Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
May 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

do	Handouts	Highlights	Motions
Welcome, Introductions	Agenda	Abbott started the meeting with a brief review of the meeting rules.	
Council Business		Roll Call took place and a quorum of 17 were present.	
Meeting Minutes	02.12.26 Meeting Minutes Draft	meeting minutes were reviewed by Council Members.	A motion to accept 02/12 meeting minutes was made by Jon M. 2nd by Maryann P Roll call 15 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain. Motion passed to accept meeting minutes for February.
Finance Committee Report		Regina Bowie: Read report Nancy: will review next year's budget in July 2026	
Nominations Committee		Jon McGovern: Committee met on 5/6/26 to see who would be the best fit on Council. Jon wonders what the process is for nomination. Nancy said the Governor accepts recommendation(s) and will eventually appoint.	
Membership Committee Report		Jennifer Marks: Shared that the Committee reviewed the by-laws for compliance. She suggested a few amendments to by-laws to increase cohesiveness and streamlined processes. Questions and suggestions: - streamline communication for inclusion of differing styles and barriers, no texting	

		- options for hardships including childcare/caregiving support, filtering in external resources and developing a general resource list, to include 211 - there is one member who is discontinuing and another member who needs following up with	
Executive Committee Report		Kile Pelletier: Met once to plan this current meeting. Were kept up to date with staff work on rule changes and committee membership. Minutes are included in the handout with the clock icon.	
Requests for Agenda Items for next meeting		Jennifer Marks: Brought forth a previous request to discuss the weaponization of services. Please fix her name tag to reflect Jennifer is not a parent of a child with a disability. - Regina Bowie: Asked if the Executive Committee can reflect/comment/suggest changes to by-laws. Nancy said yes.	
SUFU Update with Monique Stairs		Reviewed PowerPoint slide deck - June, leadership development training in southern Maine - Small staff of 5, statewide - Updating strategic planning - Recruiting more self-advocates - Conference attendance - Legislative advocacy - zoom meetings that Jon led as well as bill tracking, testimony writing support, research - Submitted 2 bills around Social Security (SS) reform previously and that work continued this past session - Increase SS funding - Eliminate marriage penalty for what Maine contributes - passed with funding! Questions: How might changes with home based community rules affect self-advocacy: bottom line is to increase engagement. How do you overcome barriers for self-advocating such as financial challenges, transportation, engagement and participation? Lots of contact points and outreach. Can take a long time, so be patient. SUFU manages almost 400 self-advocates! Can take a lot of resources, so being conservative, utilizing digital/virtual options. Finding a balance between that and in-person engagement. How do you make space for opinions/thoughts from other individuals and organizations that don't align with SUFU's own values?	

		It is SUFU's job to share information and facts. Be open to conversations and make space. SUFU's job is not to tell people how to vote or what they should think, but to share information and facts. Encourage and support self-advocates on how to disagree respectfully. Sue Russell: Shared about NH-ME LEND, CCIDS, developing an ECHO around healthcare access for individuals with disabilities, as well as collaborations with SUFU	
State Plan Updates including Videos		Rachel & Nancy: Reviewed PowerPoint slide deck Upcoming office hours: 05/19, 06/02,06/16, 06/30 HIVE Mind (Sad Dads)	
Rulemaking, Procurement procedures and reasonable DD access		Nancy: - Reviewed PowerPoint slide deck	
What do you know / What do you want to know		Takeaways from activity: - Two way conversations are key, to ensure understanding of concepts and information. - Late diagnoses, aging, lived experience, are all significant. It's so important that we all work together, especially to make engagement accessible. - We all have a wide range of knowledge and lived experiences. There are so many silos, in a systems approach, which is unfortunate. - The term 'waiver' and what does it mean?	
OADS Update with Derek Fales		Public comment deadline is 5/13/26 at midnight for the LifeSpan Waiver - LifeSpan Waiver: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/about-us/initiatives/hcbs-lifespan-project - 34 services, serving children starting at age 14, and promoting and prioritizing independence	
Public Comments		Ericka Faucher: It was her first time attending a Council meeting and she thanked everyone for their kindness and stated that she learned a lot. She feels that things have changed so much for individuals with disabilities since she was a child. Maryann Preble: Expressed her gratitude to Kile for picking her up and bringing her to the meeting. Stephanie Pelletier: Told everyone to keep up the good work!	

Adjourn			The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Attendance: Abbott Philson, Kile Pelletier, Tom Leets, Jon McGovern, Shaun Nixon, Andrea Dole, Maryann Preble, Stacy Atter, Stacey Smart, Sue Russell, Monique Stairs, Cathy Dionne, Regina Bowie, Jennifer Marks, Maria Cameron, Cheryl Hathaway, Stacey LaFlamme

Members absent: Staci Converse, Jessica Creedon, Marc Riox, Kristine Adams

Staff: Nancy Cronin, Rachel Dyer, Kasey McBlais (MPF)

Quorum present? Yes (17 present)

Public: Susan Farwell, Stephanie Pelletier, Dick Withum, Ericka Faucher, Robin Peavey, Derek Fales (OADS Presentation)

Next meeting date and time: July 8, 2026, in person 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

	YES NO Abstain		Attend 02/11/2026	Meeting minutes from: 11/12/2025				
01	Tom Leet	OADS (DHHS)						
02	Leigh Lardieri	DOE						
03	Shaun Nixon	DOL						
04	Jon McGovern	self advocate		1st				
05	Stacy Smart	self advocate						
06	Stacy Atter	self advocate						
07	Kile Pelletier	self advocate						
08	Jessica Creedon	Parent of Child						
09	Andrea Dole	Parent of Child						
10	Jennifer Marks							
11	Cathy Dionne	Parent/ Guard of Adult						
12	VACANT	Parent/guard						
13	VACANT	Parent/guard						
14	VACANT	self advocate						
15	Maryann Preble	self advocate		2nd				
16	Sue Russell	UMO CCIDS						
17	Staci Converse	DRM						
18								
19	Maria Cameron	NGA VOA NNE						
20	Monique Stairs	NGA SUFU						
21	Regina Bowie	self advocate						

22	VACANT							
23	Abbott Philson	self advocate						
24								
25	VACANT	IDEA						
26	Stacy LaFlamme	OCFS (DHHS)						
27	Cheryl Hathaway	CSHN (DHHS)						
28	Marc Riox	self advocate						
29	Kristine Adams	Parent of Child						
	Current 26	16 needed for Quorum	**18**	15 YAY, 1 ABSTAIN				