Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes**

January 29, 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** | **Lee Glynn** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Samantha Fenderson** | **A** | **No** | **Andrew Smith** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Tom Newman** | **P** | **Yes** | **Brendan Williams** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Mary LeBlanc** | **P** | **Yes** | **Megan Marquis** | **E** | **Yes** |
| **Marita Leach** | **P** | **Yes** |  |  |  |

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

**Public Attendees: John** Shattuck, Cindy Leach, Megan Ryan, Brian Galipeau, Carrie England, Jeremy Morris, Molly Thompson,Danielle Malcolm, Jill Johanning, Dylan Sullivan, Marissa Caminiti, Rebeca Ball Curry, Crystal Burke, Kings Floyd, Karen Mason, Joshua Weidemann

**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- December**

**Discussion:** None. Lee moved to approve; Tom seconded.

**Vote:** Yay

**Action:** Post to Website

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams

**Financial Expenditure Report**

**Discussion:** Discussed the need for future funding of the Empowerment Forum.

**Action:** N/A

**Responsible:** N/A

**Activity Tables**

**Discussion:** Jenn clarified what should go in the activity tables. Members who aren’t able to add to the table themselves can reach out to Jenn or stay on after meetings are adjourned to have Jenn add them.

**Action:** Enter activities

**Responsible:** All appointed members

**ADA Municipalities, Jill Johanning, Alpha One**

Alpha One is the Maine affiliated of the New England ADA Center. The ADA Title II became enforceable in the 1990s. Municipalities over a certain size are required to have an ADA coordinator, however this often is someone who is also doing another role such as code enforcement. The ADA center has a new online guide to help municipalities. Massachusetts has started a municipal ADA improvement grant program for ADA related to planning or project grants. They also have an architectural access board that advises the state on ADA accessibility. Biddeford Maine has posted their self-evaluation on their website as well as a 1,600 page document that lists the findings at each municipal location. Alpha One can act as a consultant for municipalities that need to do their evaluations. Maine does have an ADA coordinator for the Department of Transportation, as well as a State ADA coordinator position that needs to be filled. Jill has offered to do trainings and presentations at the Code Officials conference with little success. Disability Rights Maine is collecting data on ADA accessibility issues and plan to do presentations this spring.

**October Meeting & Committee Discussion**

Concerns were sent to Jenn regarding the approval and purpose of the new committees. Jenn clarified that any members can participate in a committee, however, to be a Chair of a committee you must be appointed for at least one year.

**Finance Committee:** Discussed the idea of having a treasurer rather than a finance committee. Jessica has experience with finances and is fine with being the treasurer however distance could pose an issue. The Council voted for a finance committee in September. Megan Marquis and Mary Leblanc have offered to join the finance committee.

**Action:** Tabled. If no members join the committee, then we will need to revisit having a treasurer.

**Responsible:** N/A

**State Plan Committee:** Discussed the need for ongoing updates related to SPIL goals. Mary raised the concern that the 2024 public forums were not open long enough and did not have enough statewide representation of people with a variety of abilities. Tom shared that statute says the SILC Chair and the CIL Executive Director that is appointed to the SILC must collaborate on the SPIL. Jessica is concerned that a separate committee could exclude voices and would like to have the SPIL as a standing agenda item for discussion rather than having a committee. Karen and Tom raised the idea of doing a SPIL walk through at an upcoming meeting. Megan Marquis and Mary Leblanc would like to join the SPIL committee if one is formed.

**Action:** Tabled.Do a presentation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) at the next SILC Meeting.

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams will reach out to members that worked on the SPIL to present it.

**Committee Updates**

**Tabled Committees:** Emergency Preparedness Committee, Transportation Committee.

**Action:** Tabled.Determine if we would like to implement after the SPIL presentation.

**Existing Committees:**

* **Membership Committee:** Jenn shared that Boards & Commissions is not communicating. She is working with Branden Densmore from the State Rehabilitation Councils to try and move things forward.
* **MORE Committee- Maine Outdoor Recreation for Everyone:** Diane shared that a letter was sent a year or two ago to a variety of State departments about recreational access to ensure they are aware and inclusive. She is revisiting the letter to send an updated version.
	+ **Empowerment Forum Committee-** This will be a long-term collaboration with other organizations such as the State Rehabilitation Councils.Interested members should reach out to Jenn.

**Collaborations:**

* **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council (Lee):** Their annual report is complete. The neurobehavioral treatment center is getting closer to being opened. This would bring home people with brain injuries who are receiving services out of state. There are now more people on the Maine brain injury waiver waitlist than those that are being served. There are also a number of people with funded offers (approved for services), but they are not receiving them due to staffing.
* **Moving Maine Network (Jessica):** Moving Maine is supporting two legislative bills.

**Legislative Update**

**Discussion:** Brendan found six bills for this legislative session that affect independent living services or people with disabilities. He will send information to members about public hearings as he learns about them.

**Action:** Enter activities

**Responsible:** All appointed members

**Future Meeting Schedule**

Three options were discussed. One option is to continue with regular monthly meetings.

Another option is to switch to bimonthly meetings. The last option is to alternate months between regular business meetings and committee updates. Concerns were raised the alternating may cause more confusion for members. Regular meetings of the SILC are the last Wednesday of the month on Zoom, 10:00am-12:00pm. The meeting schedule for 2025 is as follows:

 February 26

 March 26

 April 30

 May 28

 June 25

 August 27

September 24

October 29

**Action:** Send meeting schedule to members

**Responsible:** Jenn Williams

**Public Comment & Other Topics**

**OneDrive Accessibility:** Jenn is still working on getting members access to files. Maine Hosting said there was a change in security for Microsoft that requires people to have a Microsoft login.

**Action:** Look into other access or program options.

**Responsibility:** Jenn Williams

**SPIL Development:** Crystal shared the idea of asking other organizations for their needs assessment data when it is time to develop the SPIL. Jeremy, from the Ohio SILC, shared that program indicators say any meetings related to the SPIL must be open to the public. Carrie, from the California SILC, shared that it is important for SILC members drive/determine the work and goals.

**Meeting Accessibility:** Jenn shared that the SILC is subject to “open meeting law” because the SILC is a quasi-state entity. This means that any SILC meeting that does not pertain to personnel or legal proceedings needs to be open to the public, include an agenda, and be posted at least two weeks in advance. Joshua shared that he has a hard time finding meeting links. Jenn will send an email before the meeting with just the Zoom link.

**Action:** Send Zoom link with no other information

**Responsibility:** Jenn Williams

**Disability Awareness Day:** Brendan shared that he, Jenn, and Mary attended Disability Awareness Day at the State House. Information about the SILC and the SPIL was shared with many legislators and the Secretary of State. Mary said it was a powerful day connecting with other organizations that want to improve the lives of Mainers with disabilities.

**Adjournment:** Jessica made a motion to adjourn, Marita seconded.Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.