**MAINE STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNCIL**

**December 13, 2022**

**9:30-12:30**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** A complete list of attendees and the agencies they represent is attached.

**Minutes:** Betty LaBua (MaineHousing) and Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing)

**Welcome:** Cullen Ryan, in the position of Co-Chair, opened today’s meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. *Tracey H. motioned to approve November’s minutes as written. Kate E. seconded. The spelling of Anthony Pilotte’s will be repaired, November’s minutes were unanimously approved*. A moment of silence wasobserved in honor of those who have passed away while experiencing homelessness.

**System Updates:**

* **Opioid Response:** Gordon Smith attended today’s meeting to give an overview of Maine’s monthly overdose report. The Fatal overdoses this year to date (through November 30) where “undomiciled or transient” was indicated equaled 65 individuals, representing 11% of all the fatal overdoses. The largest number of ODs (40%) occurred in Cumberland County. It is estimated there will be a total of 10,000 ODs this year. Gordon will research what percent of reversed ODs have been homeless during the last year however he noted, tracking this populace is difficult. Valuable resources are available on https://knowyouroptions.me & <https://getmainenaloxone.org> . This month’s update ended with a reminder to look at the <https://mainedrugdata.org> site for additional information.
* **HUB Update:** Tara started today’s update by mentioning work continues this month in all facets encompassing the scope of Hub duties. Hub Coordinators continue to work towards finding solutions to gather data from adjacent non HMIS agencies such as General Assistance, Community Action Programs, day centers, and other service providers who engage with people experiencing homelessness to help build their Hub level By Name Data sets. Coordination, planning, and trainings are in motion for the 2023 Point In Time count lead by the Hub Coordinators with support from the MCoC Resource Committee and MaineHousing. Hub Coordinator also continue to engage with their improvement teams to tackle the line items on their BfZ - All Singles Scorecards that can be solved at the local hub level to get closer to having quality data for the all singles population experiencing homelessness. The State Strategy Team met in November and Action Teams will continue to work on their respective aims for Data Quality, Racial Equity, and Clear the Path work. A SST retreat is scheduled for Jan 24that MaineHousing to discuss and determine short term goals for the next 6 month action cycle.
* **CES Update:** Erin K. presented the committee update. Piloting the four phases of the Coordinated Entry System formally ended on December 2nd yet, CE assessments will continue in Hubs 5 and 7. Of the 240 assessments completed, 97 were unsheltered at the time of assessment. Feedback is currently being gathered from staff at all ends of the spectrum. The two major take a ways to date are the need to keep an eye on data quality issues and how to help clients obtain required documentation.
* **MCoC Update:**

1. Awa has been elected for another three year term as Co-Chair. Election results are still being tallied for Norm Maze’s vacated chair. .
2. Encampments and the need for warming centers continue to be growing concerns.
3. The Board approved the Count Us app as an option for completing PIT surveys.

* **Federal Plan:** Nichele Carver**,** Senior Regional Advisor, USICH (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness), joined today’s meeting to provide a high level overview of the 2023 Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Plan, an 88 page road map with an emphasis on prevention, was made available to the public on December 12, 2022 and posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Nichele highlighted the plan as an upstream prevention framework designed as a road map for Federal action and a blue print for State and local action. The plan is based on these six pillars:
* Lead with Equity
* Scale Housing + Supports to Meet Demand
* Use Data and Evidence to Make Decisions
* Improve Effectiveness of Homelessness Response Systems
* Collaborate at all Levels
* Prevent Homelessness

With respect to process, this plan sought to center the voices of people with lived experience. This plan was the first plan to explicitly call out prevention and address it as part of the formal federal strategy and is meant to be a living document with annual updates to reflect current conditions.

**Council and Committee Updates:**

* **Regional Updates Region I-** The region has not meet since November’s SHC meeting. Cheryl H. mentioned HVJ is helping with the homeless vigil in Portland on December 21rst and are working on outreach and addressing food insecurity.

**Region II**- The Region discussed the growing number of encampments and people living in cars, higher numbers of medically fragile seeking shelter and the need for stabilizer workers to help people newly housed.

**Region III-** Tracy H. gave today’s update, noting, at their last meeting, concerns were raised over the lack of warming centers across the region and the frequency of people be discharged from hospitals into homelessness. Part of the region took part in the Hub seven piloting of CES, there is potential for a warming center to be opened in Ellsworth and the HC’s in 7, 8 and 9 are busy with outreach efforts and collaborating with Health Acadia.

* **Homeless Policy Committee Update:**

**Federal:**

**State:** As of 5/9 the Legislature Adjourned Sine Die, therefore no updates were reported. Cullen screen shared and gave an overview of The Maine Homeless Policy Committee Priorities and Strategies for the 131st Legislature that were mailed to everyone on the SHC mailing list and posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.

* **MSN:** The following topics were discussedduring the network’s latest meeting:
* Flexible funding is needed by shelters
* There is a need for additional low barrier shelters. Low barrier shelters require additional resources to ensure safety for all.
* COVID challenges continue and there are concerns on how to handle these challenges without funding for testing and without hotels.

**Housing Updates:**

* **Greg Payne Governor’s Senior Advisor on Housing Policy:** Greg Payne provided an update on how the Governor’s office is responding to the emergency housing needs in Maine. The need for warming centers during the winter months how they will be funded are both topics the Governor’s office will be addressing. Additional funding for hotels is anticipated for January-April, however further future funding is unlikely therefore additional Emergency Shelter capacity will almost certainly need to be created. Greg also mentioned the Board of Commissioners will formalize the SHC membership slots and the Council will be updated in January.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.**