Maine SILC

Minutes

May 2023

Zoom Meeting

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

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|  ***Council Members:*** |
| ***P*** | ***Darcy Gentle*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | ***Diane Frigon*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Jessica Cyr*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Lee Glynn*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Samantha Fenderson*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Stephanie Desrochers*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | ***Tom Newman*** |  |  |  |  |

Members of the Public: Julie Hovey; Keenan Weischedel; Marita Leach; Leah Farrell; Linda Porelle; Brendan Williams; Katie George; Karen Mason.

Recorder: Cheryl Peabody. Next Meeting: June 28, 2023. Minutes Approved: Final

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| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Acceptance of Minutes | The April minutes were accepted as distributed. | Send to Webmaster to post on Maine SILC Website. | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Financial Report | Cheryl has not done the invoices for April and May. She will update the spreadsheet when she does them in early June. Cheryl will work on projected expenses through the end of September and let Darcy, Tom, Libby and Eric know a guesstimate of what will be left in the FFY2023 budget | Prepare April and May invoices. Updated spreadsheet. Provide estimate of what will be left in the FFY2023 budget. | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| SPIL | Cheryl only received clarification in wording from one person. She has completed editing the SILC part of the SPIL and has sent it to Tom, Libby, Eric and Darcy for them to do their portion so the SPIL can be submitted to ACL by June 30th. | The Designated Entity (DSE) and Center for Independent Living (CIL) must modify their sections of the SPIL.The SPIL will be posted on the OneDrive in its entirety. | Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Alpha OneCheryl Peabody |
| .Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| SPIL Survey | There was a group who looked at the survey Maine SILC used for the SPIL 2021-2023. They sent suggestions for edits. Cheryl will get that done and posted to the OneDrive for discussion in June. | Make edits to the SPIL survey and post on the OneDrive. | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Disability Rights Maine Pride event | Disability Rights Maine will be hosting a Pride event in July to celebrate people with disabilities. It will be held on July 21st from 11:00-3:00 at Mill Park in Augusta. | Represent Maine SILC at the event on July 21. | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Fiscal Policy | Historically, Maine SILC has had a treasurer position. With no one to step in that role, the bylaws were amended so the Executive Director can perform those responsibilities. There needs to be checks and balances for the person performing the treasurer’s duties, as well as the bookkeeper. Maine SILC needs to update the fiscal policy to reflect those checks and balances, as well as make any bylaw amendments necessary. Maine SILC will move toward the bookkeeper having more access to the financials and to be handling the invoices. | Stephanie, Jessica and Cheryl have reviewed the policy and will complete edits. The fiscal policy will then be shared via email with Council members. | Stephanie, Jessica and Cheryl |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Remote Work Policy | Through the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU), Maine SILC was asked for a copy of their remote work policy. Maine SILC does not have a formal policy. Cheryl attempted to draft one but felt Maine SILC may need to work with Preti Flaherty to draft a remote work policy.  | Follow up with ILRU and other SILCs. | Cheryl will reach out to ILRU and other SILCs; Leah will contact NYSILC. |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| General Updates | Membership Committee - the committee has not met. Jessica made a suggestion that was offered in April, which is to coordinate with other Councils with the idea of contacting one of our Congressmen to get a Congressional inquiry to the Governor’s office of Boards and Commissions approvals.Designated State Entity (DSE) committee has paused. Moving Maine Network – The Network was hosting learning webinars monthly. The April and May sessions were cancelled.Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (ABIAC) - The ABIAC has finally completed their 5-year state plan. Once it has been voted on, Lee will share it with SILC members. They were awarded a grant from the Administration of Community Living (ACL). They will use this grant to implement a plan for brain injuries and the many facets of recovery/rehabilitation. They are hoping to have a neurobehavioral clinic in Maine because the more significantly affected individuals are sent out of state for treatment. There is currently a wait list for services. Driver Evaluations – Keenan and Julie reported that driver evaluations are really a national concern. Samantha added it is a funding issue with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and how those funds can be spent. The issue is around how to fund the specialized vehicle needed to perform the driver evaluations. Samantha will check to see if there is any chance of two (or more) states working together on funding for a specialized vehicle and sharing the vehicle between states. It is not known how Massachusetts received the money to obtain two vehicles. | Contact other Councils (the Five Collaborative Councils) to coordinate working with the Governor’s office of Boards and CommissionsN/A. N/AGet the ABIAC state plan to SILC members.Samantha will try to do some research on how Massachusetts did get funding. | Cheryl PeabodyN/AN/ALee and CherylSamantha |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Announcements | Keenan and Julie were at the Accessibility Transportation Institute in Oklahoma. Minnesota reported they have an on demand autonomous vehicle program. They have had 2,00 rides with the wheelchair accessible autonomous vehicle in six months. Disability Rights Maine (DRM) is holding an art competition. The winning art design will be awarded a small stipend and their art will be used by DRM over the next year. The deadline to submit art is June 15th. Benefits Counseling Services held a webinar on the end of the Public Health Emergency and what it means for those who received benefits under the PHE. The webinar was recorded and will be available soon. 65,000-90,000 MaineCare recipients will go off the rolls once the pre-pandemic qualifications are resumed. The webinar helps those who may be closed incorrectly look out for possible issues to would lead to these incorrect closures. They will be hosting another webinar over the summer about appeals and requests for reconsideration of incorrect closures. Stephanie reminded the Council that Benefits Counseling Services will be hiring two Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC). Through a grant from the Office on Aging and Disability Services (OADS), these new CWICs will be serving waiver members. | N/ACheryl will send the email from Julia Endicott, DRM’s Communication Director.The webinar will be available shortly and the recording will be shared with Maine SILC | N/ACheryl PeabodyMarita Leach |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Public Comment | Time was given for public comment. None was given. | N/A | N/A |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am | N/A | N/A |

***People & Organizations Represented***

***Darcy Gentle – Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director***

***Diane Frigon - Regional Director, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired***

***Jessica Cyr – Disability Advocate***

***Lee Glynn – Disability Advocate, Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council***

***Samantha Fenderson – Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation***

***Tom Newman – Executive Director, Alpha One (CIL)***

***Rachel Dyer – Developmental Disabilities Council***

***Keenan Weischedel – Disability Rights Maine (application pending)***

***Leah Farrell – Disability Advocate***

***Julie Hovey – Independent Living Specialist, Alpha One***

***Katie George – Alpha One***

***Brendan Williams – Disability Advocate (application pending)***

***Karen Mason – Associate Director, Office on Aging and Disability Services***

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