Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

Minutes

June 2022

Members Present: Darcy Gentle (Chair), Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director; Trish Thorsen (Member-at-Large), Ombudsmen Program Manager, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Program (LTCOP); Jessica Cyr (PWD), Disability Advocate, Moving Maine Network; Lee Glynn (PWD), Disability Advocate, Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (ABIAC); Diane Frigon, Regional Director; Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI); Stephanie Desrochers, Program Manager, Benefits Counseling Services - Maine Health.

Members Absent: Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One (CIL); Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

Public Present: Julia Endicott, Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRME); Stephanie Crystal, Disability Advocate; Keenan Weischedel (PWD), Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRME); Julie Hovey, Independent Living Specialist, Alpha One; Karen Mason, Associate Director, Office on Aging and Disability Services (OADS); Anna Pellerin, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), Summer Intern.

Staff: Cheryl Peabody, Executive Director (PWD).

Acceptance of Minutes: The May minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report: The budget spreadsheet was posted to the OneDrive. There was discussion around the fee Maine SILC was charged in error by Survey Monkey. The spreadsheet reflects the amount as charged, along with the amount that was credited. The invoices that were submitted to the Designated State Entity (DSE) – the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) - in June was the total of expenses from March, April and May minus the amount that was paid to Maine SILC for the expense that was erroneously charged in February (which was paid by DVR). There was discussion around how much Maine SILC will return to DVR for funds that will not be used in FY2022. Cheryl will work on estimating expenses and get a message out to the Council for their approval of a final figure to return to DVR.

State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL): Progress on goals was added to the SPIL goals document. There was some discussion around the application process to be appointed to the Council by the Governor. Cheryl will reach out to the chairs of the State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) and the Developmental Disabilities Council to proposed changes with the idea of approaching the Governor’s Office to effectuate change to make it less burdensome for potential member to apply for seats on Governor-appointed councils. Karen offered assistance. Stephanie D offered to follow-up with the Consumer Council of Maine.

Cheryl reported she will be representing Maine SILC at the Disability Pride Fair that Disability Rights Maine is hosting on July 8th.

Karen will follow-up with Nicole Rooney to update the Council of Nicole’s discussion with Eric Dibner about exploring a new DSE.

Keenan will gather more information on Age-Friendly network presentations.

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL): The workshop topics are now listed. Cheryl will send that information out so Council members can review. Cheryl said Maine SILC has until July 1st to register Council member for the conference.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Outreach – No update.

DSE – No update.

Bylaws – The proposed bylaws changes were accepted.

Moving Maine Network – Covered when updated the SPIL goals.

Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council – Lee had to leave the meeting early so no updates were given.

Driver’s Education – There was discussion around Mobility Works and renting adaptive vans for driver evaluations. Keenan and Julie will discuss further outside of the meeting.

Maine SILC Annual Training:

Cheryl reported that there were seven responses to the survey about the annual training. The results are that the training will be held as a hybrid. Those wishing to attend in person will meet in Augusta.

Announcements:

Stephanie D reported that the Consumer Council of Maine is launching a new booklet soon. She also reported that Maine Health is hosting an Employment and Benefits Training session in September.

Adjourned: 11:50a.m.