

**Portland Continuum of Care
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Aaron Geyer	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Adam Harr	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
David MacLean	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Robert Parritt	City of Portland, Health & Human Services Dept., Social Services Division
Vickey Rand	Community Housing of Maine
Ginny Dill	Shalom House
Cindy Namer	Maine State Housing Authority
Wendi DuBois	The Opportunity Alliance
Jon Bradley	Preble Street
Joanie Klayman	Preble Street
Leah Bruns	Maine State Housing Authority
Cindy Namer	Maine State Housing Authority
Paula Paladino	Maine State Housing Authority
Norman Maze	Shalom House
Rebecca Hobbs	Family Crisis
Cullen Ryan	Community Housing of Maine
Chet Barnes	DHHS
Lynn Morrow	HUD
Bob Cwieka	HUD
Marlisa Grogan	HUD
Wendy Dubois	The Opportunity Alliance
Veronica Ross	The Opportunity Alliance
Michelle Staple	York County Shelter Program
Anne Gass	ABG Consulting
Guy Gagnon	Biddeford Housing Authority
Bill Burny	HUD

I. Introductions

Jon Bradley welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made. As the meeting was well attended, each person present stated their name and organization. Jon then asked for updates before moving on to the main agenda item. Paula Paladino announced that most of the MCoC's tier two projects got funded. The only project that did not get funded in tier 2 for the PCoC was \$324,000 for Bishop Street. The Opportunity Alliance got funding for a new rapid rehousing project that serves families. Preble Street's residential support program got renewed, as did Shelter Plus Care. Paula reminded the group that the deadline to register for this year's NOFA application is next Wednesday, May 11, and that unfunded projects may want to adjust to permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing.

II. Legislative Update

Federal:

Cullen Ryan said that HOTMA is stalled and THUD, Senate appropriation committee, approved funding for HUD VASH, HCVs, a family education program, and extends eligibility of vouchers for youth. This also includes increases to subsidized housing and homeless assistance grants. By contrast, Cullen said the House released a bill proposing cuts to these funding areas. The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act has been put forth to divert homeless individuals from the criminal justice system into treatment and services.

State: Section 17 eligible diagnoses for wrap-around services were limited to schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. Cullen said there are 9 conditions that can lead to psychosis. The 7 conditions that lost eligibility will be limited to one visit per month versus the wrap-around services they receive. Individuals will have 4 months to transition to a different service provider. Jon said the rates for providers have been cut to section 17 and 13, largely affecting the funding sources for some of organizations in the PCoC. Cullen said any further rate changes will require a public hearing.

Cullen said that people who already have BRAP subsidies will be grandfathered in. Section 17 is a requirement to receive BRAP, creating a population of people needing a BRAP subsidy, but no longer being eligible. Chet acknowledged the flaws of the changes, but explained that the State wanted to maximize resources for individuals needing services and to shift some resources to behavioral health, but has created a gap as they execute their plan. He said that the State is working on connecting individuals with mental health issues leaving incarceration with BRAP subsidies. Ginny explained an issue with BRAP is that it was designed to be a housing first program and that tying it to section 17 removes that aspect of the voucher.

Jon said he has looked the use of Narcan, the overdose antidote, at the Preble Street Resource Center. He said that Narcan was being administered by staff once every 17 days to clients overdosing at the resource center. He said that number has decreased with increased availability. Jon said that two of his case managers have 50 clients between them who are homeless opiate addicts; this is the biggest issue facing his client community. The legislature recently overrode a veto, making Narcan available without a prescription.

III. Collaborative Applicant for 2017 and Future Years

Jon deferred to city staff to explain the background of the proposed change in collaborative applicant (CA), as the City of Portland is the current CA. David MacLean explained to the group that the city is withdrawing from the CA role due to a lack of institutional knowledge from staff changes to be a successful steward as well as being directed to from City leadership, as the city no longer receives CoC funding. Dave said there was talk of the two CoCs merging. Jon stated that a vote occurred nominating Maine State Housing Authority to take over the CA role, making them the CA for both CoCs in Maine. Cindy said she was not gotten full permission from MSHA to move ahead yet.

Cindy states that MSHA has been internally reorganizing to have the infrastructure to help end homelessness statewide. Paula will be working directly with Cindy and Leah will manage program staff to better help the CoCs. Lynn gave historical background that there used to be three CoCs before the Greater Penobscot CoC merged with the Balance of the State. Lynn said she is concerned about the competitive nature of CoC funding as one CA may be able to choose to put resources behind one CoC over the other. However, Lynn said merging into one CoC would mitigate that and asked that a plan be sent to her in writing. Lynn said it is possible for the CA to change after registration but before the GIW review.

Ginny said that the CoC hasn't been equitable in its responsibility, citing that she and Vickey were the only ones who responded to an emergency vote to approve the HIC/PIT without multiple follow ups. She said we relied on support from Vickey and Paula too much. Chet stated that there is no direct policy from HUD saying that one organization cannot be the CA for two CAs. He said that the MCoC has some reservations about merging, but that this makes sense in the context of a merged leadership board and coordinated entry system. He said he is concerned about everything being decided by emergency vote, and that we should have two CoCs under MSHA for a year before merging into one CoC.

Vickey and Paula said that both CoCs would need to agree to merge. Rob said the group needs a back-up plan in case HUD determines one CA for two CoCs is not allowable. Norm suggested

there be multiple motions to set up and affirm the merger and ensure that the CoC registers to file by the deadline. Norm made a **MOTION** for the City of Portland to register for the NOFA application as the CA. **MOTION PASSED with all in favor.**

Norm made a **MOTION** for the PCoC to begin discussions on merging with the MCoC with the intent on merging in the near future as well as make a formal request to the MCoC that they take the merger into consideration as well. **MOTION PASSED with all in favor.**

Norm made a **MOTION** that in anticipation of the intent to merge with MCoC, PCoC is requesting that the collaborative applicant to change from the City of Portland to MSHA and to ask the MCoC if they are in agreement of the CA change. **MOTION PASSED with all in favor.**

Jon asked the group if a back-up plan should be made in case the CA change does not work. Vickey said that is something we should consider at the next regular PCoC meeting, if needed.