Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

Minutes

May 2022

Members Present: Darcy Gentle (Chair), Wabanaki VR Program Director; Diane Frigon, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), Regional Director; Lee Glynn (PWD), Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (ABIAC); Stephanie Desrochers, Program Manager, Benefits Counseling Services - Maine Medical Center (BCS-MMC); Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

Members Absent: Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One; Jessica Cyr (PWD), Moving Maine Network; Trish Thorsen, Ombudsmen Program Manager, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Program (LTCOP).

Members of Public Present: Julia Endicott, Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRME) – application for membership pending; Brendan Williams, Disability Advocate; Stephanie Crystal, Disability Advocate; Keenan Weischedel, Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRME); Rachel Dyer, Associate Director, Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council); Julie Hovey, Independent Living Specialist, Alpha One; Nicholas Alexander (PWD), Disability Advocate; Ian Gorecki, Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT); Marty Rooney, Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Staff: Cheryl Peabody, Executive Director.

Maine Department of Transportation Presentation – Ian Gorecki and Marty Rooney joined the meeting to talk about MDOT’s Statewide Active Transportation Plan (SAPT) and long range plans. Ian went over a brief PowerPoint covering the MDOT mission, where they are now, where they want to go and how to achieve their goals. Ian and Marty fielded questions from the group.

Acceptance of Minutes for April – No corrections were offered. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Report – The FY2022 budget spreadsheet was posted to the OneDrive. Diane asked if the amount on the Technology line was accurate. We can use funds from other line items. Stephanie voiced some concerns over monies not used and why that may be an issue for future budgets.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) – The SPIL was reviewed, and updates were made to the document.

Activity Tables – Members were reminded to complete the activity table for May.

National Council on Independence Living (NCIL) – The last time checked, the workshops were not announced yet.

General Updates:

Membership/Outreach Committee – Nothing to update.

Designated Entity Committee – Nothing to update.

Bylaw Committee – A cleaned up version of the proposed changes to the bylaws were posted to the OneDrive more than 21 days prior to the May meeting. However, there was not a quorum so they could not be approved.

Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council – Lee gave an update on the council’s work. There will be a brain injury conference on September 22nd in Portland.

Driver Evaluation Program – A question was raised as to whether or not Alpha One could apply for a grant for a van. Samantha and Julie will investigate this.

Annual Training – There was discussion on whether to hold the annual training in person, a hybrid or completely virtual. Cheryl will send out a survey for members to answer about the training.

Announcements:

Disability Rights Maine is hosting a Disability Pride fair at Mill Park in Augusta on July 8from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Maine SILC will be there to promote the organization and answer any questions.

Disability Rights Maine and their partners are hosting an Employment First Forum on June 2nd. An email will be sent out to the group.

Adjournment: 11:48am