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:** David Sovetsky (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Rob Liscord (Preble Street), Cindy Namer (MaineHousing), Kasey Villeneuva (Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope), Janelle Bechard (Bread of Life Ministries), Dan Brennan (MaineHousing), Chet Barnes (DHHS-SAMHS), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Nikki Currier (Family Violence Project), Mike Mooney (New Beginnings)

**Portland** Rob Parritt (City of Portland - OSS), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Michele Staples (YCSPI), Jeff Tardiff (City of Portland - FS), Bill Higgins (HVJ), Adam Harr (City of Portland), James Gagne (Preble Street), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings)

**Bangor** Donald Lynch (Families and Children Together), Amanda Cost (Partners for Peace), Marcie Dean (Next Step)

**Presque Isle:** Steve Eyler (Homeless Services of Aroostook)

**On the Phone:** Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Donna Kelley (KBH), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Melanie Lamore Gagnon (Safe Voices), Kari Bradstreet (Hope & Justice Project), Craig Phillips (Tedford Housing), Emily Flinkstrom (Fair Tide), Heidi Bradley (CHCS), Jennifer Weatherbee (CHCS), Wendy Thomas (VA-VASH), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Mike Tilton (EMS), Alley Smith (Veterans Inc.), Jenny Stasio (FCS),Veronica Ross (TOA), Joe McNally (Milestone Recovery), Mary Boylan (Emmaus), Mary Beth Paquette (RCAM), Elaine Grade (KCHC).

[If I missed anyone or misspelled your name, please let me know]

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: January 18, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Tandberg Teleconferencing Sites**

**Review of Minutes**: Minutes from December 21, 2017 were APPROVED as submitted.

**Big Thinking Topic:** **Coordinated Entry:** There have been lots of discussions around CE in the last few weeks and the Board has created the Coordinated Entry Committee to take a look at all the work that has been done, everything that is left to do, develop an implementation plan, and make recommendations to the Board and CoC. The CE Committee has met three times already and is hoping to recruit some new members. This will be an ongoing effort.

-The list of preliminary CE questions needed some adjustments. The information is in HMIS, but this system does not have the same ‘if/then’ conditional logic as the prior software, so the order and wording of some of the questions will need to be adjusted to improve the flow of the initial intake/assessment process. The committee has presented their request for these changes to Mediware, the new Service Point vendor, so they can develop a Scope of Work. The changes are “doable”, but it will take time to make them and test them. It does not seem likely that this will all be done by the Jan. 23 deadline.

-There is a lot of concern about missing the deadline, but if you look at all of the criteria HUD requires, even if we could ‘flip a switch’ and start using what we have now, we will still not be in full compliance in terms of training, policies and procedures and other aspects of a full implementation. The Board will look at the work of the committee and is likely to recommend that we delay the implementation until these other elements are also in place, and will establish a time line to accomplish them with a possible target date of March 1st. The Board may also request HUD TA.

-The CE Committee will be meeting again on Tuesday from 10 to 1. MaineHousing and 211 will be attending. The group would like more representation from providers who serve different regions and/or populations. For more information please contact James, Vickey, or Rob.

**The Awards from the 2017 CoC NOFA Competition have been announced!**

All MCOC Renewal Projects were awarded funding, and some, but not all, of our New Projects. The last three projects on our Project Listing were not funded. These were Preble Street’s Huston Commons expansion, MaineHousing’s TBRA II, and PCHC’s Housing First Services. The dollar amounts of some of the projects that were funded are not the amounts that were requested. Some of these changes may be due to FMR adjustments made by HUD. We will look into these in more detail prior to the Grant Agreements phase.

HUD described this as a ‘preliminary announcement’ and said another announcement would be made in the spring. However, they did not describe this as a “Tier 1/ Tier 2” distinction as they have in the past. They did make reference to Puerto Rico and other disaster areas, so it seems likely those are the awards that will be announced later, not additional projects in other CoC’s, but we will keep watching and let everyone know what happens.

**State and Federal Updates:** (see Policy Com notes on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) for more details)

**Fed:** Congress is working on another Continuing Resolution, which means they will not be fixing the sequestration cuts just yet, and it seems likely there will be other reductions to non-military discretionary funds.

**State:** Several Bills that would impact homeless populations are in the works.

-LD 1711 would create treatment and housing for opioid users in recovery.

-There are also some proposed changes to BRAP, but no fiscal note attached to this.

-There is also a bill to authorize $50M from the General Fund to develop senior housing.

-It does not seem likely the 1115 waiver will gain traction as the federal government has made it clear they do not want to provide MediCare to anyone they consider to be able bodied.

-Chellie Pingree is hosting a meeting in DC tomorrow on Veteran issues.

-Tedford shelter received a request from someone asking if they would dedicate a number of beds to pregnant women in recovery. Craig wondered if this was in some way connected to one of the bills currently in the legislature. Chet said that questions about this population were brought up during testimony yesterday, and a new bill may be proposed that would target this population. About 900 babies were born in Maine last year to women who have used substances during pregnancy. Don L. stated that the language we use to describe this situation is very important. The correct term is ‘Substance exposed births’ (not ‘addicted babies’).

**SHC:** (minutes will be posted on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) once approved)

- PCHC received a 5 year SAMHSA Grant for their WISH Program (Wellness Integrated Supportive Housing) to provide 24 units of housing and Navigator services for highly vulnerable individuals.

-DHHS is also developing a Pilot for Recovery Housing.

-The group finalized an outline of criteria for a Recovery Focused Subsidy Program.

-Peter Merrill is now Acting Director at MaineHousing.

-There is a new effort underway in Bangor to serve homeless families. FACT (Families And Children Together) has applied to MaineHousing for Navigator Services funding for a shelter without walls model program.

-The USICH criteria for ending Chronic Homelessness says there needs to be no more than 3 CH individuals in the community. Maine currently has 13 and 10 of them are at the Florence House Safe Haven program. If we can house them, we can say we have resolved CH in Maine. Many options were discussed.

-Maine’s three Youth Shelters (New Beginnings, Shaw House, and Preble Street’s Joe Kreisler Shelter) were notified by FYSB (Family and Youth Services Bureau) that they are not in compliance for continued funding because they shelter youth under 18 in the same facility as youth 18 to 24. The providers are appealing this finding on the grounds that Maine regulations allow it, and the federal rule says that state law can determine the appropriateness of the ages served.

**RHC’S:** Nothing new.

**LTS:** Portland is down to about 85 people on 5 lists. They housed 18 LTS’s in Nov/Dec. and January is also looking good so far. The city is looking at ways they might be able to use CDBG for additional Navigator follow up services. Bangor’s list is at 2, and Awa says there is Shelter Plus Care available and they prioritize LTS’s.

**CoC Board Update:** Extensive discussions regarding Coordinated Entry, as covered above.

**Project /Monitoring Com:** New DRAFT Monitoring forms have been posted – these are just for informational purposes, they are not yet final. They will be reviewed by the Board and final versions will be posted prior to being put to a vote. Points are now being awarded for timely submission of Monitoring information – within 30 days of the Project’s APR submission to HUD.

**Data Committee:** Provided updates on the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, January 23, and the need for new data sharing agreements related to CE.

**Resource Com:** Also focused on PIT. Lots of work has been done and everything is ready to go. There will be an ‘after action’ meeting to review how it all went (details will be posted). There are no big storms predicted for the time of the count, which is good news. Please note that the “Youth Form” is for anyone under 25, sheltered or unsheltered, and that it is to be used along with (not instead of) the regular PIT form. It is very hard to get accurate counts for youth. Outreach will be collecting some information from all youth encountered, regardless of whether or not they meet the narrow HUD definitions, though these number will not be used in the HUD PIT reports. For questions about Outreach/ Unsheltered Counts, please contact Janice Lara-Hewey. For questions about the sheltered portion of the count, contact Amanda Caster at MaineHousing. All forms and data must be submitted to MaineHousing no later than February 9th.

**Veterans Com:** The Veteran’s Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures Document was posted for review prior to the meeting and the committee would like to request that it be approved by MCOC. **So MOVED. PASSED**.

**Youth Com:** As mentioned earlier under SHC updates, all three Youth Shelters in Maine have been cited for housing Youth under 18 in the same “Basic Center” facility as youth 18 to 24, which the FYSB inspector says is a violation of their federal policy and that these programs will lose their funding if they continue to do so. In order to comply, each of these agencies would either need to choose to serve just one of these age groups, discontinuing shelter services to the other, or they would need to find an entirely separate physical facility in which to provide shelter services to one of the groups, while maintaining their current facility for the other. In reviewing the language of the FYSB regulations, the Maine provider have found a line that says something to the effect that these programs can serve both populations if their State regulations allow it, and Maine’s do. At the request of the Youth Provider Group a MOTION was made that MCOC send a letter to our delegation asking them to examine this situation and ask that FYSB allow Basic Center Programs in Maine to continue to operate according to this section of the regulation and current Maine law. PASSED. Chris will draft the letter and send to the Chairs. SHC is also sending such a letter.

-Yesterday HUD released the NOFA for the next round of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project grants. There will be only 11 awards for the whole country, 5 of them in rural areas. Maine has been encouraged to apply. The applications must be submitted by the local Collaborative Applicant. The deadline is April 17, 2018. **MOTION** that Maine apply for this YHDP. **PASSED.** Maine applied for this grant in the last round but was not successful. Some members speculated that the reason we did not get approved last time had to do with MaineHousing being reluctant to apply. Scott said he was not a part of the process at that time, and does not know why Maine did not get the grant, but if it is the will of this group that Maine apply, then MaineHousing, as the Collaborative Applicant, will submit the application. It was asked if other agencies could also apply. There can be multiple partners involved, and multiple projects, when we get to that phase, but only the CA can submit an application.

**Tri-Chair Nominations and Election:** As announced at our last meeting, Vickey Rand’s term of office is up and we must elect someone to full that position. Chairs serve for a three year term and there are no term limits (they may be re-elected). No nominations were submitted since our last meeting. Chet nominated Vickey. This was seconded by several members. When asked, Vickey accepted the nomination. No other nominations were put forward, so we proceeded with the vote. Vickey was unanimously re-elected to serve as a Tri-Chair for MCOC. Thank you, Vickey!

**Other Business**:

-Region 1 will be doing a Fair Housing Training on Feb. 14th.

-There is federal funding currently available through state or municipal governments for opioid treatment projects. Anyone interested in developing such a project should contact their local state or municipal government to inquire about submitting an application, and should sign up for the SAMHSA list serve for more information.

-Awa wanted to give a big Thank You to CHOM for their role in helping Bangor house some of their Long Term Stayers.

**Next Meeting: February 15, 2018. Please see the next agenda for more details.**