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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 email [blabua@mainehousing.org](mailto:blabua@mainehousing.org) to let Betty know and she will edit accordingly.

**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Betty LaBua (MaineHousing), Norm Maze (Shalom House), Noelle Coyne (Safe Voice), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Bill Higgins (Homeless Advocacy for All), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Awa Conteh (City of Bangor), Vickey Rand (CHOM), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Tara Hembree (MaineHousing), Katie Spencer-White (MMHS), Rich Romero (OHI), Dave McCluskey (Shaw House), Rota Knot (Tedford Housing), Sara Wade OBH/(DHHS), Emily Flinkstorm (Fair Tide), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Tracy Allen (KBH), Abigail Smallwood (City of Biddeford), Christina Dingus (MaineHousing), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Janice Daku (RCAM), Jill Grazia (Shalom House), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Rebekah Paredes (New Hope MidCoast), Sharon Jordan (Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness), Susan Randall (Homeless Advocacy For All), Tyra Parker (VOANNE), Lauren Bustard (MaineHousing), Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Meredith Smith (CHCS), Theresa Dow-O’Leary (ACAP), Melissa McEntee (RGH), Lisa McLaughlin (HSA), Joe Locke (MaineHousing), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Wes Phinney (YCSPI), Kelsea Vincent (YAB), Kobi Perry (WMCA), Kari Bradstreet (H&J), Aaron Geyer (COP), Beverly Hubbard (YAB), Jo Morrissey(CHNA) and Bridgette Semler (New Beginnings)

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and

Stephonie Gregg (YCSPI) and Kari Bradstreet (FVP).

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

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**Meeting Minutes: Maine CoC**

**Date: November 18, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Ring Central**

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

1. **Member** Norm welcomed all in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:** MCOC Minutes from the October meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. *Jerry motioned to approve October’s minutes, Awa seconded. Janice Daku’s name will be corrected for the purpose of properly recording attendance. No objections. Passed unanimously.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of clients was observed with a special remembrance for Dee Clarke.
3. **Big Thinking Topics: COVID 19 Continued Discussion:** Norm opened the discussion by asking for any updates concerning COVID, any lessons learned throughout the pandemic, strengths discovered, what we can carry forward to the Continuum post-pandemic and if there is a qualitative survey update with no updates voiced the continuum moved on to the next topic of business.
4. **Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment Event: Jo Morrissey from the CHNA** attended today’s meeting to explain the agency’s mission and to invite all to an assessment event focusing on the homeless or former homeless health needs. **The CHNA is** a collaboration between Maine CDC, Central Maine Healthcare, Northern Light Health, MaineGeneral Health, and MaineHealth. The MSCHNA coordinates a collaborative state wide health assessments to avoid duplicating efforts and to provide input on health needs, gaps or barriers to good health, and resources. Jo invited all in attendance and asked for everyone to spread the word that on December 14th from 10am -12 pm there will be **People Who Are Homeless or Formerly Homeless Shared Community Health Needs Assessment Event in Bangor. A link to the event was shared in the chat box and will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning Website.**
5. **NOFO Update:** The NOFO application has been completed and submitted to HUD before the deadline.

Scott gave an over view of the questions on this year’s NOFO by noting the following emphasized topics: racial and tribal disparities, connectedness to people with lived experience, collaboration with providers such as Healthcare institutions, Dept. of ED, PHAs and the DV community, CES, COVID-19 response, ranking process metrics, HMIS data and SPMs. MSHA did not renew their TRRA and CES funding. There is enough funding for all project renewal applications however,

Unless HUD adds more money to the pot, there is not enough for the new project applications.

The D.V. bonus projects worked together to adjust their budgets to allow enough funding for all of the four submitted.

Scott, Vickey and all who volunteered to assist on the application were thanked for their time and diligence. Moving forward, the COC will reformat the policy for what and when summaries of intent for new projects get posted. The difficulties of how competing applicants should adjust budget requests when there is a lack of adequate funding was recognized.

1. **Legislative Updates:**

**Federal:** Cullen started the Federal update by mentioning the funding for FEMA hotels has been extended to April 1, 2022. The President signed a short-term Continuing Resolution to keep the government open through 12/3. On 10/14 the President signed a separate measure raising the nation's debt limit until early December, delaying potentially defaulting on the nation’s debts. Attention was brought to the release of the Senate’s FY 22 THUD bill. Overall, the bill increases funding for HUD programs in FY22, although at levels lower than those proposed in the House. The Senate bill funds HUD at $65.4 billion, or $5.7 billion above FY21 enacted levels. Unfortunately, the Senate bill does not include the major expansion of rental assistance proposed by both President Biden and the House.

**State:** The Legislature adjourned sine die on 7/19. The 2nd Regular Session of the 130th Legislature will begin on 1/12/22. Cullen reviewed the carry over bills supported by the policy committee.

1. **SHC Update:**  The SHC’s regional councils reported challenges with FMRs and the lack of affordable units. Erin Healy updated the council on the 5 hub launches and the Built for Zero timeline. Dr. Letourneau gave a CDC update by reporting the COVID numbers have reached a high plateau and reminded all of the importance of getting needle in the arms of the unvaccinated. A new policy for remote meeting needs to be put in place in order for the current virtual meeting format to continue.
2. **Long Term Stayers:**

Cullen updated the continuum by noting there has been 335 people placed with a success rate of 90.3% in the Portland area. Furthermore, in the Portland area, data shows that during the month of October 2021, people unhoused have a 44.8% higher rate of being incarcerated and an 11.9% higher rate of being hospitalized than people housed. The LTS living outside in the Bangor area has increased from 10 to 44. There are currently 3 warming centers in the Bangor area, and Brunswick is ready to open one once a location is located.

1. **COC Board Update:**

* **General Updates**: Analyzing data and SPMs to learn how best to utilize resources have been the core of recent meetings. The Board is devising a means to pilot three GA to submit data into the HMIS system.
* **CES:** The CES committee approved a drafted assessment tool. The tool will be an integral part of the CES feedback collecting road show. All suggestions from the community will be brought back to the committee integrated into the assessment before it’s brought to the COC Board and COC at large. The committee will now work on drafting the access portion of coordinated entry.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Beverly reported that YAB has been meeting with Joe Locke during office hours every Wednesday to assist with the drafting of young/youth prioritization tool. Beverly announced she has been appointed to New Beginnings Board of Directors. Bridgette stated the Youth Action Board continues to work with unyielding passion to end youth homelessness. They are currently constructing a statewide resource guide for the local, state and national levels to serve as a guide for youth to gain knowledge of resources available when experiencing instabilities with mental health, substance abuse and housing.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

* **NOFO-** An update was given earlier.
* **Resource Committee:** The committee did not meet in November. The crew continues seeking organizations across the state to take PIT count leads in their area. The stakeholders participating in the Hub launches will be notified see if they are interested in taking on a roll in the 2022 unsheltered count. Norm mentioned the possibility of a training with Pine Tree Legal on December 10th from 9-11am.

1. **Next Meeting Agenda:**

* Big thinking topic: Continued Discussion – COVID-19 One Year Later: Lessons learned throughout the pandemic, strengths discovered, and what we can carry forward to the Continuum post-pandemic. Qualitative Survey.
* All were invited to email Betty, Scott or chairs agenda suggestions.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 pm**

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