**Maine Silc Meeting Minutes**

**August 26th, 2020**

**Attendees:**

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|  | **MEMBERS** | **PUBLIC** |
| **In Attendance** | Cheryl Peabody (Chair), PWD;  Stephanie Desrochers, Program Coordinator Benefits Services MMC;  Diane Frigon, Regional Director, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI); Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Trish Thorsen, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP); Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One; Darcy Gentle (Vice Chair), AIVR Program Director; | Lee Glynn, PWD; Jessica Cyr, PWD;  Rick Langley, Disability Rights Maine (DRM); Karen Mason, Office on Aging and Disability (OADS)  STAFF: Beth Mogan, Executive Director; Rebecca Eliot, Administrative Assistant |

**Welcome and Introductions:**

All present introduced themselves.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** (June)

Review of June minutes tabled until Annual Training in September

**FinancialReport:**

**Unexpended Funds:** Eric Dibner received email of notice that Maine Statewide Independent Living Council (MESILC) is returning $34,000 to the Designated State Entity (DSE) from the 2019-2020 Fiscal year. Tom inquired of Sam if some of this returned money could be routed to Alpha One programs. Sam stated she, Eric and Libby Stone-Sterling would be meeting to discuss how and where these funds would be going next. It was then confirmed that a new Bookeeper/Accountant would be hired for the new fiscal year.

**Proposed 2021 Budget:** Beth posted via screen share the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Question was raised if the actual spending totals for FY2020 could be used for the proposal for less then the projected $40,000. A discussion followed to clarify what expenses were included within various line items, and if there were any areas to trim or expand due to COVID-19 pandemic.

A suggestion was made to see a new revised proposed budget that included an added list explaining what actual expenses are included in each line item category, plus an added third column showing what council has used to date. It was agreed that a revised budget with these requested additions will be sent out to members for review by Friday, August 28th . Members are to send back any further suggestions, or approval of proposed budget by September 2nd to Beth and Cheryl. Deadline for budget submission is September 30th, yet State requests earlier for their review and discussion.

**Annual Meeting on September 23rd:** Confirmed annual meeting will be done via zoom. Scheduled for 10:00 – 4:00 with lunch break. Ann MacDaniel is the scheduled speaker for the morning session to speak on the History of State Independent Living Councils (SILC) and what it means to be a SILC member. Discussion followed to gather a draft list of agenda items for the afternoon meeting session. It was decided that the council members should send ideas of session topics to Beth and Cheryl by August 28th. A draft agenda for review will be shared via email by September 4th.

**Residential Care Work Group:**  Report by Stephanie who stated all these workshops had been paused due to the COVID-19 restrictions, especially for the congregate living facilities. First meeting for this group is set for the Tuesday after Labor Day, so she hopes to have more information to share at the October council meeting.

**Moving Maine Network: (Jessica)** Jessica reported that the next meeting for the Transportation Work Group is the end of September. She will give a full update report at the October council meeting.

**General Updates:**

**Tom:** The Center for Independent Living (Alpha One) has expended immensely. Expanded staff numbers for Tablet Care program with Independent Health Specialists for the Information Technology (IT) training and IT assistance. New Care Coordinators for Section 19 Appendix K. Additional administrative staff added at Alpha One headquarters to support for all statewide services. Many of these changes and additions will continue after the pandemic. Driver Education and Driver Evaluations are continuing, following CDC protocols. Fiscal Intermediary Services are continuing remotely. All services are done remotely, with only a few staff coming into the offices periodically.

**Rick:**  DRM is joining the council as the administrator of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) of the Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and Independent Living (IL) advocate.. Rick expects a ruling very soon on the Voting Access litigation case. This is to ensure voting access during the pandemic for all individuals with print disabilities. The solution involves access given to a voting portal in the Maine.gov site that allows a fill in pdf to be used. Testing is starting at the end of August, to be live by September 19th. This is such an easy access voting option. Rick to forward information to Cheryl to send out to SILC email list. Those contacts can then forward to their various networks, thus spreading the word far and wide.

**Samantha:** The Career Center is slowly re-opening to in-person meetings by appointments only. Vocational Rehabilitation agencies are still phasing employees back into office based on individual’s choice, thus a slow process of re-entry. All contact with clients is still remote only.

**Trish:** Partnering with AARP to ensure people in congregate and senior living facilities have access to absentee voting. Especially important since voting clerks can’t go into the facilities at this time. Absentee voting information needs to be distributed to the staff at the congregate and senior living places. Rick offered to talk to Trish more about this topic. Stephanie asked if SILC should or could help share some of this information on the How, Who, Where, and Whenvia offering or promoting webinars to the council members’ respective networks. Cooperative webinar by SILC, DRM and AARP? Cheryl to contact Rick on this webinar action item.

**Jessica:** NCIL conference was great. Especially interesting to watch the voting session. She reminded council members that the recordings of all NCIL conference sessions are still available until end of the year. Go to the Convention link, hit Agenda, and click link to session you want to view.

Cheryl thanked everyone for their input and comments.

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:45am.