

# Region III Homeless Council Minutes

**March 8th**

**Present:** Cullen Ryan, CHOM, /SHC; Jace Farris CHCS/HUB 8; Tracey Hair, H.O.M.E. Inc.; Boyd Kronholm, BAHS; Donna Alger; Bangor Friends of Affordable Housing; Marcie Dean, Next Step Domestic Violence; Bill Higgins, Homeless Advocacy for All; Jill Grazia, Shalom House; Doug Dunbar, Penobscot County Cares; Cheryl Hataway, DHHS, OCFS, CBHS; Christopher Olsen, Welcome to Housing Goods Bank; Ginny Dill, OBH; Mike Tuller, Bangor Friends of Affordable Housing; Liz Franck, H.O.M.E. Inc.; Bruce Hewes, PCHC.

*A moment of silence was acknowledged in remembrance of those who have passed while homeless.*

**Additions to Agenda: None**

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve February minutes - Tracey Hair

Seconded - Donna Alger

Discussion - None

Motion passes.

## **Statewide Homeless Council Update – Cullen Ryan**

**Update State and Federal - Cullen Ryan**

## **Discussion Topics:**

The group discussed the 2022 PIT Count in prep for the 2023 count – specifically around the number of households with at least one child experiencing homelessness making up almost half of the count. It was pointed out that 95% of the people counted that night were in shelters. (See attached 2022 PIT)

## **Hub Updates:**

HUB 8 – Jace Farris reports that HUB 8 will be piloting Coordinated Entry starting April 6th. The info meetings have happened.

## **Agency Updates and Hopeful stories:**

Donna A - Donna Alger updated the shelter app. She has turned off the email addresses for the DV shelters in the state as well as the bed availability. She is doing training and if anyone claims their resource, reach out to Donna. Donna can be reached via email at [algerdonna@gmail.com](mailto:algerdonna@gmail.com).

Donna has asked the CoC to form an emergency response sub-committee to address emergency responses in coordination with Emergency Management. Donna reported that Cumberland County Emergency Management is starting a work group to address emergency response for people experiencing homelessness. Donna noted that there are no warming centers for adult singles in Portland.

**Hope House** has been in the middle of a COVID outbreak. Bruce acknowledged his team for stepping up and working extra shifts. They have done a great job and working hard to keep things moving. Hope House has been visiting shelters to see how other programs are working.

Christopher (**Welcome to Housing**) is working with the University of Maine to access furniture for people we serve. The University will have a large supply of mattresses that may be available in June. He reported that he is trying to get the Maine Association of Realtors to help pop up "Furniture Banks". If you're interested in learning more about Welcome to Housing please shoot him an email at [welcometohousing@gmail.com](mailto:welcometohousing@gmail.com).

**BAHS** - Warming Center will be closing on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Theresa Dow – **ACAP** – shared a story about a homeless youth who was housed through the YDHP program after three years experiencing homelessness. He is about to be leased up.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.**