**ME SILC Monthly Meeting Minutes, May 22, 2019**

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|  | **MEMBERS** | **PUBLIC** |
| **In attendance** | Cheryl Peabody, Diane Frigon, Darcy Gentle, | Sam Fenderson, Jess Cyr, Blake McCartney, Tom Newman, Karen Mason, Ben Dudley – Presenter |
| A**bsent** | Lincoln Hunt (tried), Stephanie Desrochers, Trish Thorsen |  |

**Technical Difficulties** – Once again we had technical difficulties with the audio. We will continue to work out the issues.

Since our April meeting, Cheryl shared clarification, that we are not required to go through the full process of gathering information for the Amendment, but rather we can extend the existing Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) through FY 2020.

**Introductions**

Council members introduced themselves. Ben Dudley introduced himself and gave an overview of the legislative process.

**Summary of Ben’s presentation**

Ben shared that he was a Legislator from 1998-2006 representing the east end of Portland and sat on the Health and Human Services Committee as well as some time on Appropriations Committee.

When explaining the process, Ben wanted to offer a general overview of the legislation process, public hearings, and etiquette when presenting to committees.

Sponsorship – once you have a sponsor for your bill, they submit the bill to the the Office of the Revised Statutes, which is a professional office within the legislature. This office is responsible for drafting legislation, formatting into the proper language, and refer to the right sections of statute and handle timing issues. Once the bill is printed, it is sent to the House and Senate to assign the bill to a committee. It then passes the governor's desk for others consideration for the design or the veto. If vetoed, it goes back to the House and Senate for an override vote, which requires two thirds of the body.

Testifying – Often testimony is limited to three minutes per person. You must sign the attendance sheet maintained by the committee clerk. (Every committee have printed copies of the rules, if you don't remember the rules, or you want to check a rule, you have every right to ask the clerk for a copy.) When giving testimony, you recognize the Senate Chair by name, the House Representative by name and a general recognition to the other members of the committee. Provide your full name, residence and affiliation/organization you are representing prior to testifying. Right away, you want to state if you are in favor or opposition to the bill. Establish your expertise on the subject matter. Whether it's your professional background or whether it's your lived experience, the both are important perspectives. Why should they be listening to what you have to say? All questions must be addressed through the chair. At all times, it's important to be polite, and respectful. After completing your testimony, the chair will then ask if there are any members of the committee that have questions for you. Do your best to answer the question. If you don't know the answer the question, it is perfectly acceptable to say, I'm sorry, I don't have the answer for you right now. But I would be happy to get you a response and find out the staffer who will follow up with you and you can send information to. It helps to be prepared to spend the whole morning maybe even into lunchtime. If scheduled in the afternoon session, plan to be there the entire afternoon. If you can't testify, you can submit written testimony. There's a there's a process for doing that online.

Written materials must have the name, address and date presented. Be prepared to give the committee at least 20 copies your outline. This is important to provide as it will get into the official record. Legislators will refer back to it, they won't might not remember details, or were not able to attend.

Broadcasting – Public hearings are available online to listen (audio only) to testimony. All public hearings are a cell free zone!

**Acceptance of Minutes – 4/24/19**

There were not enough members to accept the Minutes. There was discussion regarding why some members were placed under the Public Attendance heading. This was done intentionally for the individuals who had not filed an application previously.

**Monthly Activity Table**

The Monthly Activity Table was shared on the screen. We reviewed the types of items that are captured. By doing this monthly it will make it easier at the end of the year when we submit the Progress Report. Again, there was some question as to if the “public” members should submit information. Ultimately, we decided that it would make sense to capture the information now and can take it out if the Governor doesn’t approve everyone’s application.

**Annual Meeting**

Dates for the Annual Meeting were talked about. We thought since 8/28 and 9/25 were already on people’s calendar as Monthly SILC Meetings, it would be easier to keep it on either of those dates. We decided that 9/25 would work the best and will be held in Southern Maine in the Portland area for those who will need Personal Care Assistance. The time frame was not decided, besides only being one day. We also discussed the possibility of still using Zoom for those who cannot attend. Due to time constraints on our Annual Meeting, there will be no speakers, but rather during our Monthly Meetings.

**Financial Update**

Stephanie shared some financial information. We did not review the past history but looked at the FY 2019. We shared the screen with the line items and discussed moving money around from different line items.

Some of the lines that may need adjustment are Public Forums, Board Meetings, Mileage, Conferences and Training, Advertising and SPIL Coordinator as a Contracted person where they have their own insurances and we don’t need to pay additional Worker’s Comp and other liability insurances.

* Public Forums to be held throughout the State to gather SPIL information
* Board meetings with more members with stipends and mileage
* Conferences and Trainings would increase due to more members, allowing for 2 people to go to the National Conference as well as courses such as Smooth as SILC
* Advertising for public notice for Forums, marketing material
* A Consultant that would focus their time on solely the SPIL and then going forward have them in a more limited role to stay up to date as we go along

The question was raised regarding the budget if we could ask for money later. It was clarified that we submit expenses to the State as we go along, we do not have the funding up front to spend down. We have to have a budget in place first.

We also discussed if line item funds can be moved from line item to line item.

**General Updates**

Transportation bill – Council shared thoughts about the bill and it was determined that SILC would not be participating in testimony due to the amendment to LD1258. There were 39 testimony submissions, it was passed, and it appeared that the piece regarding the voucher program was taken out.

Membership applications will probably not be looked at until Legislators are out of session, by the Governor.

**Adjourned – 12:01**