Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes**

April 30, 2025, 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** | **Andrew Smith** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Samantha Fenderson** | **P** | **No** | **Brendan Williams** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Tom Newman** | **P** | **Yes** | **Megan Marquis** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Mary LeBlanc** | **P** | **Yes** |  |  |  |

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

**Public Attendees:** Molly Thompson**,** Julie Hovey, Crystal Burke, Mel Clarrage, Brian Gallipeau, John Shattuck, Cindy Leach, Rachel Dyer, Danielle Malcolm, Rebecca Ball-Curry, Marc Roix, Jason Angel, Ashley Filimonow Cyr

**Minutes Recorder:** JessicaCyr **Approved**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Discussion:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00am

**Acceptance of Minutes- October 2024, January 2025, February 2025, March 2025**

**Discussion:** All accepted. Reminder that the Financial Committee is on temporarily hold.

**Financial Expenditure Report**

**Discussion:** No discussion. Few March expenses.

**Activity Tables**

**Discussion:** Reminder that this document should be user friendly and ask all to look it over and add any advocacy work to the table.

**State Plan (SPIL) Review-Diane Frigon**

Diane led a lengthy review and discussion of SPIL goals. Focus on goal #1 due to time constraints. Much of talk centered on potential federal government cuts (Office of Management and Budgets leaked document) to ombudsman program and other developmental disabilities resources

**Alpha One (CIL) Update- Ashley Filimonow Cyr**

Ashley shared about the program T7B-funded under Title IV part B of the Rehab Act. This program is used as a last resort and priority is given to people who need adaptive equipment, home modification or technology to maintain the current level of independence. There is a max lifetime amount of $5000.00.

<https://alphaonenow.org/resources/independentlivingservicesgrants/>

**Committee Updates**

**Standing Committees:**

* **Membership Committee (Jessica and Diane):** Have had a few possible new members. Diane has sent new applications and a list of pending applications to Boards and Commissions for review and is still waiting for a response. Meghan explained that ACL has guidance/a template for use to advocate to Boards and Commissions.
* **Executive Committee**

Voted to approve Andrew Smith to fill the vacancy in the Member at Large position, part of Executive Committee.

* **MORE Committee- Maine Outdoor Recreation Education (Diane, Mary, Jill Johanning):**

The restart of the Maine Outdoor Recreation for Everyone (MORE) program is progressing.

There was a recent meeting with new State Accessibility Coordinator, Jason Angel and Alexandria Sukeforth and Enoch Glidden of Outdoor Access Solutions.

**Collaboration Updates**

* **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council:** Mary provided additional info from a prior meeting.
* **Moving Maine Network (Jessica):** nothing
* **State Rehab Councils:** Andrew and Meghan spoke about ongoing efforts towards updating paperwork and reviewing policies.

**Presentation by Connor Archer** Founder & Chairman, CEO, The Courageous Steps Project, Inc.

He is a person with autism who had parents who were persistent and found him services when he was diagnosed as a toddler. His adversity and bullying in school led him to start a business with a focus on helping kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition into adulthood.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Meetings:** May 28, 2025

**Public Comment & Other Topics** none

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm