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.

**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Amy Grommes-Pulaski (Grommes-Pulaski Consulting), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Boyd Kronholm (Bangor Area Homeless Shelter), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Joe McNally (Milestone Recovery), Melanie Bubar (Homeless Services of Aroostook), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Rich Romero (OHI), Suzanne Randall (Homeless Advocacy for All), Traci Allen (Kennebec Behavioral Health), Ginny Dill (Shalom House), Amanda Cost (Partners for Peace), Gerald Botta (HOME, Inc.), Josh D’Alessio (PCHC), Kari Bradstreet (Hope and Justice Project), Katie Spencer White (Mid Maine Homeless Shelter), Leanne Pomeroy (Preble Street), Rota Knott (Tedford Housing), Melanie Beaulieu (Family Violence Project), Donna Kelley (Waldo CAP), Emily Flinkstrom (FairTide), Mike Merrill (Volunteers Of America), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voice), Sarah Derosier (CHCS), Brianne Brasslett (CHCS), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Kate Easter (Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence), Bonnie Gagnon (Caring Unlimited), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Janice Lara-Hewey (Catholic Charities), Tyra Parker (Volunteers of America), David McClusky (Community Care/Shaw House), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Linda Parent ( PCHC), Mike Shaughnessy (MaineHousing), Kat Freeman (HomeFires Consulting), Rachel Boyce (Preble Street), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street—VHS), Aaron Geyer (City of Portland)

[Reminder – If you call in, please email [stibbitts@mainehousing.org](mailto:stibbitts@mainehousing.org) to let us know you were there!]

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting: Maine CoC**

**Date: June 18, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: GoToMeeting**

1. **Member Introductions**

Awa welcomed everyone. A reminder for all those calling in - please email Scott Tibbitts to be sure you are included in the minutes.

1. **Review & Approval of minutes:**

MCOC Minutes from the previous meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

***Noelle made a motion to approve, Joe seconded. No discussion. No objections. Passed Unanimously.***

1. **Big Thinking Topic:**

**COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Discussion Continued**

Awa asked members to share how they are continuing to address COVID in their operations.

* City of Bangor staff are required to wear their mask, except inside their office. You are not allowed to enter other people’s offices.
* Milestone is less than full most nights. People are preferring to sleep outside. Shelter stats are down all over Portland. All guests do need to wear a mask inside except if they are eating or sleeping. The Milestone van is not operating but will again soon.
* A few other providers shared updates as well.

**Renewal Score Card**

Amy presented the recommendations from the NOFA Committee. There were a few items that discussed and recommended by the committee that are written on the scorecard but are not to be scored this year. This includes

* Adding Occupancy
* Removing Length of Stay
* Changing the scale for Exits to Permanent for PSH

There is one item that is being recommended for change at this time. This is to change the way projects are scored under “serving high needs populations.” In the past, projects would receive one or two points per population. Some projects within the MCOC who were targeted specifically to one population, could not receive enough points to be competitive against ‘general’ projects that could potentially serve several categories, even though they were following a best practice for their specific population. For that reason the question on the scorecard has changed from “what high need populations do you serve, pick all that apply,” and you can receive between 1 and 10 points; to “Do you serve high needs populations” if yes then you receive 10 points.

This is the only change being recommended.

***Josh made a motion to approve. Cullen seconded. No one opposed. Passed unanimously.***

1. **Federal Legislation**

Cullen provided a summary of the Federal Legislation. The CAARES Act was released in late March. There were expectations for another stimulus package, but there has not been one yet. A draft of Phase 4 stimulus package has passed the House but has not been introduced in the Senate. This package includes rental assistance funds among other things. There is also a SMART ACT $500 billion written by Senator Collins. It’s unclear whether anything will pass before the election.

Cullen provided a few other key legislative items including the need for further housing subsidy, unemployment, and efforts that are trying to undermine Housing First.

He commented that the biggest item in front of us is the stimulus package.

1. **State Legislation**

The legislature has not yet reconvened to holding hearings. Some Committees are meeting, with links available so the public may view them. They are working to determine what to do with the state receipt of CAARES funds, approximately $1.25 Billion. We are working on having someone speak about the homeless needs in front of the legislature and advocate for a portion of the funds. We hope that will be Dan Brennan.

The Executive Order regarding the Eviction Moratorium has been extended, along with the Civil State of Emergency.

1. **COC Board Update**

* **MCOC Governance**

Amy explained that there has been a subcommittee working on updating Board and MCOC documents. The documents have been available on the Maine Homeless Planning website. She provided an overview of the edits. Norm explained the changes focused on a lot of structural and organizational edits.

Going forward the Governance and other related documents will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning site. There will be links within the Governance to other related documents, including committee charters. This will allow committees to make updates to the documents and the links will point to the most recent versions.

***Bonnie made a motion to accept the Governance as written, Cullen seconded. No abstentions Passed unanimously.***

* **Selection Committee**

Amy shared that in her time with the MCOC and the Board she has assisted in organizing the Selection Committee. Prior to her involvement the committee has always been organized by MCOC members. We have one COC Board member interested in taking this on, but would like to extend the offer to other non-funded MCOC members as well.

Scott shared that if you are new to the MCOC and don’t know much about the process, this is a great way to learn more.

Amy explained that there are really two levels of volunteer commitment. One is to help organize the committee, and the other is for scoring applications. Amy explained that it is a movable timeframe. It is mostly contingent to when the NOFA is released and there is a tight time frame for reading and reviewing and scoring the applications and getting them to the MCOC in time for the NOFA application.

Vickey shared that one recommendation the NOFA committee is considering is what work, especially around renewal applications, can be done in advance of the release of the NOFA. This would help spread out the work over a reasonable time frame.

* **Coordinated Entry Committee**

Mike S. shared that the committee has been meeting regularly, twice a month. There are subcommittees that meet in between the regular CES meetings and focus on one of the primary four aspects of CES: Access, Assessment, Prioritization and Referral, plus case conferencing etc. They are holding a working group tomorrow morning to discuss the referral process. The goal is to work to make the transition to CES as smooth as possible.

There is a full committee meeting next week.

By October 1, 2020 we need to have begun entering Coordinated Entry data in HMIS. The APR is due Oct 1, 2021. This creates a tight time frame to get everything up and running.

One of the big pieces is how to conduct a CES assessment if a person is not accessing the system through a shelter or through PATH. The Committee does not believe 211 is the best solution. Mike has had conversations with the CAP agencies, who could be a good solution. They are very interested in participating in CES and doing the assessment, but have asked if funding is available for them. They may be interested in putting together an application for the NOFA for this.

1. **Statewide Homeless Council**

Scott shared that MaineHousing put out an RFP to contract services to examine the entire homeless system in the state of Maine. This was initiated through the SHC. MaineHousing has selected the Corporation for Supportive Housing to conduct this. Christi Staples will take the lead – she has been attending SHC for some time. Similar to the Gaps and Needs study, CSH will be accessing any and all available data and will likely be in contact with providers to gather input. More information will be shared at this develops

1. **Brief Standing Committee Updates**

Scott shared that he has entered all of the data necessary into the HDX, HUD’s data collection system for Point-in-Time (PIT), Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), System Performance Measures, etc. He provided a summary of data from the HDX Generated PIT reports. He also provided an overview of the data and details of the HIC. These reports are due by the end of the month, and must be approved by the MCOC, so we will need to vote on that today, but agencies can still review their data and let Scott know by the end of next week if any corrections are need.

***Awa Conteh made a motion to accept the PIT the HIC as presented, and with any minor revisions or corrections needed. Seconded by Bonnie. No abstentions. No one opposed. Passed unanimously.***

* **2021 PIT**

The methodology for the PIT for 2021 was posted on Maine Homeless Planning. The methodology is being recommended by the Resource Committee. Janice shared the recommendations for Sheltered and Unsheltered counts and reviewed this with the group.

Sheltered Recommendations. These have traditionally been implemented by MaineHousing and this should continue.

* There is no recommended change for the forms at this time (HUD may require some later).
* They are recommending the same structure/ method of the sheltered count (HMIS reporting and paper/electronic data collection from non-HMIS facilities).

Unsheltered Recommendations:

Janice provided an overview of each option.

* Census vs Sampling: The Resource Committee is recommending a census count (complete coverage) instead of a sample, which is actually far more complicated.
* Night of Count vs Service Based Count: We have been doing a combination of a ‘night of’ and a ‘service-based’ count the last few year. We recommend continuing this approach.
* Night of Count: Tuesday January 26, 2021.
* Service Based Count: Wed-Sat Jan 27-30, 2021.

There were no questions.

***Bill made a motion to accept the recommendations Janice presented. This was seconded by Norm. No comments. No abstentions. No one opposed. This passed unanimously.***

* **Monitoring Committee**

Mike shared that the committee monitored 13 projects at their last meeting, and there are 10 remaining projects to monitor. If the NFOA is not released, then the next Monitoring Committee will be in August. If the NOFA is released, then this group will need to meet prior to August.

Awa encourages members of the MCOC to join the monitoring committee.

* **Resource Committee**

The Resource Committee has an opening for a co-chair. There will be a Rental Subsidy Training scheduled for Friday morning July 31.

1. **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

If you have an agenda item for the July meeting, please email Scott, Awa, Norm or Vickey.

1. **Any other business.**

*There is a focus on homeless individuals for the 2020 Census.* We want to make sure that all our projects and programs participate. We need to ensure that people in our shelters and homeless programs are counted for the census. This is important to ensure that Maine receives the federal funding that it deserves and needs.

Awa suggests sending letters and reminders to clients and the staff that serve those clients.

Scott shared that there was a post on Maine Homeless Planning that provided the details for reference.

Bill Higgins reminded people that the Longest Day of Homelessness is tomorrow. This year’s vigil will be done virtually. Please tune in. Info on [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org)

**Next Meeting:** **July 16, 2020, 1PM to 3PM**