**System, Housing, MCoC, Committee and Opioid Response Updates SHC May 9, 2023**

**System Updates**

**Coordinated Entry: Submitted by Erin Kelly**

* CE pilots are still ramping up in hubs 3,6, 8 and 9, with assessments in 2
* There were initially some struggles in getting people trained up, as we moved to a self-guided training via MSHA's bridge system, but it seems like we are making good progress now!
* There are assessments being entered into HMIS across 2, 3, 6,and 8
* Case conferencing is set to being in hubs 3, 6 and 8 this month
* CE is still operating as usual in hubs 5 and 7

**Hubs: Submitted by Tara Hembree**

Welcome to Nakesha Warren-Colbry, who started as the Hub 2 – Cumberland County Hub Coordinator on April 11. Nakesha is getting grounded in the role working closely with MaineHousing and the other hub coordinators. Nakesha has scheduled meetings with providers to meet in person so you may hear from her soon if you haven’t already.

All hub coordinators are working on the all singles scorecard for each of their respective hubs and digging into different procedures that will be necessary to have in place as we focus on getting to data quality.

* Hub 1 – York is working to develop and test a process on how track actively homeless individual who have not consented to services and/or assessment.
* Hub 7 is working to flesh out a 90 day inactivity policy to be adopted statewide.
* Hub 8 is working with the Connection Initiative and Hub 3 with 211 to test a process for ways to connect people experiencing literal homelessness, that are calling into the agencies for resources, to an access point via the hub coordinator.

Most hubs have conducted a housing process mapping session with their local providers to identify barriers and bottlenecks that impact housing people quickly. That information will be compiled and share out at the next State Strategy Team meeting on May 16 for the state level partners to hear and consider.

Case conferencing protocols have been shared with the Maine Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Committee for review and feedback.

Veterans Housing Surge action team continues to plan for this year’s housing challenge.  The Steering committee is meeting weekly and other subcommittees are actively meeting and planning for their respective areas: data, landlord engagement, and community relations.

The State Strategy Team (SST) is planning to be absorbed into the Statewide Homeless Council (SHC) when the Community Solutions contract ends in June.  Transition planning is well underway and more details will be fleshed out in the SHC committee and at the next SST meeting in May.  The voting members of the SHC, SST, Hub Coordinators, MaineHousing, and Community Solutions will meet in  June for an in person retreat at MaineHousing to pass the torch of the state level Built for Zero work with Community Solutions to the Statewide Homeless Council.

**Housing Updates**

**MSHA: Submitted by Lauren Bustard**

**Hotels and Warming Shelters** The two hotels that were funded by FEMA in South Portland have been decommissioned. Although most of the original 290 occupants have moved on to other housing or shelter there was a group of about 30 individuals who were discharged with no clear housing plan.

For those individuals in hotels funded through ERA/GA the deadline has been extended from April 30th to June 30th.

Three-month extensions were provided to two of the warming shelters in Portland that are housing asylum seekers – those operated by Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and Greater Portland Family Promise. It is hoped that a newly funded shelter will be opening in Portland within 3 months that will be able to absorb those staying at these two locations. All other warming shelters closed by the April 30th deadline.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Regional Administrator Position Pilot** Due to the increasing number of HMIS users/access points for the new Coordinated Entry system, MaineHousing has decided to pilot an HMIS Regional Administrator position in Hub 7 – Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. We have contracted with PCHC to utilize 25% of a staff person’s time as a resource to HMIS users in the area. This position will perform Helpdesk type activities for local area users, offer some training and provide troubleshooting assistance. As the number of HMIS users increases across the state we will evaluate the effectiveness of this approach to determine if we want to replicate it in other areas of the state in the future.

**Housing Problem Solving (Diversion and Rapid Exit)** Housing Problem Solving has gotten off to a good start. We have completed three cohorts of skills training, with more trainings continuing through the spring and summer. Agencies have reported helping 64 households in crisis to this point, with 37 of those crises resolved. That is a 58% success rate, which may increase as more data comes in. This is already showing an excellent success rate, and shows promise to significantly reduce the inflow to our homeless response system.

**Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP) Monitoring** This year the program specialists at MaineHousing have started to return to in-person monitoring visits for our partner agencies that participate in the Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP). Partner agencies report they are pleased to once again have face-to-face interaction with MaineHousing staff. To this point, MaineHousing has found most agencies to be doing an excellent job of providing services according to the guidelines set by MaineHousing and HUD.

**MCoC Updates**

**MCoC Board: Submitted By Cullen Ryan**

The MCoC Board of Directors met May 5, 2023 and covered these topics:

* David Canavan (HUD Technical Assistance) and Lynn Morrow (HUD New England Senior CPD Representative) joined the meeting to help the Maine Continuum of Care come into compliance with HMIS enrollment for HUD resources.  The Board voted unanimously to move the MCoC into compliance with its HMIS enrollment practices and have the Data Committee serve as the task force to see this through.
* The Board Reviewed system performance including the inflow/outflow of the homeless system.  The shelters are generally full and overflowing with the exception of some DV shelters which have some capacity.  Several shelters had higher exits to housing than last year.  Overall there were 120 exits to housing in 2022, and 113 exits to housing in 2023, but there is some missing data for some Portland shelters, so this year may have exceeded last year.
* The Board voted unanimously to approve/endorse the active/inactive status strategy for Coordinated Entry as recommended by the committee.
* The Board voted unanimously to approve/endorse the 211 strategy recommended by the Coordinated Entry Committee.
* The Board voted unanimously to approve using planning money to translate documents as needed for Coordinated Entry.
* The Board voted unanimously to send a letter of support for an applicant for a SAMSHA grant.
* The Board voted unanimously to support the YHDP submitting a request for TA from HUD.

**Full MCoC: Submitted by Kate Easter**

The MCoC Meeting was well attended for a school vacation week although there were fewer folks in attendance than usual.  To assist the continuum with the recruitment of volunteers to join committees, a document outlining committee openings and committee details was posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website.  Kate E. highlighted the Resource Committee by explaining that it engages both the community and MCoC members by collecting, organizing and sharing information on homelessness in the state of Maine.  The committee primarily provides trainings on various topics, some are HUD mandated while others address issues uniquely pertinent to Maine.  All committees are in need of new members, in particular the Resource Committee, the NOFO Committee, Project Monitoring and Document Review.  The monitoring committee met in early April.  Since the YHDP and DV Bonus projects will need monitoring in addition to all other funded projects, the Monitoring Committee will need assistance revamping the monitoring process.  Therefore the continuum *approved the motion for the Monitoring’s Committee’s request for HUD TEC assistance to help with rebuilding the monitoring process and tool.*   This month’s meeting ended early in order for members to attend the NOFO Debrief.

**Committee Updates**

**Homeless Committee Updates:** Sent to Council in separate documents.

**Opioid Response**

**Update: Submitted by Gordon Smith**

Of the 140 total suspected and confirmed overdose cases in 2023, un-domiciled or transient housing status was reported for 14 (10%) of decedents.  Among those 14 individuals, the largest proportion of un-domiciled persons were found in Cumberland County (5, 36%) Penobscot County and Kennebec County (3,21%).  In March, 4 individuals, representing 13% of decedents were identified as un-domiciled.  I am pleased to report that for the first three months of the year, fatal overdoses were 10.8% lower than the comparable period a year ago.