Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes**

December 4, 2024, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Zoom

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| **COUNCIL ATTENDANCE** | | | | | |
| **Member Name** | **Attendance** | **Voting Member?** | **Member Name** | **Attendance** | **Voting Member?** |
| **Darcy Gentle** | **A** | **Yes** | **Diane Frigon** | **P** | **No** |
| **Jessica Cyr** | **P** | **Yes** | **Lee Glynn** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Samantha Fenderson** | **P** | **No** | **Andrew Smith** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Tom Newman** | **P** | **Yes** | **Brendan Williams** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Mary LeBlanc** | **P** | **Yes** | **Megan Marquis** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Marita Leach** | **P** | **Yes** |  |  |  |

Attendance Key: P = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent without excuse.

**Public Attendees:** Rebeca Curry, Lynn Feely, Julie Hovey, Crystal Burke, Danielle Malcolm, Dylan Sullivan, Atlee Reilly, Henry Powell

**Staff Attendees:** N/A

**Zoom Recorder:** Lee Glynn **Minutes Recorder:** Jenn Williams **Minutes Status:** Vote Needed

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Discussion:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00am and introductions were made. Brendan reminded members that he uses the captions and to please be patient.

**Acceptance of Minutes- September & October**

**Discussion:** Tom wanted confirmation on the committees that were approved during the October meeting before voting on the minutes. Brendan offered to review the meeting recording.

**Vote:** Yay vote approve the September minutes

**Vote:** October minutes tabled to January meeting.

**Action:** Review recording

**Responsible:** Brendan Williams

**Financial Expenditure Report**

**Discussion:** Jessica showed the updated budget for fiscal year 2025. No discussion.

**Action:** N/A

**Responsible:** N/A

**Activity Tables**

**Discussion:** Mary asked for clarification on what needs to be added and recommended activity table training be included in any training for new members. Diane explained that the categories are set by the Administration for Community Living. Members would like examples of what goes in the tables. Discussed whether non-members should be adding activities.

**Action:** Discussion tabled until January meeting.

**Responsible:** N/A

**Appointments**

**Discussion:** Brendan shared that Boards & Commissions is looking for all applications at the same time so they can go to the Governor one time. Crystal is working on her application documents.

**Action:** N/A

**Responsible:** N/A

**Disability Rights Maine (DRM) Presentation- Department of Justice (DOJ) Lawsuit**

**Atlee Reilly, Attorney at Disability Rights Maine**

History: In December 2018 there was a Children’s Behavioral Health Services assessment and found that services are not easily accessible or accessible at all in Maine. In many instances children were institutionalized in order to receive services. In 2019 DRM filed an Olmstead Act complaint stating that people should not be institutionalized for services. The Department of Justice issued their findings stating Maine failed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act in regard to children’s behavioral health services. In June 2022- September 2024 the DOJ began negotiations with the State, reaching a settlement in November 2024.

Settlement Highlights:

* Support for those that are “stuck” in emergency departments without continuing services
* Prevention of people with disabilities under the age of 21 entering Out-of-Home Placement
* Support of transitioning children back to their Family Home (this can include foster homes, group homes, etc.) as long as their needs are able to be met.
* Rights to service planning and care coordination
* Guidance on the frequency, duration, and intensity of services
* Community based services must be offered statewide, timely, and include mobile crisis services, intensive home based services
* A detailed plan must be completed within 120 days of the settlement agreement
* An independent reviewer will gather, analyze and report on the State’s progress
* Monitoring ends after 6 years if the State maintained compliance

**Disability Awareness Day**

**Discussion:**  Hosted by DRM, the event is January 21, 2025 at the State House Hall of Flags. Discussed size table and who would be attending. Determined that a full table would be needed for a cost of $100. Contact Julia Endicott, jendicott@drme.org, for information on how to attend virtually.

**Vote:** Yay

**Action:** Start email conversation with attendees

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams

**Alpha One Update- Henry Powell**

**Administrative Director for the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program, hpowell@alphaonenow.org**

This program allows people to purchase adaptive equipment vehicles, hearing aids, home modifications, wheelchairs, and generators if power loss impacts health and independent living, etc. The program started in 1988 under the Finance Authority of Maine and has provided over $30 Million in loans. Alpha One took over loan administration in 2018. The program has its own board, a majority of whom are living with a disability. People who apply do not have to have a disability, but it must benefit someone with a disability. This is also available to business owners. All approved individual loans have a 3.75% interest rate and range from $250 to $100,000. The term length and the monthly payment can be flexible and there is no wait list. Credit history is not as much of a factor as debt-to-income ratio. Decisions are made by an Alpha One underwriter. The loan board addresses appeals. Options are available if the recipient may possibly default due to a change in their situation. Mobility Works is the only adaptive vehicle dealership in the state and they are aware of the loan program. Megan asked if applicants who are denied are made aware of the client assistance program through DRM. Tom offered to follow up with Megan after the meeting.

**Action:** Determine if applicants need to be made aware of the client assistance program

**Responsible:** Tom Newman and Megan Marquis

**Committee Updates**

**Approved Committees:** *Discussion tabled*

* **Finance Committee**
* **State Plan (SPIL)/Strategic Planning Committee**
* **Empowerment Forum Committee**

**Tabled Committees:** *Discussion Tabled*

* **Emergency Preparedness Committee**
* **Transportation Committee**

**Existing Committees:**

* **Membership Committee (Jessica):** No updates
* **MORE Committee- Maine Outdoor Recreation Education:** No updates

**Collaborations:**

* **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (Lee):** No updates
* **Moving Maine Network (Jessica):** No updates

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Meetings:** January 29, 2025. No other future meetings have been scheduled.

**Public Comment & Other Topics**

**Independent Living:** Mary brought up the idea of community led independent living services. She is interested in connecting with other Councils. Sam offered to get contact information.

**Action:** Connect Mary with other Councils

**Responsibility:** Samantha Fenderson

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:58am