## ME SILC Monthly Meeting, March 25, 2020

**Welcome and Introductions:**

The Council members introduced themselves.

**Minutes:**

December Minutes accepted as distributed.

January minutes accepted as corrected for MEHAF.

(F is for Foundation in the name)

February Minutes accepted as distributed.

**Survey Update:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Members | Public |
| In Attendance: | Bethany Morgan, Cheryl Peabody, Thomas N., Jessica C., Samantha F., Wanda B., Stephanie Derochers, | Rebecca Eliot |
|  |  |  |
| Absent: | Trish Thorson, Diane Frigon, Darcy Gentle, Karen M., |  |

Surveys are complete. Goal is 100 completed surveys. So far there are 76 completed online, with an entry from every county except Franklin.

**Listening Sessions:**

Majority vote approved to extend deadline to April 30th, and to offer, at least, two more sessions via Zoom Virtual Meetings technology.

Tom recommended the added Listening Sessions be scheduled for afternoons in mid April. He also reminded us to get extension approval from ACL first.

**Financial Update**

Spreadsheet information has no changes or updates.

Stephanie requested Financial Statement report to be sent out with the Meeting Minutes and Agenda before each monthly meeting.

Suggestions made to put the report on the Google One Drive, and include the link to this file in the minutes. Access would be View only. Beth to work on this task.

**SILC Administration Assistant Update**

Cheryl and Beth introduced the new Administrative Assistant Rebecca Eliot. She will be working closely with both Cheryl and Bethany.

Welcome Rebecca!

**Membership:**

Concern raised on why it is taking 12+ months to get approval on new members from the Governor. A letter has been sent by SILC requesting again for approval of the 5 new members applications.

Diane & Sam to check on DSC or DSU for exemptions to meeting mandate on voting members.

Question raised if Beth and Cheryl should reach for leads to new members. There has been no response from the Govenor’s Board of Commission contacts. Tom stated to keep persisting for contact and approval from the Governor’s Board. He wants the approval before 704 Year End Report.

Cheryl, Beth, & Rebecca to work together on this priority task.

**Monthly Activity Table:**

– See attachment

- Please submit to Beth

Please add to this table a column for COVID 19 time/tasks. Bethany needs everyones’ submission of this completed form.

Cheryl & Rebecca to fix the # of characters limit in the fields.

**General Updates**

Trish sent out a call for PPE for all Home Care workers & regular workers per the new COVID 19 regulations.

Samantha shared all Career Centers are closed in compliance with the Statewide Lock Down for COVID 19. The centers are offering website and Live chat assistance only. CRP’s are impacted and being pulled for DOL & Unemployment application calls. Virtual Job Shadow workshops have been expanded. Job Development services are on hold, as well as all services for the Work Based Learning students.

Distant learning and Virtual classrooms still meeting.

All VR services in schools are still happening via working with school staff on site by site basis.

Stephanie D. Shared many changes and closures due to the COVID 19 restrictions. They are changing referral process, no longer accepting packets. All Social Security offices have closed and suspended services. Most staff are working remotely.

Many services suspended at this time.

Stephanie asked for assistance from SILC on raising awareness and contacting Policy makers of how unemployment benefits affect clients in Maine Care and Medicare Buy-In programs. The Unemployment Benefits received are considered “Unearned Income” and thus changes clients income eligibility for these programs. The “Unemployment Benefits” need to be changed to something other than “Unearned Income” at the state level. At income review time the clients are often cut due to the unemployment benefits unearned income designation.

Tom request summaries of the 6 Listening sessions so far be sent out for review.

**Adjourned** - 11:17 a.m.

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