**System, Housing, MCoC and Committee Updates SHC June 13, 2023**

**System Updates**

**Coordinated Entry: Submitted by Erin Kelly**

Pilots are still up and running in hubs 3,5,6,7 & 8. A couple themes remain present in these hubs:

* A lack of resources that are a part of CE/that can be case conferenced
* A lack of staff to complete assessments, offer assistance in getting clients 'document ready' and to assist with housing navigation/case management once someone is matched with a resource
* These are both things that CE will not be able to solve for on its own; there will need to need to be a system level response to the gaps that CE has highlighted thus far

The committee has begun talking about when to roll out the prioritization and referral process in hub 2 and to pilot CE in the remaining hubs, which are 1, 4 and 9.The committee is tentatively talking about mid-August as a goal but has yet to officially come to consensus on this date.

**Hubs: Submitted by Tara Hembree**

Hubs are accessing the Path to Zero action cycle with Community Solutions/Built for Zero that provides resources for Case Conferencing, System Improvement practices, and data quality.  Some of the hub coordinators completed a fabulous facilitation training with Strive Together through a partnership with Community Solutions and are putting their learnings to use immediately.

Coordinated Entry (CES) has officially kicked off with case conferencing happing in 5 of the 9 hubs.  Hub 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are currently piloting all parts of CES, Access, Assessment, Prioritization, and Referral.  Hub coordinators are facilitating case conferencing meetings with direct service providers to determine how to best match participants to the limited housing resources that are available in the Maine Continuum of Care (MCOC).  Currently Hub 7 has City of Bangor shelter plus care vouchers and all hubs have been able to match to the remaining Emergency Housing Vouchers available across the state.

Hubs 1, 4, 9 and 2 are preparing to pilot CES later this summer.  If all goes well with the CoC we will have a statewide pilot of CES!!!

Hub 2 is working with HUD TA on the encampments and getting folks connected to CES.  They are also collectively working to help find places for individuals and families seeking asylum and currently housed at the Portland Expo.

Presque Isle Housing Authority hired Anna Robinson as the Hub 9 Homeless Service Coordinator. Anna will start on 6/15/2023.

The State Strategy Team meeting in May was postponed. Wrap up will happen at the end of June with Erin Healy closing out the state level work.  Hub level work will continue uninterrupted. Access to resources from Community Solutions will continue at the hub level for the five Built for Zero hubs. This essentially allows for the transfer of resources to the remaining 4 hubs through Tara Hembree at MaineHousing.

**Housing Updates**

**MSHA: Submitted by Lauren Bustard**

**Long Term Solutions to Address Homelessness NOFA** MaineHousing is in the final allocation phase for the remainder of the LD 3 funds that were targeted at longer term solutions. By June 30th we will have a final list of all projects funded through this legislation. The projects will build capacity around the state in shelter beds, permanent supportive housing and services.

**Housing Problem Solving (Diversion and Rapid Exit)**

The Housing Problem Solving initiative has shown a great deal of success to date. Amongst our HMIS participating agencies, 101 people have been assisted. Agencies are reporting that 80% of completed interventions have been successfully resolved. Our Domestic Violence providers will be reporting quarterly, so we will have data to report at the next Council meeting.

**Homeless Solutions Rule**

When MaineHousing revised the Homeless Solutions Rule last year, we reported that we would check on the effectiveness of the new Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP) funding formula this year. We sent out a survey to ESHAP providers and heard back overwhelmingly that the new way of establishing and disbursing the stabilization share of the funding has been a positive change. In light of this and the fact that we don’t yet have enough information on the effectiveness of the change to the incentive share of the funding, we have decided not to make changes to the rule this year, but to check again next year for possible revisions.

**MCoC Updates**

**MCoC Board: Submitted By Cullen Ryan**

The MCOC Board met on 6/1 and focused on the following areas:

1. A review of inflow and outflow indicated that the majority of people in the last year were not going to permanent housing.  We need to figure out why we are exiting people to temporary locations.  7.52% exited to permanent housing; 92.48% did not exit to permanent housing.
2. The City of Portland requested a Coordinated Entry Field for people staying in an encampment so they can create a by name list as part of a focused effort to house/shelter people unsheltered outside.  The field is to include location to distinguish encampments.  The Board was supportive of this.
3. A review of the Point in Time Count findings was provided.  4258 people were counted, including people in motels/hotels, and transitional housing.  It was postulated that this may be indicative of need.  It was postulated that this may be indicative or people stuck in shelter (a stuck system).  It was noted that 55% were households with children/45% were households without children, opposite from last year.  There were more females than males, and Black/African Americans represented 47% of the PIT count.  Black/African Americans represented between 8% and 18% in the 21026-2021 PIT counts, likely illustrating the effect of an enormous uptick in arriving asylum seekers on the homeless system this past year.  1099 were indicated as Chronically Homeless, but that was primarily due to length of stay; it has yet to be determined whether that represents people with a disabling condition (serious and persistent mental illness).  2009 people counted in the PIT were located in Hub 2, which is approaching half of the entire PIT count (47%).  Discussion ensued about BRAP and how that is counted as transitional housing (included in the PIT counts) when it actually serves as mechanism for Permanent Supportive Housing.  This is a thorny issue to correct because BRAP is designed to be a pathway to Section 8, one that is not always achieved, though people remain housed.  The Board is committed to thinking creatively and systemically about the drastic changes we are seeing in this PIT count.  The Board landed on the need to ensure we are interpreting this data correctly.
4. The Board received an update on the change in when people are entered into HMIS for Shelter Plus Care (as decided last month).  There was concern expressed about how this may negatively affect our scoring in the NOFO.  There was general agreement we need a proper narrative about this change in entry so that HUD is less prone to penalizing Maine for this data entry change, which will affect our reported results and scoring.  The Board agreed to continue to focus on this and conduct a full analysis of the effect on funding and ultimately the people we serve.  The Board agreed to invite HUD Technical Assistance to help us with this dilemma.  The Board will spend additional time and focus on this at its next meeting.

**Full MCoC: Submitted by Vickey Merrill**

The 5/18 meeting of the Maine Continuum of Care (MCoC) included the Big Thinking Topic: Spotlight on the Monitoring Committee.  This included an overview of the committee, how the committee’s work ties into the MCoC, and why MCoC Members may want to join the Committee.  Other topics covered included a Federal and State legislation update, an update on the Hubs, information from the MCoC Board of Directors, an update on the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Committee’s work including the pilots, and an update from the Statewide Youth Action Board (YAB).  The next meeting is on 6/15 and all are encouraged to attend.

**Committee Updates**

**Maine Shelter Network: Submitted by Noelle Coyne**

This month the Maine Shelter Network’s meeting focused on a discussion around shelters that are required to be licensed and what the requirements are in those areas around licensing. We also discussed policies we have at the different shelters including a “good neighbor policy” and shared language and resources around this. There was also discussion around navigator caseloads and how many clients seem manageable at a time.

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