Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

Minutes April 2022

Members Present: Darcy Gentle (Chair), AI VR Program Director; Jessica Cyr, Disability Advocate; Stephanie Desrochers, Program Manager, Benefits Counseling Services, Maine Medical Center (BCS-MMC); Diane Frigon, Regional Manager, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI); Lee Glynn, Disability Advocate.

Members Absent: Tom Newman, Executive Director, Alpha One (CIL); Samantha Fenderson, Assistant Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Trish Thorsen, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).

Members of the Public: Julia Endicott (Application Pending), Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Maine (DRM); Julie Hovey, Independent Living Specialist, Alpha One; Karen Mason, Associate Director, Office on Aging and Disability Services (OADS); Katy Bizier, NeruoResource Facilitator; Brain Injury Association America – Maine Chapter (BIAA-ME); Stephanie Crystal, Disability Advocate.

Staff: Executive Director, Cheryl Peabody.

Acceptance of Minutes – March:

One correction was offered – a typo. The minutes from March were accepted as corrected.

Strategic Planning – Does Maine SILC want to pursue:

Discussion around whether or not to pursue this was held. Most individuals who spoke up were in favor of scheduling a session. The group also discussed whether to hold this as part of the annual training. Some felt it would help Maine SILC prioritize the work Maine SILC does. Other comments were that a strategic plan may help Maine SILC achieve SPIL goals/objectives by helping taget or focus on priorities. It was finally decided that Cheryl will send out a three-question survey, two questions will be about whether or not to pursue this.

How the CIL Helped Someone:

Julie reported a story of how Alpha One’s Information and Referral Department helps others. A gentleman called Information and Referral and asked for resources to help his dad get out of a rehabilitation facility and back to his community. Alpha One was able to get the gentleman and his father resources (i.e. OADS) to help successfully get him home.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL):

The group went through the SPIL and noted updates since the last time this was done. The SPIL is on the OneDrive.

Program Progress Report (PPR):

The FY2021 PPR has been accepted. There are some questions about the FY2020 PPR. Cheryl and Darcy are working with Maine SILC’s Designated State Entity (DSE) to get questions answered and get the FY2020 PPR approved.

Activity Table:

A reminder that the Activity Table for FY2022 is on the OneDrive. Please post your activities each month. This information is needed for the PPR at the end of the year.

ABLE Accounts:

The webinar is now available. Stephanie D. will look at the slide deck to see why they seem to be appearing out of order. When complete, Cheryl will have the webmaster put the link to the webinar on the Maine SILC website.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

Diane reached out to her contact and Julie reached to her contact to see if they may have a template or guide on how to write PSAs. Neither one heard back from their contacts. Diane and Julie will follow-up.

National Coalition on Independent Living (NCIL):

The registration for the NCIL Conference is now open. The conference will be a hybrid. In-person workshops will be held at the usual venue in Washington DC between July 24 – 28. The virtual workshops are August 1 – 3. The agenda should be out soon. Those interested in attending, please contact Cheryl.

General Updates:

The Membership and Outreach Committee and the DSE Committee reported out as the group was reviewing SPIL goals and objectives.

The Bylaw Committee submitted amendments to the bylaws within the appropriate time frame. The document was reviewed. Cheryl will clean up the document and place on the OneDrive to be voted on at the next meeting.

Jessica reported out on the Moving Maine Network work she is doing. There are two dates coming up for which the organization is looking for stakeholder participation. Cheryl will send out the email for everyone to view.

Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (ABIAC) report from Lee indicated the ABIAC’s Annual Report and Consumer Needs Assessment results will guide the grant services with which the ABIAC is engaged.

Driver Evaluations were discussed. Julie and Jessica reported that it takes months to get an appointment for the driver evaluations. They are being done in an older van while long-term solutions are being discussed. Julie reported that an Alpha One consumer’s evaluation got cancelled due to issues with the van. Jessica reported that this person will now have to wait an additional four to six months to try again.

Annual Training:

This was discussed when talking about whether or not to pursue the strategic planning process. Possible topics for presentations at the annual training will be asked for in the email with the survey Cheryl sends out. The date is September 28th.

Beth Mogan’s Computer:

Stephanie is now in possession of the computer the former ED was using. She has offered by buy it at market value ($350). The group voted to sell it to Stephanie.

Announcements:

Next meeting: May 25th.

Public Comments:

None

Adjourned: 12:11pm.