



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

May 19, 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, Angela Blier, George Sheats

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, Chidera Kalu-Uka (Bates College), Glen Holmes (Director of Business & Community Development)

Agenda Items

1. Call to order & Review of Agenda – 9:30am
 - Tim Cowan: Motion to excuse Rebecca by Bill, 2nd by Celia, all in favor
 - Introductions
 - Sasha entered at 9:34
2. Review and approval of 4/21/26 meeting minutes
 - Motion to accept by Bill, 2nd by Dave, all in favor
 - Bill: recognize that today is Mayor Harmon's birthday
3. Update about Crisis Center (Angela Blier):
 - Group of crisis responders/liasons going to start a monthly meeting with shared release to discuss folks in the area and problem-solve/brainstorm, will include 3 PSY reps from Auburn, already an existing meeting of this kind in Portland, providing shadowing opportunities to United students, PD/FD might be invited if deemed helpful, Alter L/A guest inspired the group to get going
 - Angela will check with the group about bringing regular updates to this committee
 - Jen Edwards: updates on identified gaps would be helpful
4. Regular updates on Auburn Resource Center (Mayor Harmon/Jennifer Edwards)
 - Jen Edwards: Full offices for a while now, June 18 Open House at 1:30, movie screening of "Building Hope" at 3pm with panel discussion afterwards, will share final



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- flyer when it's ready
- Jeff: final enactment of budget last night at City Council mtg; homeless services include \$ towards Alter L/A shelter, Coordinated Entry person at DIC, transportation from Alter L/A shelter, additional \$43,000 for DIC; school side: \$20,000 towards Sasha's program (not in the budget, but using federal money, means one-time and has to be renewed every year); bad news: Home for Good project won't come out with an RFP for facilities this fall (revenue from Real Estate Transfer Tax won't be sufficient to fund onsite services); Jen: does this affect Auburn's project? Jeff: no, just future projects
 - Tom: was PSY brought up? Jeff: PSY isn't actually in the budget, enough money left in the grant to fund most of it, Council discussion to use opioid money to close the gap; Council will discuss in the future whether to use opioid money or work on something more ongoing; Tim Cowan: strong support from the Council for PSY (Glen entered at 9:46)
5. Regular update on Drop-In Center (Jen Eugley)
- Attendance climbed at the end of April and we had 163 guests on the last Saturday (4/25); back down to normal of 115-130 with the beginning of the month
 - Cooking meals in-house has been going well so far
 - We're going to host a "Summer Community Care Clinic" on Wednesday, June 3, including MCHP nursing students doing foot care, ear care, heart/lung checks, vision screenings, summer skin care info and products (sunscreen, tick checks, etc.) with some extra providers educating about HIV/Hep C prevention, MaineCare, etc.
 - Donna Harris from Phoenix Karate has agreed to do a monthly women's self-defense class for our guests & volunteers – just need to book the first date
 - Tom: haircuts? Jen: Darlene back on May 27 (usually comes on school full-day Wednesdays); send any hair stylists who want to donate their time my way!
 - Tom: this year around the community has been getting less calls (back of ARC cleared, Bonney Park cleaned up has helped)
6. Regular update on Warming Center/Shelter (Dave Bilodeau)
- Working on getting Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline to come to DIC and push to get one going in Lewiston (on days Auburn DIC is closed) – trying for tomorrow
 - Talks with Angel's Wing to maybe open something up in their building
 - Tom: Is Healthy Androscoggin helping Deb (Angel's Wing)? Dave: right now, she's



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feeling ok with funding, right now focusing on finding a building; Celia: HA is going through a bit of a transition, this Friday is last day that they're officially part of CMHC system; when Prime took over, Central Maine Community Health was not included in the acquisition of CMHC; will stay under Central Maine Community Health umbrella; grants will continue, Celia and Kristina are still contracted with CMHC (state required it)

7. Regular update on Auburn Comp Plan (Councilor Cowan)
 - Mtg this evening, dealing with Land Use Categories/maps, looking at policies in future meetings, we can get drafts of the policies that apply most to our work and look at them during our June mtg and offer recommendations
 - Jeff: prior comp plans had nothing about homelessness (other than housing availability), 2 objectives in this plan concerning homelessness: 1) elimination of chronic homelessness and 2) how to re-home people who become homeless within 90 days
8. Discussion of April's presentations by Trinity & Alter L-A
 - Trinity Open House this Thursday at 4pm
 - Angela: Spurwink got a small tour and it was a beautiful space, entire 2nd floor that's not being used yet
 - Dave: what a difference laundry and showers make!
 - Jen Eugley: Trinity started doing CE Assessments, so Taylor from Trinity came to Case Conferencing for the first time yesterday
 - Hub 4 data shows a big bump in new HMIS inflow in March 2026 (Warming Center influenced that)
 - Jeff: on this report, look at total housing placements, learn what type of housing people are moving into and what's keeping them from getting there
 - Tim Cowan: we want as many of the Total Outflow to be housing placements and not just aging out from no-contact
 - Jeff: Planning Board approval for Auburn's Home For Good project got a unanimous vote with few questions from Council; around October breaking ground and opening in Dec. of 2027?; originally planned on 30 units, but we're up to 32 now; great progress, but we need more of these, and definitely in Lewiston
 - Sasha: who can access these units once they're built? Jeff; Permanent Supportive Housing; outreach and take scores from 14-16 in HMIS, use a focused Case Conferencing to do the initial selection process, Auburn Housing does tenant selection plan; prioritize those who would be considered "chronically homeless"



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- Dawn: different eligibility process for filling a building than this; every single unit in this building has funding attached to the unit (including funding for utilities, etc.)
- Jeff: previous eviction is a barrier to subsidized housing, but not in these units; the onsite services are what will make this housing successful for these folks
- Angela: OBH and DHHS are providing staffing 6 months prior to opening to build rapport; staggering moving people in (not all on the same day!); the goal is that nobody is evicted, people leave because they move somewhere else or pass away
- Celia: support for moving folks in and settling in? (moving in, unpacking, hanging things on the wall, putting furniture together, etc.); Jeff: Spurwink will be a part of addressing these needs; Angela: peer on site; Dawn: there will be scheduled move-ins with one-on-one support, Housing Support Specialist
- Peggy: had to sleep on the floor for a while to get used to sleeping in a bed; still spends a lot of time outside because she misses being outside
- Bill: not just building a building, but building a community – it will take some time to grow and figure it out

9. Winter 2026-27 Warming Center Discussion

- Glen: on Alter L-A Board, got clarification there is a full intention to have a Warming Center this winter, don't know how much \$ coming from MaineHousing; still in limbo between 100 person Warming Center and 40-50 person Shelter; Warming Center might not be 24/7 but depending on weather (depends on funding)
- Board meets once/month on Wednesday night, members are transitioning, Glen can answer any questions, Glen is now Treasurer
- Shelter got Planning Board permits, but other stuff happening at City of Lewiston slowing things down, Maine Housing has been very flexible
- Celia: what are the hours? Glen: 24/7, 40 people have been identified using HMIS info, people moving forward/on the verge of housing vouchers, etc.; Celia: continue to include shelter as a housing resource? Glen: yes, check with them because spots will come open; trying to keep a few "swing beds" for PD to drop people off; Celia: is thrift store open? Dave: yes, hours should be posted online

(Glen left at 10:21)

- Jeff: one condition of shelter money is that Auburn have a rep on the Alter L-A Board (Glen), important to make sure we think ahead to fall/cold weather and make sure there is a warm place for folks who are unhoused; Auburn/Lewiston proportional funding is based on population
- Tim Cowan: fundraising? Jeff: \$2.5 million from state for infrastructure (building purchase and renovations), balance can be used for operating expenses, should fund them in FY27, when state \$ runs out, the Auburn/Lewiston City funding will likely not cover all costs



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10. Discussion of items for next month's agenda – All

- Tim Cowan: give updates to the public about Home For Good project?
- Policy updates; maybe have Lauren Caffé attend and answer questions
- Talk about metrics, aside from the Hub 4 data; what is reasonable and available; data from PD?
- Dave: any movement on expanding the DIC; Jen will bring updates next month
- Bill: hearing from ARC partners about what they do and what a difference it's making; Dave: there are already warm hand-offs happening

11. Public Comment (none)

12. Motion to adjourn at 11:00am by George, 2nd by Bill, 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:

- June 16, 2026 9:30 AM – 11 AM