rental assistance or appropriate housing for those who are staying in hotels or to create additional permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities, mental health challenges, or substance use disorder.

• An additional $19.7 million in state funding to address immediate needs in Maine’s behavioral health system and support ongoing improvements to MaineCare rates for behavioral health providers.

To assist with understanding the several new bills under consideration Cullen screened shared the policy committee’s bill tracker exhibiting specifics of those pertinent to the MCoC, in particular, FUSE.

1. **SHC Updates:** In addition to working with Community Solutions on the System Redesign and tackling the ongoing pandemic related problems, the SHC continues to look at revising its leadership structure. Scott updated today’s meeting by explaining a subcommittee met before the April’s Council meeting and defined both the process of nominating co-chairs and a job description for the chair. All nominations should be sent to Betty LaBua by May 2, 2022. An additional sub-committee will meet to begin planning a strategy for the aftermath of FEMA hotel closings.
2. **COC Board Update:**

**General Updates**: The three main topics being addressed by the Board are:

1. The high numbers of people being sheltered in hotels crisis.
2. The low outflow with increased inflow into shelter system.
3. How to utilize the Veteran Match as a best practice for increasing exits to permanent housing.

**CES:** This month’s updates were presented by Erin K. Two, four hour meetings were held in the beginning of April for the purpose of hammering out the details of the four phases of the CES design. The next steps are to create proposals for the remaining key design questions, come to consensus on procedures, develop assessment tool trainings, create ROIs for case conferencing and then move to a sample implementation before launching CES statewide. The update ended with the announcement that 77 of the 180 EHVs (42%) have been leased up.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:** There was not an update from the YAB this month.
2. **Standing Committee Updates:**

## **Resource Committee:** More than 100 people attended a training held on April 8th titled, *Learning from* *People with Lived Experience about Racial Equity and Service Provision.* On Friday, May 13th there will be a training on [Working with Transgender Persons in Emergency Shelter & Who are Experiencing Homelessness](https://www.mainehomelessplanning.org/mcoc-training-working-with-transgender-persons-in-emergency-shelter-who-are-experiencing-homelessness/) with **Quinn Elleen Gormley**, **Executive Director**, **MaineTrans.Net**

**Monitoring:** Mike mentioned the monitoring is proceeding according to schedule and should be completed by early summer.

1. **New Agenda Items:** It was proposed to add the topic of Day Sheltering to next month’s agenda. All were asked to send Betty, Scott or any of the tri-chairs suggestions for May’s Continuum Meeting.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for May19, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 pm**