Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

April 2021 Minutes

Members Present: Cheryl Peabody (Chair), Person with a Disability; Trish Thorsen (Member at Large), Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Program (LTCOP); Diane Frigon, Regional Director, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI); Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Lee Glynn, Person with a Disability; Jessica Cyr, Person with a Disability.

Members with Excused Absence: Stephanie Desrochers, Program Coordinator, Benefits Counseling Services, Maine Medical Center \*\* ; Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One (Center for Independent Living) \*\* ; Darcy Gentle (Vice Chair), 121 Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director. Staff: Beth Mogan, Executive Director.

Members of Public Present: Julia Endicott, Disability Rights Maine (DRME); Julie Hovey, Alpha One; Karen Mason, Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS); Sharisse Roberts, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI); Rachel Dyer, Associate Director, Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC).

\*\* Stephanie and Tom were present at the beginning of the meeting but the Zoom host experienced some technical difficulties. Due to other commitments, Stephanie and Tom were unable to attend the meeting once it was started.

Sharisse Roberts - Autonomous Vehicles: Sharisse Roberts, an Orientation & Mobility Instructor with DBVI did a presentation on autonomous vehicles. The first thing Sharisse said is autonomous vehicles will not be affordable for individuals, they are geared towards ride share like Uber or Lyft. Sharisse shared the history of autonomous vehicles. From 1950 – 2000, the idea of autonomous vehicles started. The first element was safety features, such as seat belts. Between 2000 - S2010, there were more safety features added to vehicles, such as blind spot sensors. From 2010 – present, there are even more safety features on vehicles, such as automatic breaking, lane keeping assist or self-parking vehicles. These safety features are all geared towards autonomous vehicles. Sharisse spoke about five levels of autonomous vehicles with Level 1 being no automation to Level 5 being total automated. A lot of research is being done on how to be inclusive to everyone, from audible feedback to tactile feedback. Sharisse said even at Level 5, someone must be in charge of the vehicle. There was discussion around different aspects of using autonomous vehicles for ride share, including: who would collect fare, who would operate lifts, who would secure wheelchairs in place, etc.

Acceptance of Minutes: The March minutes were accepted as distributed.

Financial Updates: No spreadsheet was available. Cheryl shared that at the March meeting we still had not been reimbursed for the first quarter of FY2021 invoices. Maine SILC did receive payment.

Committee Updates:

Membership Committee: The Committee has not met again. They hope to get the new Executive Director in place before doing more work. Diane did share the Activity Tables on the OneDrive. Cheryl reminded everyone the importance of completing the tables. Maine SILC uses this information to track the progress on State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL) goals. Diane also shared the organization chart to which holds the names of organization of which Council members belong.

Designated State Entity (DSE) Committee: This Committee has not met. Alpha One and OADS are busy with vaccination processes as a priority.

General Updates:

Jessica said that she and Stephanie had met as an ad-hoc committee to discuss the fiscal agent work. They feel since Pat Elwell, Tabbott’s Accounting Services, was originally hired to handle finances for Maine SILC, the best first step is to meet with Pat and discuss what Maine SILC is looking for and to cover expectations with him. Cheryl, Jess and Stephanie will set that call up soon.

Julia stated Disability Rights Maine is now hiring. For more information, visit: [www.drme.org](http://www.drme.org).

Rachel gave some general information about the DD Council.

Karen reported that OADS, Alpha One, AAA and others are now working on home-based vaccinations. OADS, Alpha One and the Maine CDC all have resources on their websites.

Adjournment: 11:46am