Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

Minutes

September 2021

Members present: Darcy Gentle (Chair), Program Director, 121 VR Program; Trish Thorsen (Member-at-Large), Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Program (LTCOP); Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One; Jessica Cyr, Person with a Disability; Lee Glynn, Person with a Disability, Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Diane Frigon, Regional Director, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI).

Members of the Public Present: Julia Endicott, Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRME); Julie Hovey, Independent Living Specialist, Alpha One; Karen Mason, Associate Director, Office on Aging and Disability Services (OADS).

Members Absent: Stephanie Desrochers, Program Manager, Benefits Counseling Services, Maine Medical Center (BCS-MMC).

Acceptance of Minutes:

The June minutes were accepted as distributed. The August minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report:

The spreadsheet for October 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 was shared. Line items with dollar amount entries were reviewed.

Election of Officers:

Darcy accepted the position as Chair for the remainder of the term which ends next year. There were only two members eligible to fill the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer. Both members declined the nominations as they were not comfortable taking on these duties. The Council decided that, due to the clause in the bylaws which gives the Executive Director authority to act as treasurer, Cheryl will continue with these duties. The Council was also in agreement that, in the event Darcy is unable to attend a meeting, Cheryl could run the meeting.

SILC Presentation at the Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (ABIAC):

Cheryl shared that she did give a SILC presentation at the ABIAC on September 20th. The PowerPoint document was discussed. She modified what the Membership Committee had done because parts of the slides were inaccurate. Diane and Jess agreed to work with Cheryl to review the document and make any necessary changes.

Cheryl shared that during the ABIAC meeting, the group discussed drafting a letter regarding the vaccine mandate in Maine. The ABIAC group was concerned that Maine’s mandate was not in line with the federal mandate and it may lead to health care workers leaving their jobs, resulting in more closures of nursing homes/congregate settings. Some nursing homes have already closed due to shortage of health care workers, but this preceded the COVID-19 pandemic. Maine SILC members decided to review the letter that ABIAC sent to Maine’s Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner before deciding what, if any, action to take. This will be done via email once the letter has been distributed to SILC members.

Program Pregress Report (PPR):

Cheryl reported that the new portal for submitting the PPR for FY2020 is now available. PPRs are due by 11:59pm on November 1st of this year. Cheryl will send the work that she and the former Executive Director had done on the PPR to Council members for review. Edits will be made at the next SILC meeting on October 27th and the PPR will immediately be entered into the new portal.

Work Computers:

Cheryl explained that she is working with Fred Mulheron on purchasing a new work computer. In August, Council members thought that the Mac that the former Executive Director used could be taken in trade, cutting the costs of a new computer for Cheryl. Mr. Mulheron does not resell computers or deal with computer parts in any way. The former Executive Director has shown some interest in buying the Mac for her personal use. Since Maine SILC is not in the business of buying/selling anything, Council members voted to sell the Mac to her at market value. This will be done after the data on the Mac has been transferred to Cheryl’s new work computer and when the Mac is “wiped clean”.

Change of Address:

Cheryl, with Council approval, has opened a P O Box in Waterville so she can easily access the mail. Stephanie has been monitoring the P O Box in Portland. Stephanie went to the Post Office in Portland to provide a change of address and forwarding order. She was told SILC could have the Post Office in Portland close the account and hold the mail until the forwarding order has been confirmed . If Maine SILC does this by October 1, Maine SILC will get a bigger refund on the P O Box. It the Council waits until the forwarding order is complete (about two weeks) then the refund will be smaller as it will be after October 1. The Post Office refunds on a quarterly basis. The group opted to close the account, have the mail held until the forwarding order is in place. Some areas that need the address changed are on SILC checks and the SILC website. Cheryl will work to get all accounts SILC has changed to the new address.

Resource Email from Carol Marak:

Cheryl was contacted by a gal by the name of Carol Marak. She was asking if Maine SILC would post some resources on the SILC website. Council members felt the resources and links would not be posted on the SILC website. Cheryl will send Carol a message regarding this.

General Announcements:

Julia asked that a group convene to review the Resource Page on the SILC website. She feels it needs some modifications. Chery and Darcy will work with Julia.

Council members asked if the final SPIL 2021 – 2023 be redistributed to the Council. Cheryl will do this.

Adjournment: 2:53p.m.