



Maine Continuum of Care

ATTENDANCE:

Katie Spencer White, Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services, Catherine MacDonald, Public Health Nurse, State of Maine; Toby Simon, Hub 1, York; Donna Alger, Bangor Friends of Affordable Housing; Mike Tuller, Bangor Friends of Affordable Housing; Nicole Frydrych, Hub 6, Central; Awa Conteh, City of Bangor Shelter Plus Care.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Since there was no meeting last month, there were no minutes to review.

2. MEMBER INTRODUCTION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Katie invited attendees to share personal stories, which was followed by a moment of silence for those we lost this month.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Co-Chair:

To ensure meetings are facilitated by a person with lived expertise monthly, the Committee opened the floor for an appointment of a Co-Chair. Awa Conteh moved for Katie Spencer White to be Co-chair of this committee, Mike Tuller seconded the motion, and Katie was unanimously appointed as Cochair of the committee.

Warming Centers:

Katie Spencer White came up with the brilliant idea of creating an asset map by region, which will point out safe places for people with lived expertise to go during the day or night. A discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- The maps should contain information about where people can go to eat, sleep, shower, and do laundry.
- Awa and Katie will work with Regional Homeless Councils to add this discussion to their agendas, and seek resources for the maps.
- It is important for homeless providers to have access to an inventory of shelter beds that are available to enable people with lived expertise to access these resources during harsh weather conditions
- People with lived expertise may also use their times at shelters in reporting about best practices for each shelter they utilize
- To create a list of recommendations for state leadership on how to accommodate individuals seeking services
- We need to create an atmosphere where service providers and people with lived expertise can come together and achieve a middle ground on issues
- Catherine MacDonald will create a document regarding safety for individuals who are living in their vehicles
- Notation was made that staffing for warming centers is critical. Warming centers should also ensure staff are trained in a trauma informed way and be also trained on how to implement risk reduction methods to ensure safety of staff and guests.

Appointment of Secretary: Katie Spencer White nominated Awa Conteh as Secretary of the committee, Donna Alger seconded the motion, and Awa was unanimously appointed as Secretary of the committee

5. PROGRAM UPDATES

- Mid-Maine Shelter's warming center will be opening on Tuesday, 11/1/22. They can accommodate up to 10 guests. The warming center will be operational from 8pm to 8 am, but guests can stay on days that the weather conditions are harsh
- Waterville Library has been closed due to the pandemic, and they are slated to open soon
- The Mansion warming center in Bangor will be opening on 11/4/22.
- The Brick Church in Bangor will be opening their warming center soon

6. HOPEFUL STORIES:

-Katie Spencer White shared a story of a client who accrued \$1,800 in debt towards her electric bill and Mid-Maine assisted this the family in paying the arrears. The individual wrote Katie a letter stating that when she put her son to bed that night, he was grateful to be able to turn on his night light and sleep comfortably.



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Mike Tuller shared a story of a couple whom he assisted in finding housing. The couple was estranged from their family and once they settled down in the apartment, they were able to reestablish relationships with their families.

7. NEXT AGENDA – ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH:

-We will be discussing landlord engagement strategies.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

-There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 2:33pm

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Since November's meeting will fall on Thanksgiving holiday week, attendees noted that many may not be available to attend. Thus, the meeting will occur on the following Friday (December 2nd, 2022) from 1pm to 2:30pm

Minutes Written by: Awa Conteh