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), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Janice Daku (RCAM), Vickey Merrill (CHOM), Rebekah Paredes (New Hope Midcoast), Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Donna Kelley (Waldo CAP), Donna Alger (BFAH), Beverly Hubbard (YAB), Mike Tuller (BFAH), Laura Briggs (BOL), Lisa McLaughlin (HAS), Sara Wade (DHHS), Mike Merrill (VOANNE), Abigail Smallwood (City of Biddeford), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Jill Grazia (Shalom House), Ann Martin (HUD), Julia Galvez (YAB), Alice Preble (DHHS), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors),Antony Zarbau, Jessica Lincoln (Northern Lighthouse Youth Shelter), Amy Holland (Hub 3), Sean Fitzpatrick (VA-HCHV), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Jace Farris (Hub 8), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Nicole Frydrych (Hub 6), Matthew Wayman (YAB), Katie Buckner (HUD), Shirley Caron (Hub 9), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Joe McNally (Milestone Recovery), Cheryl Harkins (HVJ/HA4A), Tracey Allen (KBH), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voices), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland), Sharon Jordan (Wabanaki Health & Wellness), Deb Marchaund, Rota Knott (Tedford Housing), Joe Locke (MSHA), Betty LaBua (MSHA), Rich Romero (OHI), Bill Higgins (HA4A), Kari Bradstreet (HVJ), Melody Fitch ((FVP), Johnnie Walker, (Partners for Peace), Jen Weatherbee, (Hub 7), Ray Michaud (Vet Inc), Betty St.Hilaire (Augusta Warming Center), April Reed (MSHA), Theresa Dow (ACAP), Liz Frank (HOME Inc.), Alex Bessy, Datsy Aponte (Auburn Housing), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Leah McDonald (Preble Street), Deb Merchand, Victoria Abbot (BOL), Doug Dunbar (EMDC),Elaine Grade (KCHC), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Jenifer Needham (NB), Michael Beck and Wes Phinney (YCSPI)

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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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**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting Minutes: Maine CoC**

**Date: January 19, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

# 

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

Awa welcomed all to today’s meeting. MCOC Minutes from the December meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Scott T. noted several typos needed to be repaired. An amendment to the *motion to allow the Chairs to provide Letters of Support to all such projects that have previously received one* ***with*** *the need for a formal vote, while continuing to bring any requests that are for new or different projects to the full MCOC for approval****-With will be changed*** *to* ***without*** *Minutes approved with no one opposed*. A moment of silence to honor the passing of people experiencing homelessness was observed.

1. **Big Thinking Topics:**

* **Turn away Data:** How *best to capture data on both the numbers of people being turned away from shelters and the reasons why* will be addressed at the next Data Committee. The committee will report recommendations at the next MCoC meeting.
* **PIT and HIC:**The 2023 Point-in-Time and Housing Inventory Count will take place on the night of Jan 24th, with Service Based surveys conducted on the following three days. Hub Coordinators are organizing 100 volunteers throughout the state. There are more volunteers signed on than ever before, however volunteers are still needed in Western Maine (Hub5). Both the ‘Counting Us’ mobile app and paper forms will be used this year. More information can be found on [www.mainepit.org](http://www.mainepit.org).
* **Collaborative Applicant:** The COC Registration process is now open; the first step in the NOFA application cycle. As long as the COC has no changes to its geography or Collaborative Applicant, no additional action is needed. The MCOC needs to vote annually to ratify its Collaborative Applicant. Since the vote to continue to keep MaineHousing as the Collaborative Applicant was not on this month’s agenda, it will be voted on during February’s meeting.

1. **Legislative Updates:**

Cullen and Vickey provided the Federal and State Legislative updates. At the Federal level, attention was brought to the passage of the final FY 23 Omnibus spending package on 12/23/22.

Budget details were posted on the Maine Homeless website. More than 3,00 bills are being tracked at the State level. Cullen gave an overview of The Maine Homeless Policy Committee Priorities and Strategies for the 131st Legislature, by detailing LD1, LD2 and LD3. Anyone interested in needing information on sending letters of support were invited to email Cullen.

1. **Hub Update:**

Tara started today’s update by mention the Hub Coordinators are busy assisting with the preparation for the PIT. Hubs 5 and 7 are continuing with case conferencing, working on the prioritization list and looking into adding additional access points. The new Hub 2 Coordinator will be starting on January 13, 2023. In Hub 1 an interim plan is in place until coordinator is hired.

1. **SHC Updates:**

Cullen provided a summary of the January Statewide Homeless Council Meeting (Full minutes of that meeting will be posted on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) website.)

-The Governor has appointed Shawn Yardley to Chair the Statewide Homeless Council.

-Gordon Smith gave an overview of Maine’s opioid response, noting 11% of the people who fatally overdosed were un-domiciled.

-Greg Payne spoke of the state’s efforts to address the ending of ERA assistance and the growing number of encampments. Two RFPs have been issued by Maine Housing. 1. Invites applications for funding of permanent, long-term solutions based on an individual community’s needs. Deadline for responses is 2/23/2023 @5pm. 2. Invites applications for funding of overnight warming shelters to become operational as soon as possible and operate until April 30th, 2023. Deadline for responses is 2/3/2023 @5pm.

-Amelia Lyons gave a presentation on The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Definition of Homeless. She explained the Act defines the term "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This year it is predicted 1 student in 18 will experience homelessness.

1. **Long Term Stayers Updates:**

Portland has housed a total of 430 people in the last 7.5 years.

1. **COC Board Update:**

* **CES:** Erin K. provide the Board with an overview of the pilot feedback. Overall feedback was positive however the following themes occurred on these areas for growth:
  + Need for more housing resources in CE (HCVs, other vouchers, actual units, etc.)
  + System didn’t seem efficient all of the time – several comments about a breakdown in communication through the whole system
  + Request for adding more housing barriers to the assessment
  + A lack of service providers to work with participants post assessment, including for housing navigation
  + Concerns about participants with lower prioritization scores not getting connected with a CoC resource

The pilot will continue in Hubs 5 and 7. The committee will continue to work towards full implementation of state wide CES in 2023.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Matt shared how busy the YAB has been. They have finalized this year’s PIT Youth Addendum by narrowing the number of questions to eight and plan on creating a permanent addendum during 2023. They have been working in tandem with the Department of Education presenting trainings in RSD 10 and Saco and will take part in a 4 hour Youth Engagement training in April. Matt ended today’s update with the exciting news that two YAB members will present in DC at the national conference.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

* **Document Review Committee:** On hiatus until the Equity Consultants complete their review.
* **PWLE:** Will meet next Friday @1:00pm. If anyone has items to add to the agenda email them to Katie Spencer White of Bill Higgins.
* **NOFO:** The committee is scheduled to meet next Monday. If anyone needs the link, email Scott T.
* **DEIB Committee:** The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee have met with CCC. Anyone who is interested in joining is the DEIB Committee are welcome please contact Erin Kelly for more information, the committee is still in need of a Chair.

1. **New Agenda Items:**

* **Big Thinking Topics:** PIT and HIC

Turn Away Data

1. **Other Business:**

* Awa mentioned the City of Bangor has hired a new outreach case worker.
* Bill announced the Shared Housing Institute will hold a five week training starting in early February. Contact Bill if more information is needed.
* The Boston Winter Walk that raised 10 million dollars last year for help end homelessness will be held on February 12th. More information on the walk can be found at <https://winterwalk.org/>

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for February 16th from 1:00-3:00 pm on ZOOM!**