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 let Scott know and he will edit accordingly.

**Augusta:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Donna Kelley (KBH), Paula Paladino (MaineHousing), Cassie Barton (Bread of Life), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings), Melody Fitch (FVP), Chet Barnes (DHHS)

**Portland:** Vickey Rand (CHOM), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Steve Ellis (Frannie Peabody Center), Carol Kulesza (VA), Wes Phinney (SHC), Phil Allen (Preble Street/SSVF), David Beseda (YCSPI)

**Lewiston:** Janice Lara-Hewey (PATH)

**U Maine Orono:** Diane Lee (Bangor Housing Authority)

**On the Phone:** Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Gail Garrow (OHI), Rowena Griffin (BAHS), Meredith Gardner (CHCS), Beth Meneses (CHCS), Christine Roberts (HUD), Catherine Sullivan (PCHC), Sharon Dean (Sunrise Opportunities), Jen Trowbridge (WHCA), Shanna Curry (Shaw House Waterworks), Francine Stark (HJP), Karen Bate-Pelletier (Common Ties), Sgt. Nathaniel Grace (MMCN), Rita Defio (Sweetser), Kari Linus (Unlimited Solutions Clubhouse, Bangor), Muriel Emerson (Unlimited Solutions Clubhouse)

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: June 18, 2015**

**Time: 1pm to 3pm**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Review of Minutes** from May 25, 2015. **Approved as submitted**.

**Committee Reports:**

**Policy** **Committee**: Several people form Maine will be going to Washington DC next month for the NAEH conference.

**Federal:**  Waiting for final Federal and THUD budgets.

* There is a proposed bill that would make it illegal to fund the National Housing Trust Fund with money from Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac.
* Proposed amended definition of Homeless Person would allow for services to youth and women & children who are couch surfing or otherwise at risk of homelessness. This might sound like a good idea at first, but there is no new funding attached, so it would result in trying to serve a much larger population with the same limited dollars.

**State:** The House and Senate compromise budget is out, but the Governor has already said he intends to veto much of it. There should be enough votes to override the vetoes.

* Portland may continue to assist asylum seekers with city funds. They are here legally, despite the repeated use of the term ‘illegals’, but they are actually prohibited from working, so they need assistance to cover basic costs of living.
* A MOTION was made that MCOC write a letter supporting fair treatment for those seeking asylum. PASSED. Cullen will draft the letter.
* LD 443 was approved at $2M (not the $3.5M sought, but still better than $365K)
* BRAP proposal for $1.3M is still intact. Chet and Ginny are working on the language regarding prioritization of Long Term Stayers, in keeping with the SHC, MCOC and Portland CoC efforts.

**Long Term Stayers:**

* In response to the proposed closure of the overflow shelter in Portland, nine agencies have collaborated in an effort to house 70 LTSs – 14 have been housed so far and the group is on track to house all of them by December.
* Availability of units in and around Portland is very limited. The vacancy rate is around 1%, meaning there are only about 200 units open at any given time. Factoring out those that are above program payment levels, and those that will not pass inspections, makes it even harder. Clients need good housing counselors and navigators to help them find units.
* Not a single Veteran is currently on the LTS list at this point. There is a VA “Descriptive Measure” requiring that 65% of VASH vouchers go to Chronically Homeless Veterans, but we no longer have that many in Maine, and this is making it difficult to serve other veterans.
* A MOTION was made that MOC support a request for an exemption from this measure, in order to allow Maine to better serve our homeless veteran population. Maine would still prioritize chronically homeless veterans, but this would allow better utilization of the available VASH resources. PASSED.

**Statewide Homeless Council:** (in addition to the State and Federal updates, above)

* Sheldon Wheeler clarified that a release of information is not required for coordination of care. This may make it easier for shelters and other program to share data.
* There was money ‘left on the table’ after the most recent MaineHousing Supportive Housing RFP. SHC will propose options that it could be used for, such as a new, less restrictive, RFP.
* MaineHousing is now looking at other ways to utilize the 100 vouchers that were set aside for the LIHTC pilot.
* Further discussion of the SHC Blueprint proposal for DHHS.
* Betty King recently passed away. She was a strong advocate for those experiencing homelessness in Bath area, and her enthusiasm and wisdom will be missed.

**Steering Committee:** Reviewed new Work Plan and Data Quality info. This will be covered in more detail later in this meeting.

**Project** **Committee**: Needs a new Chair. Monitoring forms have been sent out and returned by participating projects. The HMIS report formerly used no longer exists, so new information was requested. The Monitoring form also no longer lines up with the new APRs, making some of the questions confusing and hard for projects to find the data for, so that will need to be fixed for next time. Feedback is being sent to projects.

**Scoring** **Committee**: Waiting for NOFA

**Resource** **Committee**: Betty Palmer and Mike Mooney were re-elected as co-chairs. The recent DV training coordinated with the Region 2 Homeless Council went very well and was well attended. Good presentations on VAWA and Tenants Rights. Now preparing for the NOFA.

**Data** **Committee**: Participated in HMIS User Group Meeting – 75 people signed up! Focus was on Data Clean-up Reports. These will be sent out monthly. There is also a new Data Clean-up Flow Chart describing how providers can work with the HMIS Team to continue to improve their data quality. Only about 50% of MCOC data has been cleaned up to new standards. HUD understands this is new and will take some time. We now have a baseline to start from and are already showing improvement. Youth and Outreach programs have not been all the data that is now being measured – in some cases they do not even have access to the fields, so this will need to be addressed.

The Maine 2015 Point-in-Time Report was brought to the Region 2 Homeless Council where some questions came up – Rob Parritt is taking another look at those elements before releasing the final version of the report to everyone.

**NOFA Work Plan and Timeline:** Paula presented the information and materials she that had recently reviewed with the Steering Committee.

* Ideal Continuum of Care System – this chart outlines the structure and function of each committee in regard to the work they need to do to ‘feed’ the NOFA Application. For example, the Data Committee provides PIT/HIC, APR, AHAR, and Data Quality info.
* NOFA Application Diagram – showing how all the parts and preparation fit into the final product, including the GIW, Applicant Profile, Registration, Project Prioritization, Consolidated Plan Certifications, Planning Grant, and Project Grants.
* Work Plan and Timeline – once the NOFA is released MCOC will have 60 days to submit the final Application to HUD. This means we will need all the Project level Applications just 30 days after the NOFA is out, in order to have time to review, score and rank them for final submission.
* There will likely be questions about Continuum Boards, Coordinated Assessment, and ESG Monitoring that we will need to address. We also need to pay attention to any available points.

**Unlimited Solutions Clubhouse in Bangor:** Opened in October of 2012 as one of four such Clubhouses in Maine, the Unlimited Solutions Clubhouse provides support to people in recovery from mental illness by increasing opportunities for work, housing, and socialization. The Bangor Clubhouse now has over 140 active members and sees about 45 people on an average day. 29 members are currently working, either independently, or through a supported employment model that provides assistance including transportation and covered absences. All work at the Clubhouse itself is accomplished by staff and members working side by side, developing transferable skills. They are working to develop a similar model for educational support. About 10% of the population they see are homeless and they work with members to help them find and remain in housing. They are open Monday through Friday from 8 to 4 and sometimes have evening events. Other Clubhouses are located in Augusta, Waterville, and Lewiston. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.clubhousemaine.org/>

**Other Business:**

**New Beginnings** recently played host to HUD Secretary Julian Castro, Former SNAPS Director Ann Oliva, and Senator Susan Collins at the opening of their new Drop-in Center in Lewiston. Several news outlets covered the event. For more info go to <http://newbeginmaine.org/>

**Next Meeting:** \*\*July 9\*\*, 2015 (NOT the 16th)