**Alison Small, Shaw House/Community Care**

Alison began her career of being dedicated to helping youth who are experiencing homelessness at a Transitional Living Program run by Shaw House called Mason Place.  Alison quickly moved in to a Homeless Services Manager and now is the Director of all services at Community Care for youth who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.  The variety of programs Alison oversees require knowledge in each area ranging from prevention to permanent housing.  Alison has extensive experience and oversees family mediation, outreach, food management, transitional apartment living and group living, emergency shelter, McKinney Vento Liaison efforts, as well as a variety of supportive housing and voucher services.  Alison has been instrumental in the extremely challenging task of securing several apartments for youth by working with landlords to overcome obstacles.  Alison currently serves as a tri-chair of the Homeless Youth Provider Group, a sub-committee of the MCoC as well as co-facilitator of the ad-hoc committee that is developing the Youth Coordinated Entry system.

**Donna Alger, Bangor Friends of Affordable Housing**

I have 8 years of first-hand experience with Maine’s homeless response system while assisting and advocating for my daughter who is currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness with a severe mental health disorder. I am her SSI Representative Payee and began attending the Maine Continuum of Care (MCoC) and the Statewide Homeless Council (SHC) meetings over a year ago.  I am now a member of the MCoC, a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee and attend Statewide and Regional Homeless Council meetings.  In April of this year, after studying the MCoC and SHC bylaws and mandates, I presented “The Difference Between the SHC and the CoC” to the Statewide Homeless Council.  I also presented to Penobscot County Cares.  I attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference in Washington, DC in July.  While in DC, I met with Senator King’s staff where I was able to advocate for our homeless and share my personal story.  I have been awarded a scholarship to attend the National Coalition for the Homeless Leadership Conference in September in Washington, DC.

I created The Maine Homeless Resource Guide Facebook Group, with a goal to create more transparency and awareness of Maine’s homeless response system and to centralize resources and information including news, meeting notices, educational resources, funding sources and legislation.  One of the critical assets in this group is a map that I maintain containing locations of Maine’s permanent shelters, winter warming centers and pop up shelters listed by the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

I am the Maine State Coordinator for a location-based app called ShelterApp where I have stored resources that I gathered for the Lived Experience Committee. Any Maine organization can add, update and become an Administrator in the app. One of the benefits of ShelterApp is the ability for someone who is on the street to quickly find nearby resources.

I have an extensive history of volunteerism and all of my volunteer positions, past and present, are unpaid.  More information can be found on my online resume at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/algerdonna>

**Erin Kelly, Preble Street**

I have been working in homeless services for 10 years, first starting as a Jesuit Volunteer at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen in 2013. After, I worked for the Preble Street Veterans Housing Services program, serving as a caseworker, supervisor and eventually as the program manager. Throughout that work, I worked to connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to permanent housing utilizing a rapid rehousing intervention model based in housing first and harm reduction principles. In my supervisory role, I assisted in supporting a team of caseworkers in doing the day-to-day housing focused case management. As a program manager, I began to shift my work toward systems levels work and took over the management of the Veteran By Name List, a project I worked on from 2018 until the beginning of 2020. As the By Name List manager, I worked alongside colleagues at Preble Street and other partners such as VOA, the VA, and Vets Inc., with the goal of effectively ending Veteran homelessness in Maine (something that we came very close to doing!).

In 2020, I helped to launch Rapid Rehousing Services at Preble Street as the Rapid Rehousing Director, which brought the same low-barrier, housing first based RRH intervention to a broader population of people experiencing homelessness in the Great Portland Area. Since 2020, the program has served over 160 individuals and connected 115 of them to permanent housing. In January 2023, I became a Senior Director of Social work, now overseeing Florence House as well as Rapid Rehousing Services.

Since 2019, I have served as one of the tri-chairs of the CoC coordinated entry committee, helping to oversee the design and implementation of Maine’s coordinated entry system (CES). Throughout this process, I have worked on the systems level to ensure that Maine’s CES is person centered and effective as possible for people experiencing homelessness as well as trying to make the change as easy on the providers as possible. I have worked collaboratively with many partners statewide to make this happen. Additionally, I am a member of the CoC Board of Directors and participate in the NOFO and DEI committees. In 2020, I graduated with my Masters in Social Work and became a Licensed Clinical Social worker (LCSW) this past spring.

Overall, I believe that systems level work, including at the CoC level, must be connected to and informed by the front line work and by those who are experiencing homelessness. It must be fully rooted in the belief that everyone deserves safe and stable housing, no matter what. From there, we must work to build systems that decrease barriers, is responsive to the changing needs of the unhoused community, and isn’t afraid to try something new.

**Noelle Coyne, Safe Voices**

Noelle Coyne currently serves in the role of Director of Shelter and Housing Services for Safe Voices. Safe Voices is the Domestic Violence and Human Sex Trafficking agency serving Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties. For the past 10 years Noelle has worked within the shelter and housing world at Safe Voices starting on the front lines as a shelter advocate. Currently, Noelle oversees 3 different shelter locations, housing individuals and families who are fleeing violence in both larger cities and the rural area of Farmington. In addition to the shelters, Noelle oversees the transitional housing portion of the program which includes long term housing partnerships with CHOM for 2 different buildings. In the past year, Safe Voices established the newest shelter in Farmington which also provides 2 Project Based Apartments attached to the building and is in process with Maine Housing to bring 6 more additional rental units to the location. Noelle’s biggest and proudest accomplishment was being able to bring the first pet friendly shelter to the state and is committed to creating more spaces where humans and animals can recover together from trauma. Noelle regularly attends the CoC, Statewide Homeless Council and Maine Shelter Network meetings.