

Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

Draft Minutes

April 29, 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	P	Yes
Diane Frigon	P	No	John Shattuck	P	Yes
Tom Newman	P	Yes	Lynn Feely	E	Yes
Andrew Smith	P	Yes	Rebeca Ball-Curry	P	Yes
Brendan Williams	P	Yes	Josh Weidemann	P	Yes
Mary Le Blanc	P	Yes	Julie Hovey	P	Yes
Mel Clarrage	P	Yes			

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

Public Attendees: Carrie Woodcock, Mary Green, Karen Mason, Lindsay Harford, Jackelyn Mills, Cheyenne Pollard, Kile Pelletier, Sean Rendall, Michelle Beaulieu

Minutes Recorder: Jessica Cyr

Approved

Prior to the official start of the meeting:

The council discussed recording the meeting via Zoom, with Brendan and Mary requesting it for accessibility purposes. After debate, including input from Mary Green of Disability Rights Maine and Thomas's clarification that recording is not an accommodation to participate in the meeting, the council voted to record the meeting in order to move forward, but did not discuss what the next steps would be, i.e. what to do with the recording. The motion passed with a majority of votes, allowing the meeting to proceed with recording capabilities enabled. Additionally, Karesh captioner began using a StreamText separate website for accessing captions, but the group later resolved to enable direct captioning within Zoom to make it easier.

Welcome & Introductions: Brendan Williams convened the meeting at 10:20 and welcomed SILC members. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Many who introduced themselves are joining the meeting as potential SILC members.

Acceptance of Minutes: February 18, 2026 Special Meeting minutes-Josh asked for a correction, to be marked excused for 2/18/2026. Brendan agreed. minutes accepted with a majority vote as corrected for attendance (While voting Mary states that she, Brendan and Lynn should also be excused, but the excused absence was not clarified.)
March 4, 2026 minutes accepted, Mary, Josh and Brendan Abstained (John not present during vote)
March 25, 2026 minutes accepted, Josh and Brendan Abstained (Mary not present during vote)

Financial Expenditure Report: Jessica showed the current financial report on the screen for all SILC expenses October 1,2025 through of March 2026. Josh and Brendan have stipend questions. Reviewed that the \$50 stipend is available for SILC members, if they are not paid through an employer, to attend a SILC meeting. The prior stipends have been submitted to the accountant asking for reimbursement checks for SILC members. Jessica has not heard from the accountant with a status update probably because April is a busy month for accountants and our organization is so small. Reviewed the financial process between Jessica signing checks and the accountant for writing checks. Jessica will share new stipend info as it is available. Mary reminded about having a finance committee, overview of accountant changes in SILC history and getting more info about the additional bank account. Advised that bank statements are

provided to the accountant each month, but this could be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

State Plan for Independent Living-

Jessica showed the SPIL on the screen with Lindsay reading aloud through the goals portion. Tom reminded all that SILC members were invited to join any of 3 work groups to meet, outside of the regular SILC meetings, to make progress on the 3 SPIL goals. Brendan asked if these work groups should be public meetings. Mel, Sam, Andrew, John, and Rebecca met to review SPIL Goal 1. They drafted a survey to satisfy SPIL indicator 1.1.1 and will email all, looking for feedback so the survey can be reviewed at May meeting and possibly posted or disbursed after. John has meetings scheduled with both the Commission for the Deaf and Developmental Disabilities Council to review the survey and test accessibility. Jess read objective 1.2 out loud and asked for input. SILC submitted a 2025 report to the legislature in January 2026, which is included in the file that was sent before the meeting. Legislature is just about done for the year so Brendan encourages reaching out to meet your local legislators. Jess asked for an email if anyone testified on a bill personally to advocate for disability needs. Tom recommends scheduling a future training on acceptable legislative advocacy vs lobbying which is not allowed. Brendan will reach out to ILT&TA. Kile recommends that people offer testimony when able, since the DD council received great feedback when their members testified to legislature. Goal 1.3 will be discussed in future. SPIL Goal 2 group met with Jess, Tom, Julie and Diane. The discussion was about "other service providers" such as Maine Parent Federation and what they might have for emergency preparedness resources. Carrie shared that the wait time for bridge services is about a year and a half as children age out of the youth system of supports. The preparedness training is specifically for the family. They work on training to decide 1- what they can do, 2-where they need a little help or 3-where they need lots of help. Practice how to provide supportive decision-making sometimes with Disability Rights Maine supporting. Making a supportive decision-making plan. Identifying natural supports vs paid supports especially for in an emergency. Kate Turpin from DRM reaches out to transition aged youth well before they age out and before graduation to try and get ahead. Discussed self-advocacy skills for when there is an emergency. Idea for future SILC speaker, Jeremy Libby-IL specialist, wheelchair user. SPIL Goal 3 has not met to review transportation. Julie states that Alpha One is working with Maine Driver's Ed Association and Voc Rehab about the driver evaluation available and Maine's White Cane Law. VR can offer driver's eval if it's part of client plan.

Committee Updates-

- **Executive Committee:** Jess, Brendan and Andrew met on 4/7 and 4/13, minutes are drafted, not yet approved
- **Membership Committee:** Jess, Diane, Andrew have not met recently, but lots of possible new member discussions happening and hopefully with the new quarterly submissions the process will get faster
- **MORE Committee:** Diane states no recent meeting, but Maine Outdoor Recreation for Everyone, MORE Committee shared doc in fall, shared at info tables. Maine CITE has May event on SILC website.
- **Empowerment Forum:** Brendan states Josh and Rebecca are supporting each other weekly on Tuesday, possibility of a daylong event after October since last one was in 2017

Public Comment & Other Topics-

Mary Green spoke about the importance of members to be able to ask for accommodation if they need it. Sean shared the DRM national community disability rights event on 4/29.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:05

Upcoming Meetings: 5/27/2026 10:00-12:00