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), Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Donna Kelley (Waldo CAP), Donna Alger (BFAH), Rebecca Hobbs (Through These Doors), Jace Farris (Hub 8), Kate Easter (MCEDV), Matthew Wyman (YAB), Chris Bicknell (New Beginnings), Sharon Jordan (Wabanaki Health & Wellness), Bill Higgins (HA4A), Ray Michaud (Vet Inc.), Aaron Geyer (CoP), Norm Maze (Shalom), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Kari Bradstreet (HSA), Noelle Coyne(Safe Voices), Nicole Frydrych (HUB 6), Tracy Allen (KBH), Tara Hembree(MSHA), Rich Romero(OHI), Lauren Bustard (MSHA), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Sarah Kasun (CHCS), Tony Giarratano (Shalom House), Keely LeBlanc (H&JP), Erin Kelly (Preble Street), David McCluskey (Community Care), Rebekah Paredes (NHMC), Marcie Dean (Next Step), Joe Locke (MSHA), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Nicole Frydrych (Hub 6), Emily Bragdon (HSA), Melissa McEntee (RGH), Julian Sherman (PCHC),Susan Giambalvo (CU), Jennifer Weatherbee (Hub7), Julia Kimball (Hub 4), Vickey Merrill (CHOM), Melody Fitch (FVP), Ann Martin (HUD), Abigail Smallwood (Hub 1), Awa Conteh (CoB), Giff Jamison (Tedford), Alesha Coffin (MYC), Ed Begos (HAS), Mike Merrill (VOA), Joe McNally (Milestone), Jessica Lincoln (Northern Lighthouse), Nickie Cohen (CHCS), Emily Meade (Hub 5), Laura Briggs (BOL), Callie Junkins (YAB), Mike Shaughnessy (MSHA), Jennifer Needham (New Beginnings), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Leanne Pomeray (Preble Street) Mike Beck, Sara Wade (DHHS) and Hunter Bellanceau (HSA)

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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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**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting Minutes: Maine CoC**

**Date: May 18, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

# 

1. **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:**

Awa welcomed all to today’s meeting. MCOC Minutes from the April meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. *Laura B. motioned to approve minutes as written. Julian S. seconded. Minutes unanimously approved as written.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of people experiencing homelessness was observed.

1. **Big Thinking Topic:**

* **Highlight on the Monitoring Committee** 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. Today, Awa C. and Mike S. spotlighted the Monitoring Committee by explaining how all MCoC projects are monitored by the committee to ensure programs are meeting performance standards, are in alignment with their project application and are adhering to HUD regulations. Mike S. will be stepping down as chair but will remain on the committee. Anyone interested was asked to either type their contact information in the chat or email Awa or Mike S.

1. **Legislative Updates:**

Cullen started the update on the Federal Level. On 4/26, House Republicans passed a budget proposal that would lift the debt ceiling in exchange for dramatic cuts to domestic spending, including funding for affordable housing and homelessness programs. Per NLIHC: the Republican proposal known as the “Limit, Save, and Grow Act,” would cut federal domestic spending for FY 24 to FY 22 levels, resulting in at least a 23% reduction in funding for key programs, depending on how cuts are designed. The proposal would also limit future spending increases to 1% annually for 10 years, rescind unspent COVID-19 relief funds, and put in place rigid work requirements for some anti-poverty programs, among other harmful provisions. While the Republican budget proposal will not pass the Democratic-controlled Senate, its passage in the House could give more leverage to Republicans in budget negotiations, which could lead to steep spending cuts for affordable housing and homelessness programs. Attention was also brought to

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act which, if passed would create 250,000 new housing vouchers, paired with mobility-related services, to help low-income families with young children move to communities of their choice, including neighborhoods with high-performing schools and high-quality childcare and early education programs.

Five minutes were dedicated to State updates. Opening with an outline of the Governor’s supplemental budget, Cullen moved to highlighting key bills listed on the bill tracker that address homelessness, services, housing and rental assistance, general assistance and food security bills. All legislative policy updates were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website: [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org)

1. **Hub Update:**

Tara started today’s update by welcoming 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, the other hub coordinators and providers. Julia Hub 4, welcomed back from maternity leave. 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.

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.

1. **Letters of Support Update:**

The Board approved the request by Maine Med at Preble Street for a letter of support to include in their application for a SAMSHA grant that would provide funding for their mobile team’s psychiatric outreach. Chris B. announced New Beginnings will be asking for a letter of Support for their application for the Family Use Services Bureau Street Outreach Program grant.

1. **SHC Updates:**

Cullen provided a brief summary of May’s Statewide Homeless Council Meeting (Full minutes of that meeting will be posted on the [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org) website.) The first half of the meeting was dedicated to Breakout Sessions and Group Discussion on Hubs, Issues within Hubs, common themes, unique themes and statewide concerns**.** The remaining time was spent discussing the nuts and bolts of the SHC, its purpose, its role and how best to format meetings and optimize productivity. It was decided to schedule an executive session prior to the next council meeting in order work on defining the council’s next steps.

1. **Long Term Stayers Updates:**

Norm, on behalf of the Portland LTS, mentioned 493 people have been housed with a 90.4% success rate. Since April 9th, 9 people have signed a lease and currently there are 71 names on the LTS list in Portland.

1. **COC Updates:**

* **Board:** Cullen shared David Canavan (HUD Technical Assistance) and Lynn Morrow (HUD New England Senior CPD Representative) joined May’s meeting to explain that the Maine Continuum of Care needs to bring Shelter Plus Care’s HMIS Enrollment into compliance.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the active/inactive status strategy for Coordinated Entry as recommended by the committee.  The Board voted unanimously to approve 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.

* **CES:** In addition to the motions mentioned in the Board update, Erin K. provided the continuum with today’s update. The piloting of all four phases of CE continues in Hubs 3, 6, and 8 and the assessment phase in Hub 2*.* The committee is putting the finishing touches on case conferencing protocols. The concept of “Dynamic Prioritization” continues to be a focal point of committee meetings. Emergency Housing Vouchers will be entered through CES in all piloting Hubs.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Matt W. announced the YAB Board 8 seats are currently occupied with youth representatives from all areas of Maine. YAB is exploring ways to attend the NAEH conference in July and plans on applying for scholarships to cover registration fees through the MCoC. A “summer get together” for Board members will be held this summer.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

* **Document Review Committee:** On hiatus until the Equity Consultants complete their review.
* **Monitoring:** Already covered during the Big Thinking Topic discussion.
* **Resource Committee:** No updates this month.
* **HVAC:** Dan H. announced there will be another “House 100 Vets Challenge” this year. The challenge will start the beginning of August and run through veteran’s day.Dan asked for all agencies to assist by amplifying the message of the challenge on their social media platforms and to assist in reducing the negative stigmas attached to homeless vets. For more information Dan noted nohomelessvets.org as a resource.
* **PWLE:** The committee is working on a lived expertise map of state wide services. Bill invited all to the next meeting on Friday, May 26th at 1pm.
* **DEIB Committee:** No updates reported.
* **Scoring Template:** The committee developed a survey to assist with identifying any gaps and needs of the scoring template. A link to the survey was provided in the chat. Next month a scoring template draft will be ready for the continuum to vote on.

1. **New Agenda Items:**

* All in attendance were asked to send agenda suggestions to the tri-chairs.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for June 15th from 1:00-3:00 pm on ZOOM!**