# **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:** Vickey welcomed everyone to today’s meeting. MCOC Minutes from the July meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. ***Awa motioned to approve minutes as written. Noelle C. seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as written****.* A moment of silence to honor the passing of people experiencing homelessness was observed.

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 Alger (BFAH), Jace Farris (Hub 8), Ray Michaud (Vet Inc.), Aaron Geyer (CoP), Noelle Coyne(Safe Voices), Tracy Allen (KBH), Tara Hembree(MSHA), Sarah Kasun (CHCS Rental Services), Tony Giarratano (Shalom House), Betty LaBua (MSHA), Joe Locke (MSHA), Elaine Grade (KCHC), Vickey Merrill (CHOM), Awa Conteh (CoB), Laura Briggs (BOL), Mike Shaughnessy (MSHA), Dan Hodgkins (Preble Street), Nickie Cohen (CHCS), Ken Capron (Hope Harbor), Janice Daku (RCAM), Danielle Triffitt (Tedford Housing), Boyd Kronholm (BAHS), Mike Tuller (BFAH), Kobi Perry (WMCA), Kelly Watson (MSHA), Karessa Grenier (Hope and Justice Project), Tracy Davis (CHCS), Bev (YAB), Jessica Lincoln (TNLH), Emily Meade (Hub 5), Rebecca Paredes (NHM), , Betty St. Hilaire(Maine General), Jessica Wilson (City of Bangor), Sharon Jordon (Wabanki Health), Shawn Yardley (SHC),Anne Robinson (Hub 9), Nicole Frydrych (Hub 6), Amy Morin, Martin Mehrling (MSHA), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joe McNally (Milestone), Crysatl Hatch (RCAM), Julian Sherman (PCHC), Michael Beck (Dignity First), Dan Black (Quality Housing Coalition), Melody Fitch (FVP), Katie Spencer White (MMHS), Erin Kelly (Preble), Katie Holtzworth, David McCluskey (Shaw House), Doug Dunbar (EMDC), Jenny Stasio (TTD), Abigail Smallwood (Hub 1), Matt Wyman (NB/YAB), Amy Holland (Hub 3), April Reed (MSHA), Laurie Charon, Sarah Grant, Bill Higgins (HA4ALL), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Sean Fitzpatrick (VA), Leanne Pomeray (Preble), Nakesha Warren Colby (Hub 2) and Julia Kimball (Hub 4)

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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: August 17, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

1. **Big Thinking Topics:**

* **CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity**

Scott T. reminded the continuum that the 120 paged 2023 NOFO was released by HUD on July 5, 2023. In order to allow ample time for scoring before the HUD deadline of September 28th the following local deadlines have been set: All project applications - both New and Renewal - must be submitted in esnaps no later than 5:00 PM on 08/28/23. Applicants will be notified if their Project will be accepted and included in the CoC Consolidated Application no later than September 13, 2023. The NOFO Committee meets every Friday from 2 to 4.There are 4 Sections to CoC level NOFO Application, plus a long list of attachments. There is also a separate Project Priority Listing that will include all the New and Renewal Project Applications once those are scored and ranked. Section 1 is actually about half of the application which the committee is presently now more than half way completed. Section 2 is all about data – HMIS, PIT, HIC, and System Performance Measures. Section 3 is about New Projects, and Section 4 is about any DV Bonus Applications, therefore the NOFO committee needs to see those proposals before those Sections can be answered. In terms of proposals, the continuum has received Letters of Intent from all of our Renewal Projects – a few of which may seek Expansion Grants - and 3 – maybe 4 – New Project Proposals (one agency is trying to decide between an Expansion or a New Project). 2 of the New Proposals are from Agencies not previously funded by MCOC. A list of 14 names for the selection committee were submitted to and vetted by the MCoC Board. Of the 14, the following have agreed to sit on the selection committee Anne Gass, Melody Fitch, Gerry Botta, Stephanie Primm, Wes Phinney, Katie Spencer-White, Donna Alger, Janice Daku and possibly Kobi Perry-Chase.

* **ESG/ESHAP Plans for 2024**

Kelly brought to the continuum’s attention the annual action plan required by HUD requires input from the CoC on how ESG/ESHAP funding will be spent during the incoming

year. Kelly explained a survey was sent to all ESHAP recipients for feedback on the Homeless Solutions Rule. The results showed no desire to amend the rule therefore Kelly asked the continuum if there were any concerns on with keeping the same formula for funding as last year. No concerns were voiced. There will be a public hearing on the annual action plan on September 8th at 10am.

* **Spotlight: MCoC Resource Committee**

The Resource Committee is seeking new members. Anyone interested assisting the CoC in providing resources on homelessness, planning HUD required trainings, developing trainings relevant to homelessness in Maine and the PIT should join the resource committee. Anyone interested to contact Linda Plourde- [lplourde@mainehousing.org](mailto:lplourde@mainehousing.org).

1. **MCoC Tri Chair Nominations:** The nominations for the tri-chair position vacated by Kate Easter are as follows:

* Allison Small: Nominated by Community Care
* Erin Kelly: Nominated by MaineHousing
* Noelle Coyne: Nominated by MaineHousing
* Donna Alger: Nominated by VOAThe winner of this Special Election will fill the remainder of the original term, serving until December of 2024. All candidates were asked to provide a brief written summary of their background, capacity, and interest in the position for posting on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Only Eligible Voting Members may vote in the election. Each agency may only cast one vote regardless of how many people from that agency regularly attend meetings. In order to be considered an Eligible Voting Member an agency must have attended at least 6 of the previous 12 full MCOC Meetings. Attendance is tracked by agency, not individual. Voting will be conducted electronically until September 19th, 2023. Please submit your vote by email to **all** of the following: Vickey Merrill [vickey@chomhousing.org](javascript:;) , Awa Conteh [awa.conteh@bangormaine.gov](javascript:;) , Scott Tibbitts [stibbitts@mainehousing.org](javascript:;) and Betty LaBua [blabua@mainehousing.org](javascript:;).

1. **Legislative Updates:**

Cullen updated the continuum by providing these highlights:

**Federal:** On 7/27, the House Committee on Appropriations approved all 12 of its FY 24 appropriations bills, including the FY24 THUD spending bill. The bill proposes funding HUD at $68.2 billion, a $6.4 billion (or roughly 10%) increase to HUD programs over previously enacted levels. The spending bill proposes deep cuts to or even elimination of some HUD programs but appears to adequately fund most rental assistance programs. The bill would:

•Fund Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) programs at levels that may be sufficient to renew existing contracts.

•Provide a slight increase for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program.

Other HUD programs would face funding cuts, including:

•The Public Housing Capital Fund, Public Housing Operating Fund, Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Section202 Housing for the Elderly.

• Funding for several other programs – including the Family Unification Program, Incremental Vouchers, Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and Housing Mobility Services – would be zeroed out completely.

**State:** Over 2,000 bills were introduced during this year’s legislative session. A full synopsis of all key legislation pertaining housing and food insecurity as well the Governor's Budget were posted on the on the Maine Homeless Planning Website: [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org).

1. **Hub Update:**

Tara started today’s update by mentioning Hubs have started working on the By Name List report suite that will help track inflow and outflow and data quality within the Homeless Management Information System. A learning session will be held in September on system improvement and data quality in conjunction with their functional zero work. Hubs 2, 1, 4, and 9 are gearing up for the last phase of the Coordinated Entry System pilot. HCs from Hubs 1, 3, 2 and 5 joined the Veteran’s Housing Surge event held on August 4th. Hub 1 reported more than 100 asylum seekers in the Sanford area have been housed through community agencies. Hub 2 announced case conferencing has started. Nakesha let the continuum know there are 500 hygiene packs ready for distribution for people staying in encampments.

1. **SHC Updates:**

The regular meeting of the Statewide Homeless Council scheduled for August 8th was canceled however the appointed members met at MSHA to review governance matters, to discuss meeting format and to strategize a work plan going into the fall. Any updates will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website: [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org)

1. **MCoC Board Updates:**

* **Board:** Cullen, on behalf of the Board updated today’s meeting. In addition to the NOFA and discussion on HMIS data (primarily the increase with the length of stay in shelters), the change in entering Shelter plus Care data into HMIS and the rise of encampments, the Board decided to create a subcommittee to work on BRAP’s categorization as temporary housing and voted to approve CES as a full standing committee of the MCoC.
* **CES:** By October 2nd, all 9 Hubs will be have full implementation of all 4 phases of Coordinated Entry. With the ending of the design portion of CE, the committee will now be a full standing committee of the MCoC. Cloudburst has started providing TA assistance to DHHS regarding the CES referral process and barriers for clients becoming document ready. Erin Kelly ended this month’s update with the reminder the deadline to vote for the open CES tri chair position is tomorrow.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

Mat Wyman, on behalf of the YAB committee noted the group is very busy with developing trainings focusing on LBGTQ+ and Diversity, the youth CES process and creating a newsletter.

1. **Standing Committee Updates:**

* **Monitoring:** HUD TA will start working with the committee after this year’s NOFO is submitted.
* **PWLE:** Donna Alger gave today’s updates. Michael Beck, City Counselor Candidate for Bangor attended. DHHS is in the process of redesigning their crisis line with the goal of implantation early in 2024.
* **Data Committee:** The committee shared a list of twenty languages for approval pertaining to the ability to translate new data standard changes. The list was comprised from census data correlating race and ethnicity**. *Janice Daku put forth a motion to approve the twenty languages recommended by the Data Committee. Julian Sherman seconded. No one against No abstentions. Motion unanimously approved.***

1. ***Other Business:***

Joe Locke let the Board know the request for TA for the Youth Coordinated Entry has been approved. The committee will be working with AP Associates to redesign the process.

1. **New Agenda Items:**

* PIT Quarterly Updates
* Results of Tri-hair Election
* NOFO: Final CoC Meeting before submission deadline
* All in attendance were asked to send agenda suggestions to the tri-chairs, Scott or Betty.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for September 21rst from 1:00-3:00 pm on ZOOM!**