Maine Statewide Independent Living Council

**Minutes**

May 28, 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** | **A** | **No** | **Brendan Williams** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Tom Newman** | **P** | **Yes** | **Megan Marquis** | **P** | **Yes** |
| **Mary LeBlanc** | **P** | **Yes** | **Karen Mason** | **A** | **Yes** |

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

**Public Attendees:** Molly Thompson**,** Julie Hovey, Mel Clarrage, Brian Gallipeau, Danielle Malcolm, Rebecca Ball-Curry, Crystal Burke, Cindy Leach, Karen mason

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

**Welcome & Introductions**

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

**Acceptance of Minutes- April 2025**

**Discussion:** All accepted Tom, Andrew, Brendan, Megan, Mary abstained, April Minutes approved.

Megan asked for greater attention to documentation in minutes when we have anyone offer to take on a task and then to follow up just to be more productive.

**Financial Expenditure Report**

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

**Activity Tables:**

Portland’s Pride Day, 6/21/2025

Brendan is the ADA coordinator for Pride Portland on June 21st, a parade and festival. Are we interested in sharing the table and cost w/rehab council? The cost is 125.00 for a full table. Mary wants to help. Disability Right Maine also has a table. It should be a family-friendly event. Danielle will ask her boss as well to see if they have the budget or staff for a table through Maine Longterm Care Ombudsman program. Crystal also wants info. Brendan will email the event info, due by June 7th. Voted to register for table on June 21 Portland’s Pride Festival.

Disability Pride Day July 18-no discussion

Conference by National Counsel on Independent Living 7/21-25, 2025

Reviewed budget vs cost and benefits to attend especially if 2 members can attend. Jessica will look into food expenses. Megan shared the link to federal daily lodging rates and meals for Washington, DC as a point of reference or cap for expenses. Based on initial cost estimates we voted to send Brendan and Mary to the NCIL conference. Jessica will work with them on putting together a clearer picture of the cost involved and share the info at the next meeting. If this requires an adjustment to the current $5900 conference budget, we will discuss it at the next meeting. Crystal might be interested in attending virtually if that’s an option. The agenda has not been shared yet.

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

Diane led a discussion beginning with objective 1.3 which is about developing education and advocacy materials and dispersing it. Discussion moved to “Big Beautiful Bill Act” which is now being analyzed in Senate, House approved. Bill will have cuts for ombudsmen, Medicaid, etc. Tom has been working with NCIL on this issue and Susan Collins as our Maine, senior, senator. Discussed maybe creating a magnet w emergency info or contacts and enrolling in updates through Maine Emergency Management Association or Smart911. Molly will reach out to Tommy at DRM who also is on contract with DOJ for law enforcement trainings to work with disabled community. Maybe he can join a future meeting. Julie mentioned that Alpha One is involved with Maine Mobility Access and Transportation Insecurity Project. A transportation pilot program in Cumberland and York Counties offering free and reduced fares and bus education for disabled people.

**Alpha One (CIL) Update-**

Mel discussed the needs for additional services like home modifications not covered. Trying to empower clients to look in their community. Calls are increasing with new referrals.

**Committee Updates**

**Standing Committees:**

* **Membership Committee (Jessica and Diane):**

Jess sent an email inquiry to Boards and Commissions. No answer. Brendan will discuss with Brandon Densmore at SRC if they are still waiting or want to work together to get applications reviewed. Brendan can reach out to Peter Nye at NCIL for assistance.

* **Executive Committee**

No updates

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

Diane said they met and added new people from Outdoor Access Solutions, Enoch and Alex. Draft letter still needs to be sent to the commissioners.

**Collaboration Updates**

* **Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council:** Maryshared about Maine brain Injury grants.
* **Moving Maine Network (Jessica):** The 2 transportation bills sponsored by Moving Maine are moving forward. Watch email for updates.
* **State Rehab Councils:** Andrew said they are working on bylaw and website updating. They are looking forward to collaborating SILC at the 2 table events, Portland Pride Day and Disability Pride Day.

Also, a quick note reminding all to please look at the Activity Table doc and add any outreach activities from October 1. Diane asked Jessica about her data entered and not seeing it on the current document, only Jenn Williams had items showing. Jess will look further into this.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Meetings:** June 25, 2025

**Public Comment & Other Topics**

Joshua will not be attending until he is an approved member of the SILC.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm