

Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Agenda Item	Handouts	Highlights	Motions
Welcome, Introductions	Agenda	Abbott started the meeting with a brief review of the meeting rules and roll call for attendance was completed by Rachel. Quorum met with 18 members.	See attached table
Federal Update on funding		Rachel reviewed the anonymous complaint sent to the Administration for Community Living who oversees Council federal funding. Nancy received a list of observations and recommendations that included Membership procedures, contact with Boards and Commissions and the Maine Attorney General's offices to improve processes. Rachel asked for members to support the Council as Parliamentary Procedure is implemented, and all members have the opportunity to contribute to solutions and participate in meetings. Rachel reviewed the president's announcement that funding was frozen for a wide variety of programs including DD Councils and other areas that will have a direct impact on people with developmental disabilities and their families. Council members were invited to attend Open Office Hours from 3 -4 PM the 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays every month and also attend SUFU legislative calls for Maine bills.	
SUFU Progress on Marriage Penalty in Legislation		Monique and Kile gave an update on eliminating the 'Marriage Penalty' as a separate bill as it had been combined with an increase in contributions. Self advocates asked that the 2 issues be separated in the hopes that the removal of the marriage penalty might pass as the impact on funding would be less. The bill will be discussed at the February 28 th statewide SUFU Zoom call.	
Call to Action letter about abuse	Call to Action Letter	Nancy reviewed the Call to Action letter to be sent to DHHS concerning abuse. Roll call was done to make sure everyone had a chance to contribute. Discussion included timely response to issues, solutions from a provider's view and some info about the group that was hired to investigate the process and procedures of DHHS.	Kile P: Motion to approve letter for distribution, Todd M. 2 nd Roll call vote (see attached table) 15 yes, 3 abstain, 1 No Motion Passed

Call to Action Letter about Paid Family Caregivers	Call to Action Letter	<p>Letter concerning Family Care Givers being paid for medical care given at home. Roll call was done to make sure everyone had a chance to contribute. Discussion to shorten timeline for response to 2 weeks. Letter will be changed to 2 week deadline.</p> <p>Request for strategies on issues to be discussed at a council meeting along with the process of decision making, how we talk to each other, and what we want to use the meeting time with each other.</p>	<p>Jon M. Motion to approve letter with change of response time. Todd M. 2nd. Roll call vote (see attached table) 16 yes, 3 abstain, 1 no Motion passed.</p>
Break		The Council had a short break	
Youth Advocacy Self Advocacy Presentation		Kate Turpin, DRM presented a Youth Advocacy program she has developed statewide to get younger people with developmental disabilities to advocate for themselves and others. Questions from Council members were answered.	
MDDC Legislation / State Plan process / What to watch for		<p>Nancy reviewed the freeze on funding and how staff is working with the Department of Administration and Financial Services to draw down funds. The council is under the DD Act, and we need to do the work according to the DD Act. The Administration of Community Living letter created multiple items that need to be aligned with the DD Act. Work is being done with the Executive Committee and keep them up to date on ACL's suggestions. Major asks have been to reframe the By Laws for in-depth process for membership and committee nominations and appointments. The council is the Governor's council, and the Governor appoints council members based on the seats being filled. Technical assistance was used to make appropriate changes, and work has been done with Boards and Commissions to have a memo of understanding with the council, an easier way for citizens to apply for appointments or reappointment and the rotation of state agency members to be rotated appropriately and have appropriate responsibilities to vote and make comments. The ACL audit showed that records of membership from the Secretary of State did not match with the council website, as the yearly report is difficult to update and needs a better process. Boards and Commissions is willing to work with the council to make a smooth and easy application submission.</p> <p>The Co-Chairs actually run the council meetings and Parliamentary Procedures are critical to make sure everyone is acknowledged to speak. Conversations about bring back the chat feature on Zoom has been discussed with the National Association of Councils for Developmental Disabilities and Maine is not the only state that has</p>	

		<p>determined that chat is not the way to go. The Maine Attorney General's office advised that the chat feature is not appropriate for public meetings, Q & A's can be used to make a statement and it is suggested that the council follows the Open Meeting rules.</p> <p>Federal Medicaid restructuring is the biggest threat at this time.</p> <p>A number of bills going on are that challenging behavior requires restraining children more.</p> <p>Alan spoke about LD 279 to have family caregivers paid for medical care in the home.</p> <p>Nancy updated her Blue Ribbon Commission work.</p>	
Council Business			
Meeting Minutes	09/11/2024 & 11/13/2024		<p>Jon M. Motion to accept meeting minutes for 09/11/2024. Kile P 2nd no discussion 17 yes, 1 abstain Motion passed</p> <p>Jon M. Motion to accept meeting minutes for 11/13/24. Kile P 2nd no discussion 17 yes, 1 abstain Motion passed</p>
ACL Letter Update		Updated work the Executive Committee has done	
By Laws Update		Updated work the Executive Committee has done with Toni and Nancy	

Boards & Commissions Update		Updated work the Executive Committee has done with Nancy	
Executive Committee Report		Updated work the Executive Committee has done with Nancy to put together better procedures to match the DD Act	
Finance Committee Report	Budget v. Actual and Balance sheet through 01/31/2024	No questions or discussions about the Budget or balance sheet were needed. Operating Reserve Savings account is receiving excellent interest rates. Nancy added that the Council is in good shape to continue financially	
Requests for Agenda Items for next meeting		Revisit Chat in ZOOM meetings Process on Call to Action items timeline Reforming committees and have dates and doodles for reforming some of our subcommittees	
Public Comments		No public comments	
Adjourn			The meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM

Attendance: Abbott Philson, Kile Pelletier, Tracey Webb, Andrea Dole, Nicole Achey, Todd Marlowe, Cheryl Hathaway, Craig Patterson, Jon McGovern, Alan Cobo-Lewis, Monique Stairs, Staci Converse, Stacy LaFlamme, Maria Cameron, Maggie Hoffman, Regina Bowie, Shaun Nixon, Maryann Preble

Members absent: Mariah Murdock, Stacy Atter, Courtney Schadtle, Candace Johnson, Stephanie Vinson

Staff: Nancy Cronin, Rachel Dyer, Brenda Charneski, Toni Wall

Quorum present? Yes (18 present)

Guests: Kate Turpin, DRM

Next meeting date and time: May 21, 2025 at Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell, ME

	YES		Attend	Call to Action - Abuse Letter	Call to Action - Parents as caregivers Letter	Meeting minutes from: 09.11.24	Meeting minutes from: 11.13.24
	NO						
	Abstain						
01	Craig Patterson	OADS (DHHS)		A	A	Y	Y
02	Leigh Lardieri	DOE		Y	Y	Y	Y
03	Shaun Nixon	DOL		Y	Y	Y	Y
04	Jon McGovern	self advocate		Y	2ND	1ST	1ST
05	Stacy Smart	self advocate		Y	Y	Y	Y
06	Stacy Atter	self advocate					
07	Kile Pelletier	self advocate		1ST	1ST	2ND	2ND
08	VACANT	PGC/FGA					
09	Andrea Dole	Parent of Child		Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Todd Marlowe	Parent of Adult		2ND	Y	Y	Y
11	Tracey Webb	Parent of Child		Y	Y	N/A left early	N/A left early
12	Courtney Schadtler	Parent of Child					
13	Stephanie Vinson	Parent of Child					
14	Maggie Hoffman	Parent of Adult		Y	Y	Y	Y
15	Maryann Preble	self advocate		Y	Y	Y	Y
16	Sue Russell / Alan Cobo-Lewis	UMO CCIDS		Y	Y	Y	Y
17	Kim Moody / Staci Converse	DRM		N	N	Y	Y
18							
19	Maria Cameron	NGA VOA NNE		Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Monique Stairs	NGA SUFU		Y	Y	Y	Y
21	Regina Bowie	self advocate		Y	Y	Y	Y
22	Nicole Achey	Parent of Child		Y	Y	Y	Y
23	Abbott Philson	self advocate		Y	Y	Y	Y
24							
25	VACANT	IDEA					
26	Cheryl Hathaway	OCFS (DHHS)		A	A	A	A

27	Stacy LaFlamme	CSHN (DHHS)		A	A	N/A left early	N/A left early
28	Candace Johnson	PWDD					
29	Mariah Murdock	PWDD/PGC/FGA					

20
attended

3 Abst., 1 No,
16 Yays

3 Abst., 1 No, 16
Yays

1 Abs., 17 Yays

1 Abs., 17 Yays

Current

16 needed for
Quorum

Motion passed

Motion passed

Motion passed

Motion passed

GUESTS		
Kate Turpin	DRM	
PUBLIC		
Dawn Cedrone	-	
-		

10:40 AM

LEFT EARLY