**ME SILC Monthly Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2019**

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|  | **MEMBERS** | **PUBLIC** |
| **In attendance –**Beth Mogan | Cheryl Peabody, Darcy Gentle, Stephanie Desrochers, Diane Frigon, Trish Thorsen | Sam Fenderson, Jess Cyr, Tom Newman, Patricia Washburn |
| A**bsent** | Lincoln Hunt | Karen Mason |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Patricia Washburn joined the meeting as a potential member to the Council. Council members introduced themselves.

**Acceptance of Minutes – 6/26/19**

Since we did not have enough voting members present, the Minutes will be sent by email asking for changes. If there are corrections, the minutes will be accepted as corrected; if there are no corrections, the minutes will be accepted as distributed.

**Monthly Activity Table**

Beth read the summaries provided by Diane and Trish. Trish elaborated on the information she provided regarding bill LD84, Home Based Care Section 19 Waiver, which was passed. This bill addresses the issue of allowing a spouse to be a paid care provider. To clarify, this bill allows a person with a disability to hire their spouse as a care giver if the services are provided through an agency. Previously submitted Bills were denied based on the assumption it would cost more money. The reality is that individuals have an allotted number of hours for care. Many individuals face the issue of not being able to fulfill those hours from people outside their homes. By allowing a spouse as a care giver those hours can be filled and the spouse can provide that service. This bill allows the “option” of having a spouse be a care provider, but it is not required. Trish will send a link to the LD84.

The group also discussed reviewing Activity Table items at the end of each monthly meeting to ensure we capture input. This will allow for clarification of activities, greater participation and keeping our Activity Table current. By doing this, it is less information to gather for the Progress Report (formally 704 Report) which is a federally mandated report done each year.

**Financial Update and Budget for FY 2020**

Cheryl, Stephanie, Sam and Beth shared information regarding budget discussions with Eric Dibner and Libby Stone- Sterling.

One concern that was raised by DVR is the Executive Director being Treasurer. They feel it is a conflict of interest. We explained that we did not have a Council member eligible to fill that position. We also discussed the parameters that have been put into place to address any issues. Libby wanted it to go on record their concern.

As a Council, we discussed this again and were in agreement that we would keep the Executive Director as Treasurer in place. There was additional discussion about our bookkeeper taking on new duties and if that would be an issue or not, for example submitting the invoice to the State. One suggestion was finding a bookkeeping firm that would do SILC’s financials pro bono. This will be discussed more as we move forward.

Tom shared that he spoke with Eric as well and should be present for SILC’s next budget discussion. Tom will send available dates and times so we can coordinate everyone’s schedules.

**SPIL Coordinator**

SPIL stands for the State Plan for Independent Living, which is a 3-year plan. The next SPIL is due in June 30, 2020.

Tom, Cheryl and Beth updated the Council on some ideas that were discussed at the NCIL Conference in D.C. There are some resources we can use to help guide us through the SPIL process, however we would still need someone to perform the duties to get us to the end result.

Also, while in D.C., it was discussed among participants the importance of having a short, clear and concise SPIL with obtainable goals. The premise that less is more. The SILC can always expand upon goals, it is harder to not complete a listed goal.

A job description for the SPIL Coordinator was created at the same time as the Executive Director job description in 2018. It was agreed that Cheryl and Beth would review the document and make any necessary changes. Beth will then send it to the Council for input.

During this discussion, the topic of marketing materials (brochures/flyers) and the need to reach more potential Council members. Beth reminded the group that a Brochure and Flyer was created in late 2018 when we did a membership drive.

**Annual Meeting Update**

Beth reminded the group that the Annual Meeting will be held on September 25th at the Clarion in Portland and asked to share if you will be in attendance, if a room is needed, and any special needs.

**General Updates**

Beth and Cheryl shared more about the D.C. conference. Both felt it was overall a great experience. The “Hill” visits with the Staff of our Congressional Delegates went well. We were able to thank them for supporting the Disability Integration Act. Tom shared with them the importance of their continued support of self-directed care and how the State minimum wage increase may impact those services. Both SILC and Alpha One offered to be a resource for any disability related topics.

Stephanie shared that there will be additional 1-day long trainings on Benefits Counseling offered in various areas of the State and encouraged SILC members to participate. Sam shared that the session she attended was excellent and very informative. Beth stated that she can post the information on the website to help promote attendance.

**Adjourned:** 11:42 a.m.