Maine SILC

Minutes

December 2023

Zoom Meeting

Attendance Key: P = Present; E = Excused; A = Absent without excuse.

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| ***Council Members:*** | | | | | |
| ***P*** | ***Darcy Gentle*** | ***P*** | ***Brendan Williams*** |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Diane Frigon*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | ***Jessica Cyr*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | ***Lee Glynn*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Samantha Fenderson*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Andrew Smith*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Tom Newman*** |  |  |  |  |

Members of the Public: Julie Hovey; Marita Leach; Katie George; Megan Marquis; Julia Endicott.

Recorder: Cheryl Peabody Next Meeting: January 24, 2024 Status: Approved

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Welcome & Introductions | The meeting was called to order at 10:01am and introductions were made. | N/A | N/A |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Acceptance of Minutes | October Minutes: One correction was offered. The October minutes were accepted as corrected. | Send to Webmaster to be posted on Maine SILC website | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Financial Report | Maine SILC returned $20,000 to the DSE which was used by the Center for Independent Living (CIL), Alpha One, to work down the wait list.  Tom reported that there is a cap on funds that Alpha One (CIL) can receive from the Designated State Entity (DSE) for VR clients Alpha One is serving. He said it has been the same since 2000 and wondered if that cap could be raised. Samantha, the DSE representative, will ask. | N/A  Discuss raising the cap on funds that Alpha One received from the DSE (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for clients being served at Alpha One | N/A  Samantha Fenderson |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Election of Officers | There was not a quorum and tabled this. | Elect Officers at next meeting | Attendees |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| SPIL Activity | Listening Sessions: The dates are set.  Flyers: Flyers will be distributed to Council attendees, with hopes they will share with their networks. Flyers will be posted in each Career Center around the state. PSAs will be placed in local newspapers. | N/A  Finish Flyers  Get flyers posted in newspapers | N/A  Darcy Gentle and Cheryl Peabody  Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Google Voice | Cheryl received notification that her google voice number may be taken back as it has been inactive. | Contact Leah Farrell for assistance | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Program Progress Report (PPR) | The PPR for FFY2023 is ready to be input into the portal. | Review PPR and provide corrections/edits by Friday, December 8th  Reminder to complete the FFY2023 Activity Table if not done yet | Council Members  Council Members |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Announcements | Business Enterprise Program (BEP): Diane reported that the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) held their public forum to discuss the BEP rules clarification. The Rules are now out for signature with MDOL Commissioner and Maine’s Governor.  Diane also reported that DBVI has hired a new director, Elissa Rowe. We can have her join us to introduce herself soon.  AIVR Grant: Darcy reported that they are in the fourth year of a five-year grant. She will be reaching out to folks for letters of support. | N/A  Invite new DBVI director to a SILC meeting  Write letters of support for the AIVR Program grant | N/A  Diane Frigon and Cheryl Peabody  Those who receive requests for support |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Public Comments | Time was given for public comments. None was given. | N/A | N/A |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 11:07am. | N/A | N/A |

**People & Organizations**

**Darcy Gentle – AIVR Program Director**

**Diane Frigon – Regional Director, DBVI**

**Samantha Fenderson – Assistant Director, DVR**

**Andrew Smith – Disability Advocate**

**Brendan Williams – Disability Advocate**

**Tom Newman - Executive Director, Alpha One**

**Julie Hovey – IL Specialist/Manager, Alpha One**

**Katie George – IL Specialist, Alpha One**

**Marita Leach – Benefits Counseling Services, Maine Health**

**Megan Marquis – Employment Advocate, Disability Rights Maine**

**Julia Endicott – Communications Director, Disability Rights Maine**