Maine SILC

Minutes

February 28, 2024

Zoom Meeting

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

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| ***Council Members:*** | | | | | |
| ***P*** | ***Darcy Gentle*** | ***E*** | ***Brendan Williams*** |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Diane Frigon*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Jessica Cyr*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Lee Glynn*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Samantha Fenderson*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***P*** | ***Andrew Smith*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | ***Tom Newman*** |  |  |  |  |

Members of the Public: Marita Leach; Megan Marquis; Leah Farrell; Rachel Dyer; Susan Siens.

Recorder: Cheryl Peabody Next Meeting: May 22, 2024 Status: Approved

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| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Welcome & Introductions | The meeting was called to order at 10:05am and introductions were made. | N/A | N/A |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Acceptance of Minutes | January Minutes: No corrections were offered. The January minutes were accepted as distributed. | Send to Webmaster to be posted on Maine SILC website | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Financial Report | Cheryl presented the financial information differently. She created a table that lists the line item, budgeted amount and money spent to date. Members liked this but wanted to still see the excel spreadsheet as it has a bit more detail. | Update table and Excel spreadsheet for next meeting. | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| SPIL Activity | All listening sessions are complete. We have approximately 60 completed surveys.  We are looking forward to reviewing the notes from the listening sessions and the report compiled from the surveys. | Review data and start working on goals and objectives for the SPIL | SPIL Committee |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Inviting New Director of the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired to a meeting | Diane and Sam reported that the leadership team meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Sam thought Elissa may be able to pop out and introduce herself to SILC members. | Invite DBVI Director, Elissa Rowe, to next SILC meeting | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Committee Reports | Membership: Discussed having a New Member Orientation manual. Acronyms are a must. It would be nice to have an outline of the composition of the IL Network. The Membership/Outreach Committee will meet after Lee is able to provide them with the ABIAC’s New Member Orientation Manual.  ABIAC: Lee reported that four members of the ABIAC are headed to a conference in Washington DC, which will include a rally and visits to our congressional members.  Lee also reported that March is Brain Injury Awareness month. On March 21, the Brain Injury Association of America (ME Chapter) will be hosting a resource fair in Augusta from 1:00 – 4:00. Maine SILC will be there.  There is now a Brain Injury Trust Fund in Maine. The Trust Fund tries to address the gap between getting adaptive devices to those who have suffered a brain injury when their insurance does not pay for those devices. In many states that Fund is supported by a share of traffic infractions as motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of head injuries. In Maine, those surcharges are already spoken for with other programs. The Trust Fund in Maine is privately funded with a goal of raising 5 million dollars per year to help survivors and their families. | Share ABIAC New Member Orientation Manual when complete.  . | Lee Glynn |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Announcements | Jessica reported that the Moving Maine Network has started their Learning Sessions again. Today’s session is on bringing Vision Zero to Maine.  Diane reported that DBVI has hired two Blind Rehab Specialist (BLRS). They are still looking for Orientation & Mobility Specialist. March 15th is All Agency Blindness Day.  Sam reported that both VR programs and their partners are in the midst of developing/drafting their State Plan.  The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has been filling vacancies and New Counselor training is coming up soon. Right now, there are 15 individuals who will get the training.  Darcy spoke about her grant. They are in the last year of their five-year grant (AIVR). It is a competitive grant as 44 other tribes will be applying for this grant. They will submit for the grant on March 25th. | N/A | N/A |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Public Comments | Time was given for public comments. Susan Siens joined us and introduced herself. | Connect with Susan about Maine SILC | Cheryl Peabody |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am. | N/A | N/A |

**People & Organizations**

**Darcy Gentle – AIVR Program Director**

**Diane Frigon – Regional Director, DBVI**

**Samantha Fenderson – Assistant Director, DVR**

**Andrew Smith – Disability Advocate**

**Brendan Williams – Disability Advocate**

**Tom Newman - Executive Director, Alpha One**

**Julie Hovey – IL Specialist/Manager, Alpha One**

**Katie George – IL Specialist, Alpha One**

**Marita Leach – Benefits Counseling Services, Maine Health**

**Megan Marquis – Employment Advocate, Disability Rights Maine**

**Leah Farrell – Disability Advocate**

**Rachel Dyer - Developmental Disabilities Council**

**Katen Mason – Associate Director, Office on Aging and Disability Services**