Region II Homeless Council

February 10, 2023

Those present: Bill Higgins, Ha4aLL; Tracy Allen, KBH; Matthey Wyman, YAB; Alice Preble, DHHS/OCFS; Lindsey O’hara, Maine CDC Public Health Education; Michelle Worthley, Rumford Group Homes; Nicole Frydrych, Hub 6; Hannah-Harter-Ives, New Hope Mid Coast; Drexell White, CDC Mic coast District Liaison; Rachel Buchanan, Lewiston Housing Authority, Hub 2; Michelle Baldwin, SafeVoices; Kate Easter, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; Giff Jamison, Tedford Housing; Cullen Ryan, CHOM, Winona Tarbox, YAB; Beverly, YAB; Julia Galvez, YAB

The meeting began with a moment of silence for those who have passed from homelessness and the impact of SUD.

Motion to approve minutes was made by Alice Preble, seconded by Hannah-Harter-Ives, motion to approve minutes passed.

Cullen shared some Federal updates:

* Debt ceiling met on 1/19, they have until June 2023 to sort it out
* Budget, the Speaker may be trying to cut federal spending.
* Biden has a blueprint for the Renter’s Bill of Rights, not sure what it will look like. It will first go through rulemaking.
* Bills:

Homeless and Behavioral Health Coordination Act

Re-introduced the Asylum Seekers Work Authorization Act

* Rules:

HUD releases VAWA Re-authorization Act of 2022

Final HOTMA Rule (Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act)

Act that helps Section 8 work better

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Act (AFFHA)

Sate updates:

Bill tracking: 2000 bills, 400 printed, the rest are bill titles

* LD 258, Governor’s Bill, this is a budget bill. Within it is 30 million for affordable rental options. The hearing was on 2/9/23 in the House
* LD 206- Winter Energy Relief Payments and Operations
* LD 3- has already been signed into law
* LR 1357- Act to Decriminalize Homelessness
* LR 459- Act to Create Housing Stability Workers
* LD 2- An Act to Address Maine’s Housing Crisis, has been referred to the Housing Committee
* LR 738- Senator Daughtry, 100 million for affordable housing
* LD 26- 100 million over 2 years
* LD 80- Improve Family Section under TANF
* LD 81- Act to Address Recovery Residences

There were no Statewide Homeless Council updates as there was no new meeting since the last meeting. The next meeting will be 2/14/23.

Resource Committee update- the last meeting was a focus on the PIT count work. There has not been work done yet on any upcoming trainings. Pine Tree Legal may do an upcoming training. A request was made for a training regarding GA and access to it as each office seems to be a little different.

Topics to bring forward to the SHC:

* Shelters providers who are also Section 13 providers and feeling an affect that DHHS has made in going back to the original interpretation, where people cannot get Section 13 case management services beyond 90 days of being housed. Tedford Housing shared that this change will affect 20% of their folks receiving case management services.

Member updates:

Giff shared that he is a Tri-Chair of the Coordinated Entry Committee. At the last meeting, there was a consensus reached to add 4 additional hubs to the pilot project in April.

Drexell shared that there will be a meeting of the Mid Coast Public Health Council on 2/14/23 at 9am. There will be many presentations and updates. If anyone would like to be added to this group, please contact him at Drexell.white@maine.gov

Nicole- let the group know she has been providing back up services for Hub 4 as Julia is on maternity leave right now. There was a meeting yesterday and a conversation about noticing several communities and cities are putting ordinances in place for those in certain places during certain times will be fined and/or arrested. This is affecting ways that providers are working with the hubs. They do not want to share information as not sharing will not affect the safety of their clients.

Bill discussed starting a Winter Walk in Maine, like one that occurs in Boston. It is an awareness building and fund-raising opportunity. He is looking at February 3, 2024, a Sunday, to do one next year. winterwalk.org

Rachael shared she would like to be contacted for a meeting to participate about the Winter Walk in Maine

Giff shared that Tedford provides homeless prevention services for those at imminent risk of becoming homeless. They have had a satellite presence in Hancock County. They have seen a lot of activity, people on the verge of being or at risk of being homeless. He said it has been a good reminder of ways people can become homeless.

Matthew shared that the YAB is working on a lot of trainings right now. They are providing training to RSU 10 and Saco Schools. There will be an all-day training in April in Lewiston. They are also doing some recruitment work for the YAB. March 1 Matthew, Bev, and Breezy will be presenting at the NNY Summit in Washington DC. They will share out some of the things that they learn at a future meeting.

Lacey Donle was not present and sent an update. She said that Elder Abuse Institute of Maine expanded from having only 6 advocates to now having 14 team leaders. The team leaders carry a small caseload.

Michelle shared that Rumford Group Homes is waiting for approval from City of Auburn to provide outreach case management to those in the Lewiston/Auburn area.

Michelle B- SafeVoices is having a fund raiser next week. It will be an adult book fair and will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn. There will be popcorn. There is more information about this on their website. They are also close to having the Farmington location open. The bunk beds are put together and ready. There will be 2 transitional apartments

Nikki- shared that FVP is over a year fully staffed.

The next meeting will be Friday March 10, 2023 from 10am-noon.