Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes**

February 26 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** | **E** | **Yes** |
| **Samantha Fenderson** | **P** | **No** | **Brendan Williams** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Tom Newman** | **P** | **Yes** | **Megan Marquis** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Mary LeBlanc** | **P** | **Yes** |  |  |  |
| **Marita Leach** | **P** | **Yes** |  |  |  |

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

**Public Attendees: Julie** Hovey, Cindy Leach, Brian Galipeau, Rebeca Ball Curry, Crystal Burke, Rachel Dyer Molly Thompson, Molly Cole, Gretchen Knauff, Dieudonne Tabaro

**Staff Attendees:** Jenn Williams

**Zoom Recorder:** Jenn Williams **Minutes Recorder:** Jenn Williams **Minutes Status:** Approved

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Discussion:** Meeting was called to order at 10:05am and introductions were made. Brendan read through meeting reminders and SPIL goals.

**Acceptance of Minutes- January and October**

**Discussion:** Potential missing information around community members. October minutes require further documentation to be approved. Motion to table.

**Vote:** Yay (Jessica, Megan, Marita, Mary, Tom, Brendan)

**Action:** Review for corrections.

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams

**Financial Expenditure Report**

**Discussion:** Mary followed up on the conversation about donating stipends. Jenn advised that this is a pending topic for the finance committee once fully established.

**Action:** N/A

**Responsible:** N/A

**Activity Tables**

**Discussion:** Explained the categories of activities and showed the current table. Jenn offered to stay on for anyone who needs to add activities but is having difficulty.

**Action:** Enter activities

**Responsible:** All appointed members

**Lee Glynn’s Resignation**

**Discussion:** Lee Glynn submitted his resignation from the Council. He filled the voting-member-at-large seat and was the SILC representative on the ABIAC (Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council). Due to the one-year appointment rule in SILC bylaws, Andrew Smith is the only member eligible to be the voting-member-at-large. He was not at the meeting to discuss.

**Action:** Talk to Andrew about filling this seat.

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams and Brendan Williams

**State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Walkthrough**

* Diane did a walkthrough of the goals and various sections of the SPIL and what they meant. She gave an example of how SPIL management has been done in prior years during regular SILC meetings using current updates on progress my appointed members. She is open to suggestions if the process is too overwhelming for members.
* Mary raised the concern that public hearings or surveys for SPIL development may not be fully accessible and should be available to people with disabilities for longer than 30 days. Julie shared that some Alpha One clients are given the survey as a paper form in order to be more accessible.
* Samantha offered to include SILC information in the new Vocational Rehabilitation intake resource documents.
* Jenn asked if activities entered in the SPIL are for anyone or for appointed members only. Diane believes that anyone can add activities.

**Alpha One Update (Tom)-** Tabled

**Annual Report (Samantha)-** No updates

**National Council on Independent Living Conference**

**Discussion:** The conference is July 21-24 in Washington, DC. Jenn shared that there are not funds in the budget to send members so funding would need to come from grants. She asked who is interested in attending in person or online so that grant applications can be sent out. Mary is interested in attending in person. Crystal would like to go if she is appointed.

**Committee Updates-** Tabled ALL

**Existing Committees:**

* **Membership Committee:**
* **MORE Committee- Maine Outdoor Recreation for Everyone:** 
  + **Empowerment Forum Committee:**

**Collaborations:**

* **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (currently no representation):**
* **Moving Maine Network (Jessica):**

**Legislative Update**

**Discussion:** Brendan is monitoring bills and shared the supplemental budget could affect people with disabilities. Brendan will send a deeper update to Council members.

**Action:** Continue to monitor bills and send a full update via email.

**Responsible:** Brendan Williams

**Public Comment & Other Topics**

**Awareness of Services:** Crystal shared the concern that many providers are not aware of the SILC, Alpha One, or other services that are available in Maine for people with disabilities.

**Disability Awareness Day:** Brendan, Mary, and Jenn attended this at the State House in February. It was well received by legislators and the Secretary of State. They handed out many brochures, copies of the presentation on what is the SILC, and copies of the State Plan for Independent Living.

**Jenn’s Resignation:** Jenn Williams announced that she has resigned from Maine SILC effective March 15th . Brendan and Jessica are working with her regarding outstanding items.

**Adjournment:** Mary made a motion to adjourn, Jessica seconded.Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.