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 to let Betty know and she will edit accordingly.

**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Scott Tibbitts (MaineHousing), Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Donna Alger (BFAH), Ray Michaud (Vet Inc.), Noelle Coyne(Safe Voices), Tracy Allen (KBH), 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), Janice Daku (RCAM), Danielle Triffitt (Tedford Housing), Mike Tuller (BFAH), Kobi Chase (WMCA), Kelly Watson (MSHA), Karessa Grenier (Hope and Justice Project), Tracy Davis (CHCS), Bev (YAB), Jessica Lincoln (TNLH), Jessica Wilson (City of Bangor), April Tomah(Wabanki Health), Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joe McNally (Milestone), Julian Sherman (PCHC), Melody Fitch (FVP), Katie Spencer White (MMHS), Erin Kelly (Preble), Katie Holtzworth (MCEDV), David McCluskey (Shaw House), April Reed (MSHA), Laurie Charon (DHHS OBH), , Sarah Grant, Bill Higgins (HA4ALL), Donna Kelley (WCAP), Ginny Dill (DHHS), Mike Merrill (VOA), Datsy Aponte (City of Lewiston), Johnnie Walker (PFP), Wes Phinney (YCSPI), Sara Wade (DHHS), Heidi Rackliffe (ACAP), Morgan Connolly (OBH), Davis Sovetsky (MMHS), Hanna Gregory (MCEDV), Lucas Schrage (QHC), Kehli Buck (RCAM), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD), Cheryl Harkins

(HVJ), Alice Preble (DHHS), Norm Maze (Augusta Housing), Russ Johnson (Shalom House) and Melissa McEntee (RGH)

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 and

Stephonie Gregg (YCSPI) and Kari Bradstreet (FVP).

[Reminder – If you call in, please email blabua@mainehousing.org to let us know you were there!]

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

**Maine**

**Continuum of Care**

**Meeting Minutes: Maine CoC**

**Date: September 21, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

1. **Big Thinking Topics:**
* **CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity**

Scott T. and Vickey M. started today’s presentation on the current status of the 2024 NOFO by mentioning all of the New and Renewal Applicants were able to complete and submit their applications to MCOC by the local deadline of August 28th. All applications were reviewed, scored, and ranked by the Selection Committee and results were posted on the MaineHomeless Planning site on Sept. 19th. All of the Applications, both new and renewal, were approved and will be included in the Project Priority Listing that will be submitted to HUD along with our Continuum level application. ***Scott asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Project Ranking submitted by the selection committee. Bill H. moved forth with first motion. Tony G. seconded. No one against. No one abstaining. Motion to approve the 2024 Project Ranking submitted by the selection committee unanimously approved.*** The New DV Bonus proposals are asking for just under the amount available. The New CoC Bonus proposals collectively asked for about $100,000 less than what is available. ***Scott asked for a motion to address the 100,000.00 gap. Julian put forth a motion to ask the three projects seeking D.V. bonus adjust their budgets to absorb the 100, 00.00 gap in funding. Bill H. seconded. No one against. No one abstaining. Motion unanimously approved. Next Scott asked for a motion to approve all portions of the Continuum Level Application that have been completed, and authorize the NOFO Committee to complete any remaining items and submit the Application and the Project Priority Listing to HUD before the final deadline of Sept. 28th, 2023. Bill H. put forth a motion to approve all portions of the Continuum level Application that have been completed, and authorize the NOFO Committee to complete any remaining items and submit the Application and the Project Priority Listing to HUD before the final deadline of Sept. 28th, 2023. Dave M. seconded. No one against. No one abstaining. Motion unanimously approved.***

* **PIT Quarterly Update:** Update was postponed until the October meeting.
1. **MCoC Tri Chair Voting Results:**

Erin Kelly is the winner of the Special Election and will fill the remainder of Kate Easter’s term which runs through December of 2024. Vickey shared since the elections were extremely close protocols need to be put in place for what to do in the case of a tie.

1. **Legislative Updates:**

Cullen updated the continuum by providing these highlights:

**Federal:** Congress just returned from August recess and Congressional leaders are discussing how to keep the federal government funded after 9/30, when the new fiscal year begins to avoid a government shutdown. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) agree that a short-term continuing resolution (CR) will be necessary to keep the federal government funded and give members of Congress more time to reach a final agreement on FY 24 spending bills.

On 8/15 Representatives Sherrill, Bill Posey, Delia Ramirez, and Don Bacon reintroduced the bipartisan Homeless Children and Youth Act. This bill remedies the issue of most children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness being ineligible for homeless assistance because they do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness by aligning federal definitions of homelessness for children and youth, streamlining assistance, leveraging resources, and bringing greater visibility to the reality of family and youth homelessness.

 **State:** Over 2,000 bills were passed 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:**

All the Hub Coordinator’s and Tara H. are currently in Washington for a Built for Zero training. No updates provided other than Joe L. mentioning all Hubs are closing in on providing case conferencing.

1. **SHC Updates:**

Cullen provided today’s update. Embracing the new format, the regular meeting of the Statewide Homeless Council scheduled on September 12th was divided into 2 sessions. The first one hour portion was for voting members only and the second two hours were open to the general public. The following topics were discussed: agenda setting for RHCs, general increase in the operation of shelters, asylum seekers, Housing First, encampments, warming centers and the need for focus on in-reach in addition to out-reach when working with people experiencing housing insecurity. The minutes from both meetings will be posted on the Maine Homeless Planning Website: [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org).

1. **MCoC Board Updates:**
* **Board:** Vickey, on behalf of the Board updated today’s meeting. In addition to the NOFA there was discussion on gaps and needs, shelters being at capacity, the lack of outflow and dynamic prioritization.
* **CES:** Joe L. reminded the continuum of the October 2nd date for all 9 Hubs to have full implementation of all 4 phases of Coordinated Entry. Cloudburst has started providing TA assistance to DHHS regarding the CES referral process and barriers for clients becoming document ready. On September 14, 2023 the Housing Choice Voucher department at MSHA had a meeting with HUD TA and learned there are some additional Emergency Housing Vouchers available. The EHVs need to be issued by the end of September.   Given that EHVs are in the CE jurisdiction and due to the time sensitive/urgent nature of issuing the remaining vouchers, the tri-chairs put forth the following proposal which was approved through a virtual vote: *Offer the 10 unsheltered folks on the list an EHV (they are from HUBS 1, 2, 5, and 9) and devote the remaining vouchers to Portland to help the people sleeping in the encampments. The remaining vouchers will be dispersed through hub 2 case conferencing.*
1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

The Youth Action Board members have been working on two trainings to present to the MCoC,

1. A Guide For Providers Navigating Neurodiversity Training
2. Loud And Proud: Culturally Competent Care for LGBTQ+ Youth

When finished they will be provided online and free for folks. If you would like learn more or have any questions around presentations that should cover contact Matthew Wyman (YABS) Youth Action Board Specialist they/them He/him MWyman@newbeginmaine.org>

1. **Brief Committee Updates:5**
* **Monitoring:** HUD TA will start working with the committee after this year’s NOFO is submitted.
* **PWLE:** No updated provided.
* **Data Committee:** The committee is exploring the feasibility and costs involved with HUD’s TA recommendation for HMIS storage of unsheltered people’s documents. Data Standard changes will be going into effect on October 1, 2023.
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:**
* All in attendance were asked to send agenda suggestions to the tri-chairs, Scott or Betty.

**Next MCOC meeting is scheduled for October 19th from 1:00-3:00 pm on ZOOM!**