



City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

Homelessness Committee – Draft Minutes

July 21, 2026 | 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

Attending Committee Members: Tim Cowan, Bill Lowenstein, David Bilodeau, Cecilia Natale, Jennifer Eugley, Peggy Walton, Tom Hibbert, Dawn Comeau, George Sheats, Angela Blier

Excused Absences: Rebecca Austin

Attending Ex Officio Members: Jennifer Edwards, Tim Cogle, Sasha Anastasoff, Steve Almquist

Excused Ex Officio Absences: none

Attending Guests: Mayor Jeff Harmon, Julia Kimball (Hub 4 Homeless Coordinator), Jeff Cosgrove-Cook (ICA)

Agenda Items

1. Call to order & Review of Agenda (Dave) – 9:31am
2. Review and approval of 6/16/26 meeting minutes
 - Motion to accept by Bill, 2nd by Tom, all in favor
3. Excused Absences of Committee Members for today's meeting – Rebecca Austin
 - Motion by Dave, 2nd by George, all in favor
4. Hub 4 Data – Julia Kimball, Hub 4 Homeless Response Coordinator and Jeff, HMIS administrator with Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)
 - Introductions: Julia & Jeff
 - (Tim Cowan entered at 9:33)
 - Hub 4 County Data Overview – PowerPoint will be distributed to Committee afterwards
 - Data Source: at the Continuum of Care level (Maine is the only state to have one for the whole state); Hub/County level, including HMIS access points and comparable DV databases
 - Hub 4 has 16 HMIS projects, and 351 unique individuals (including DIC, Spurwink, Alter L/A Shelter, etc.)
 - Alter L/A's participation this winter has significantly added to the data
 - Monthly data displayed on Maine Homeless Planning Dashboard



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- First time # of people housed exceeds # of people entering homelessness or exiting due to inactivity
- Bill: why this change in #s? Julia: more vouchers available recently, RRH program has expanded, Hub4 is the only Hub with local resources (Mainstream Vouchers from LewistonHousing), and people on the ground connecting people to housing units
- After 90 days of no contact, people exit to "inactive" – any connection with providers that is entered into HMIS keeps people from exiting to inactive
- 210 people in HMIS through Coordinated Entry: score 5-7/limited to no resource and self-navigate (24), score 8-10/HCV or temporary but intensive supports (40), score 11-13/some level of ongoing support like case management (59), score 14-16/PSH or ongoing intensive support (87)
- Generally, the higher the score, the more difficult to find permanent housing (lack of ID/documents, needs other than housing are priority, criminal histories, etc.)
- Tim Cowan: can we calculate the average length of time people move from first contact to housing? Julia: we can, maybe 6-8 months? But it varies based on number of people needing resources and number of resources available
- Bill: are these individuals part of families/couples? Julia: yes, couples are input separately, whoever accesses a resource first can be head of household and resource benefits both people; case managers are aware of when one voucher would serve multiple people in a household; Rumford Group Homes is great at connecting multiple-person households with the right housing size
- In addition to Coordinated Entry, other programs are working day-to-day
- Exit destinations: staying with family temporarily/permanently, rental through a subsidy/no subsidy, emergency shelter, no exit interview (inactive), unsheltered place (likely ran out of time working with PATH), hospital/psychiatric facility (for 90 days or more), substance use treatment facility, incarceration/institutional/assisted living
- As long as GA is paying the majority of an SRO, individual is considered still unhoused
- A lot of youth exit into staying with family after resolving things (having New Beginnings in our area increases those #s for us)
- Higher level view of HMIS with Jeff:
- ICA is actively working on updating the dashboard to increase accuracy



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- ICA is based in Des Moines, Iowa and a lot of the team works remotely from there, but Jeff is local and tied to this area
- HMIS is required by any CoC that receives federal funding, to capture/provide data
- MaineHousing started but as HMIS grew, it became too cumbersome for their staffing model, hence ICA taking over earlier this year (starting transition in fall of 2025)
- HMIS is like our community's "information system," getting a picture of needs/services and making a plan to move forward/improve
- DV system cannot legally input info into HMIS, so they have a parallel system they use
- The high number of 14-16s in Hub 4 is common in other hubs, as well; numbers change per hub, but the percentages of people in each score range are similar
- Matching people to the right resource prioritizes those with greatest need, reduces duplication of services, coordinates referrals, manages waitlists, supports case management, measures success, etc.
- Our high percentage of rural population in Maine affects the speed we move forward
- Bill: who made the decision to make one CoC in Maine? Jeff/Julia: we used to have 2 CoCs, changed 10-11 years ago with HUD recommendation/preference, possibly made hastily but unlikely to be reversed; perhaps easier to coordinate when we're altogether in one CoC
- Good data = better decisions
- Any questions about data, reach out to: support@icaalliances.org
- Peggy: there are situations of moving from housing to better housing, rather than homelessness to housing
- Point in Time Count data has been published: 249 people counted in Hub 4 (we made just over 200 warming kits for it)
- In-person Hub 4 meeting being scheduled for September (bringing people inside for the winter, making sure we have contact with everyone in the area)
- Sasha: housing navigators in this area? Julia: Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (they can work with a wide range of folks, both unhoused and housed but needing better housing); or MaineHousing funded shelters operate navigation services (can work with people regardless of whether people are currently in their shelter); Rumford Group Homes; Rural Community Action Ministry (Leeds)



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- Dave: asking for help with “error messages” to notify of data errors at the time of input, rather than finding out much later and not having the data we need; Jeff: there is a quarterly report to find and correct errors, also end users can run reports at any time to check as they go along
- 5. Regular update on Auburn Resource Center (Jennifer Edwards)
 - Hiring event coming up next month, and workforce development 16-class series coming up with YWCA (stipend for people who complete the program), another job fair in November
- 6. Regular update on Drop-In Center (Jen Eugley)
 - Guest attendance was steady through May (114/day), but we saw a steep increase in May - seeing an average of 142 guests/day in June (compared to 108 guests/day in June of 2025); the increase could be influenced by greater visibility from the ribbon cutting/media coverage, and/or from being added to the 211 Maine directory
 - Dave: seeing lots of new faces, including a lot of older folks a few months ago, but now younger, he thinks more people are realizing they can get help there; APD coming by more often and engaging with folks is helping relationships; the way people see the DIC is changing
 - Celia: do police visit the warming center? Dave; yes – they didn’t like it at first but are used to it now and guests will approach them; Celia: how do we encourage that in other communities? Dave: you can’t really plan it, but when PD is available, it helps if they don’t just “do business” but hang out with folks
 - Narcan Training for guests coming up on 7/29, plus one for volunteers
 - In June, we added 2 new Board members and Craig Tribuno was voted President (Greg Whitney is now VP/Treasurer); now that we’ll be receiving funding from the City, they will also have a seat on the Board
 - Aiming to open for a third day this fall; likely Monday as it’s easier to get volunteers on weekdays and it spaces our days out pretty evenly to make sure guests have more regular access to food, showers, clothes, etc.; considering whether to switch to Mon/Wed/Fri instead of Mon/Wed/Sat (easier to staff volunteers on weekdays and more evenly spaced), but still gathering info from guests and volunteers to find out how that would affect them.



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- Note: Calvary City Mission will close at the end of August (had been providing meals on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings)
 - Sasha: looking to replace the loss of the PAL Center/Grab & Go, there's a need gap of food resources; Dawn: Auburn Housing has been using the food resource at Trinity for one of their buildings and possibly adding one more building that meets Trinity's guidelines
7. Regular update on Warming Center/Shelter (Dave Bilodeau) – time didn't allow
 8. Regular update on Auburn Comp Plan (Councilor Cowan) – time didn't allow
 9. Discussion of any carry-over items from the June meeting – time didn't allow
 10. Community House Warming Subcommittee for Home For Good – time didn't allow
 11. Discussion of items for next month's agenda – time didn't allow
 12. Public Comment (none)
 13. Motion to adjourn at 11:02am by Dawn, 2nd by George, all in favor

Resources:

1. Ad-hoc Committee's report: [Addressing Homelessness in Auburn, Maine](#)
2. 2025 Auburn Housing Study: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Upcoming Meetings for Homeless Committee:

- August 18, 2026 9:30 AM – 11 AM