**Attending via GoToMeeting:** Jerry Botta (HOME Inc.), Donna Alger (BFAH), 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), Danielle Triffitt (Tedford Housing), Mike Tuller (BFAH), Kobi Chase (WMCA), Kelly Watson (MSHA), Karessa Grenier (Hope and Justice Project), Jessica Lincoln (TNLH), Jessica Wilson (City of Bangor),Cullen Ryan (CHOM), Joe McNally (Milestone), Melody Fitch (FVP), Erin Kelly (Preble), David McCluskey (Shaw House), April Reed (MSHA), Laurie Charon (DHHS OBH), Bill Higgins (HA4ALL), Mike Merrill (VOA), Datsy Aponte (City of Lewiston), Wes Phinney (YCSPI), Hanna Gregory (MCEDV), Lucas Schrage (QHC), Rebecca Hobbs (TTD), Cheryl Harkins (HVJ), Alice Preble (DHHS), Norm Maze (Augusta Housing), Russ Johnson (Shalom House), Jennifer Weatherbee (Hub 7), Gary Fearon (Penobscot Nation),

Anna Robinson (Hub 9), Amy Holland (Hub 3), Emma (Penobscot County), Jace Farris(Hub 8), Nakesha Warren-Kolbry (Hub 2), Abigail Smallwood (Hub 1), Linda Plourde (Franny Peabody Center), Emily Richards(Hub 5), Nicole Frydrych(Hub 6), Chris Bicknell( New Beginnings), Holly Guerette (ACAP), HSA,

Danielle Parent (Community Concepts), Tara Hembree (MSHA), Mattew Wymann(New Beginnings/YAB), Bonnie Gagnon-(Caring Unlimited) and Johnnie Walker (Partners for Peace)

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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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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.

# **Approval of Minutes and Moment of Silence:** Erin welcomed everyone to today’s meeting. MCOC Minutes from the September 2023 meeting were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. ***Laura B. motioned to approve minutes as written. Tony G. 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: October 19, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**

1. **Big Thinking Topic:**

**PIT Quarterly Update:**

* **PIT Count APP**

The Board approved the use of an AP for the 2024 PIT. Anyone interested in volunteering for the 2024 PIT count were invited to sign up on the mainepit.org website.

* **2024 PIT Methodology-** MSHA’s April Reed provided an overview of *The Revised 2024 PIT Methodology*that was posted on the Maine Homeless Planning website. Mainly, the update consists of verbiage changes in order to provide a mirroring of HUDs official methodology report**. Awa C. put forth a motion to for the continuum to approve the *Revised 2024 PIT Methodology Report.* Melody F. seconded.** ***No one against. No one abstaining. Motion unanimously approved.***
* **2024 PIT Youth Addendum-** Matthew W. on behalf of the YAB provided an explanation of the following six questions on the 2024 PIT Youth Addendum.
1. What is your gender?
2. What best describes your sexual orientation?
3. Over the past 30 days, did you live in any of these situations?
4. In the past 12 months have you had unprotected sex?
5. Have you ever been tested for or concerned about an STD or sexually transmitted infection
6. Are you currently enrolled in school?

Due to the sensitive subject matter, it was asked if the addendum be self-administered.

HUD has a policy that the surveys need to be completed by volunteers, however since the addendum is not a HUD requirement April will find if it can be self-administered.

***Mathew put forth a motion for the continuum to the 2024 Youth Addendum as it has been presented by YAB and to officially have it included on the AP. Chris B. seconded***. ***No one against. No one abstaining. Motion unanimously approved.***

1. **Legislative Updates:**

Cullen updated the continuum by providing these highlights:

 **Federal:** With Congress at a standstill, there were no budget updates, however, Cullen gave an overview of the current pieces of Federal legislation worthy of note. Attention was given to Senator Markey’s introduction of the Housing ACCESS Act, which would align housing and services resources and address the barriers providers face when seeking Medicaid reimbursement for housing-related services and support. It also requires a national study to determine rates that allow providers to pay living wages, reduce staff turnover, and ensure evidence-based case ratios.

 **State:** The launch second legislative session will be on Thursday, October 26, 2023. A brief review of key pieces of legislation pertinent to the housing and food insecurity was provided. A full synopsis of all key legislation as well the Governor's Budget were posted on the Maine Homeless Planning Website: [www.mainehomelessplanning.org](http://www.mainehomelessplanning.org).

1. **Hub Update:**

Tara H. started this month’s update by noting all Hub Coordinators traveled to Washington to attend a Built for Zero training. Coordinated Entry is allowing for broader data collection. For example Hub 4 Androscoggin, is growing a by name list each week and this is an area of the state we have not had much success in getting data from due to the lack of funded shelters. There is a collaboration with Rumford Group Homes and Lewiston Housing Authority connecting people who frequent the Trinity Day Center coordinated entry getting assessments completed as well as connecting participants to housing navigation through the Housing Navigation Pilot Program position at LHA. This is a wonderful example of the community working together. MaineHousing staff, the chair of the Statewide Homeless Council, and hub coordinator from Hub 1 York and Hub 6 Central presented on the Homeless Response System at the Maine Affordable Housing Conference this week. This provided an opportunity to highlight the work of hub coordinators and share local goals currently being worked on. Overall the presentation was well received.

1. **SHC Updates:**

Cullen provided today’s update. Embracing the new format, the meeting of the Statewide Homeless Council scheduled on October 10th was for voting members only. Cullen provided today’s update. The SHC issued an updated version of its position statement on encampments. The council discussed Section 13 TCM and Section 91 HOME Services, QAP and building networks for PSH collaboration, Unsticking the system and Shelter Funding

1. **MCoC Board Updates:**

Cullen, on behalf of the Board updated today’s meeting. Shelters remain at full capacity and the LOTH has increased by 24 days in comparison with last year. ***The continuum ratified the following motions approved by the Board at their October meeting:***

1. ***Adopt rank choice voting for the MCoC tri-chair elections.***
2. ***Adopt a policy allowing Hub Coordinator’s to vote as a block.*** During October’s Board meeting the Board approved the use of HUDs Assessment Tool (Housing First model).
3. **CES Updates:**

As of the October 2nd, all 9 Hubs are piloting the 4 phases of Coordinated Entry. Since October 2022, there have been 1,276 people assessed. The committee decided, after revisiting the policies and procedures in terms of assessments, to table any changes for six months. In March, the committee will use collected data to see if the prioritization tool is effectively and fairly encompassing the unsheltered. 2 Focus groups (both providers and PWLE) will be surveyed on best CE can assist New Mainers.

1. **Long Term Stayers**

Cullen mentioned there has been 55 LTS placed in the last 6 months/9 per month.

1. **Youth Action Board Update:**

The Youth Action Board is currently seeking three new members for their Board. Members need to be from 14-24 years of age and have experienced housing instability. The YAB are in the finishing stage of planning 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:**

**No updates were provided.**

1. **Other Business:**

Erin mentioned the tri chairs would like feedback on how best to utilize meeting time. People were asked to consider what topics and what types of trainings would be most beneficial and to bring ideas to the next meeting.

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 November 16th from 1:00-3:00 pm on ZOOM!**