

# Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

## Minutes

March 25, 2026, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Zoom

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE					
Member Name	Attendance	Voting Member?	Member Name	Attendance	Voting Member?
Samantha Fenderson	P	No	Jessica Cyr	E	Yes
Diane Frigon	P	No	John Shattuck	P	Yes
Tom Newman	E	Yes	Molly Thompson	A	Yes
Andrew Smith	P	Yes	Lynn Feely	E	Yes
Brendan Williams	P	Yes	Rebeca Ball-Curry	P	Yes
Mary Le Blanc	P	Yes	Josh Weidemann	P	Yes
Mel Clarrage	P	Yes			

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

**Public Attendees:** Jason Goodrich, Lowell Cooley, Dylan Campbell, Carrie Woodcock, Allison Wiest, Mary Green, Julie Hovey, Katie George

**Minutes Recorder:** John Shattuck

**Approved**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Brendan Williams convened the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed SILC members. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Many who introduced themselves are joining the meeting as potential SILC members.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Brendan and Andrew agreed to postpone accepting February 18-Special Meeting and March 3-SILC Meeting minutes.

**Financial Expenditure Report:** No Financial Report given

**State Plan for Independent Living-**Brendan invited all SPIL Goal Working Groups to report out any activities. The work group for Goal 3 (Connect People with Disabilities to Transportation Resources), Brendan, Rebecca and Lynn, has plans to meet but had nothing to report out. The work group for Goal 2 (Emergency Preparedness for The Disability Community) has met with Julie, Diane, Jess and Tom. Julie Hovey offered an update. Alpha One and SILC have both recently updated their websites to include links to various emergency preparedness websites, info on disability specific emergency prep and how to create emergency kits. Sam has approximately 20 Alpha One empty bags that can be used at outreach events. Alpha One worked with Maine Cite in January and presented on the topic of being a Mainer with a disability and emergency preparedness specific to the state of Maine. The recording is available online to watch. Next indicator for SPIL Goal 2 is training with the Maine Emergency Management which was already done this past fall. An important emergency issue was raised, that Emergency Services are not just limited to weather events, but also involve individuals who need medical care but because of their disability have been denied access to local medical care facilities or are stuck between 2 facilities with neither wanting to accept responsibility. It was agreed that this issue was important enough to consider later, but it's not part of this very specific goal. SPIL Goal 1 work group is set to meet on Thurs, 4/2 to discuss awareness of IL services for Mainers with disabilities.

**Alpha One (CIL) Update-** Alpha One reps Katie and Caleb attended Maine Brain Injury Resource Fair. Katie described the agency's participation at the fairytale held in Augusta, March 19 at the Armory. This event not only offered a good opportunity for consumers to learn more about the resources available, but also

for providers and advocates to be updated on the availability of services. Mary and Brendan took this opportunity to share information about the SILC booth at the fair and recognized Lynn Feely's help in covering the SILC information table. It was mentioned that the event was a success with good attendance.

### **Committee Updates-**

- **Membership Committee:** During this portion of the meeting, issues regarding the role of the Membership within the SILC and the Governor's confirmation process. The question of whether there were any members on the Membership Committee that were not members of SILC was raised as well as the representation of the Disability Community on the Committee. The response to both these questions was: the composition of the Membership Committee was made up of SILC members and that two of the people on the Committee represented the Disability Community, Jessica and Andrew. A concern was also raised that some of the SILC members felt somewhat disenfranchised by both the Membership Committee and the Executive Committee. There was a motion by Mary Le Blanc to have the Membership Committee activities put "on hold" until full membership of the SILC was satisfied; a motion that was seconded by Josh Weidemann. It was then pointed out that the Membership Committee is a required standing committee according to the SILC bylaws, and a bylaw change would be required to put the Membership Committee activities "on hold". A question was raised as to whether the Membership Committee had actually turned down any application to membership to the SILC. It was suggested that in recent memory, no application to SILC membership has been rejected. The motion has been tabled until further exploration into the question of bylaw change would be required to alter the Membership Committee activities. Diane Frigon also offered that she has met with the Governor's Office, Dept. of Boards and Commissions representative to discuss the confirmation process, and welcomed any suggestions that may help to make the process more accessible and efficient,
- **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee has not met and had no update.
- **MORE Committee:** The MORE (Maine Outdoor Recreation for Everyone) Committee has not met recently
- **Moving Maine Network:** Jessica sent an email update with registration for Mobility Meet-up and info on transportation safety in Augusta.
- **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council:** Mary referenced Brain Injury Resource Fair already mentioned above under Alpha One update.
- **State Rehab Councils:** Sam and Allison will be attending a National Conference for State Rehab Councils conference in Washington D.C. They are finishing their state plan.
- **Empowerment Forum-**Brendan gave a reminder of the Empowerment Forum ad Hoc Committee which was originally intended to be a one-day training event planned with the other 5 State Councils. The Empowerment Forum has changed recently to more of a peer-to-peer support group. There was further discussion about the challenges of planning a full day event. Bridge Maine might be interested in helping with a daylong Empowerment Forum event. More discussion will need to be given about this.

**Public Comment & Other Topics-** There were a few comments made and incorporated into the above applicable note. One comment was; when considering prospective SILC members, we should make sure we

have a good cross section that represents people's different lived experiences as well as a geographic representation.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Brendan at 11:50

**Meeting notes respectfully and humbly offered by John Shattuck, SILC member.  
Jessica Cyr SILC Secretary/Treasurer**

**Upcoming Meetings: 4/29/2026 10:00-12:00**