

Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
 September 9th, 2020
 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

Agenda Item	Handouts	Highlights	Motions
Call to Order/Introductions/Minutes	Minutes from August meetings	Deb Davis opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.	Jon made a motion to approve the minutes, Tracey 2 nd , no discussion, unanimously approved
2022-2027 State Plan planning update	Powerpoint	Rachel walked us through the status of our 5 year plan process, including what areas of emphasis the Council has discussed, the adjustment of the timeline due to COVID, and next steps.	
State of the State in Recreation	Powerpoint	Rachel Dyer presented on what opportunities and programs exist in regards to recreation for people with DD in Maine, where opportunities are lacking, and what the data say about access to recreational activities that are inclusive and integrated. Discussion about how segregated many recreational activities are, potential for getting involved through volunteering, accessibility issues, and extra difficulties added because of COVID.	
Access to Technology Evaluation		Maggie Carter joined the meeting to discuss her work on our DD Access to Technology Project – she is a BU student working on her capstone project. Maggie used the data we gathered during this project to look at the effect on connectedness, access to services, and feelings of loneliness for people with DD when they received an iPad through this project. Some discussion about utilizing technology to get access to voting.	

State of the State in Technology	Powerpoint	<p>Rachel Dyer presented information on emergent needs and continuing issues around access to technology for people with DD.</p> <p>Discussion: about the loss of school devices when graduated, a focus on learning sign language that isolates people even more, bottlenecks in the system for obtaining AT referrals and devices, low expectations for people with DD that should be fought against, resistance of staff to use AT and lack of training.</p>	
2022-2027 State Plan – Council Member Outreach/Public Input		<p>Rachel Dyer discussed the need for the Council to get public input during the development of the State Plan.</p>	
Brainstorming/visioning: Potential Council Activities: Technology		<p>Nancy Cronin opened up a discussion as to how the Council can use its resources to do work that increases access for people with DD to Technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have direct service staff work with AT to bring down barriers to accessing AT • Senator King was part of the policy that got laptops into the hands of Maine students – we could reach out to him about the issue of students with DD losing that access after graduation • Educating and increasing awareness amongst caregivers and DSPs about the importance of technology for communication and connection • Barriers to getting assessments – if we could break down those walls and even eliminate the requirement when not necessary, there could be a noticeable improvement in access – getting more providers of assessments, and changing MaineCare to make their services more easily billable, amending rule/statute 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using funding under a Self-Directed Option for tech • Putting a technology support plan into the PCP • Conversations about safety – from being taken advantage of and having data/privacy compromised • Giving people the support they need to ask for what they want • Giving people the dignity of risk 	
<p>COVID-era Policy – School Reopening</p>		<p>Nancy described the work she has been doing trying to get information from the state on this issue – a feeling that these decisions are being made behind closed doors, without MDDC being in the loop.</p> <p>Inclusion and access – they are trying to limit to cohorts, to keep potential cross-contamination to a minimum. But conversations around special education have proposed options that either limit them to an exclusive learning environment or not getting the services they need.</p> <p>Do families understand their options, or what true inclusion could or should look like?</p> <p>Access – not every child can wear a mask, and inconsistencies around what accommodations can be made from district to district;</p> <p>DRM has been doing a lot of work on these issues – they will be coming out with some guidance on mask very soon.</p> <p>Bill before the House of Reps to create an education P&A.</p> <p>Update on advisory committee for 3 to 5 year olds – the committee will be providing the PCG findings to this legislature, but there will also be a report to the next legislature in the Spring.</p>	

CARS Update	CARS Statement on School Reopening	<p>CARS is putting out a statement about our concerns about increases in R&S as the school year begins. We have asked the Maine DOE to sign onto the statement, and will see what they say.</p> <p>CARS has created a subgroup focused on adult issues around restraint and seclusion. Nicole Achey and Alan Cobo-Lewis have been working together – Nicole has heard from her voc rehab students that there is a tendency to go a “straight to restraints” approach in many group homes. She and Alan would like to do some research and collect data on this issue.</p>	
Council Business	<p>Financials</p> <p>Exec. Committee Minutes</p>	<p>Deb Davis walked the Council through the executive committee meeting minutes. The executive committee proposes 6 formal Council meetings every other month, with a more informal meeting on off-months.</p> <p>Proposed Meeting schedule: Every other month, second Wednesday 9-11a & 1-3pm OR 9a-12p (as needed)</p> <p>9am Wednesday November 11 9am Wednesday January 13 9am Wednesday March 10 9am Wednesday May 12 9am Wednesday July 14 9am Wednesday September 8</p> <p>Consensus that 3 hour blocks would be best. Ad hoc meetings every other month as needed. Need to change the Nov. 11 meeting to Nov. 18 because of Veterans Day.</p> <p>Open House – went very well, a few self-advocates joined, a couple</p>	

		of parents, and one service provider very interested in getting his consumers to have access to self-advocacy. Consensus that we should do it again in the spring.	
Adjourn		Adjourned at 2:43 PM	Kile Pelletier made a motion to adjourn, 2 nd , no opposition.

Attendance

Attendance 9 am – 11 am: Kile Pelletier, Maryann Preble, Sarah Trites, Deb Davis, Tracey Webb, Jon McGovern, Shannon Johnson, Cheryl Stalilonis, Stacy Smart, Maggie Hoffman, Monique Stairs, Suzanne Primiano, Staci Converse, Marc Roix, Maryann Harakall, Alan Cobo-Lewis, Kim Moody, Nicole Achey, Denise Ranger, Jean Youde

Staff Attendance: Nancy Cronin, Rachel Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Angela Burgess

Attendance 1 pm – 3 pm: Kile Pelletier, Maryann Preble, Sarah Trites, Deb Davis, Tracey Webb, Jon McGovern, Shannon Johnson, Cheryl Stalilonis, Stacy Smart, Maggie Hoffman, Monique Stairs, Suzanne Primiano, Staci Converse/DRM, Marc Roix, Sue Russell/CCIDS, Kim Moody/DRM, Nicole Achey, Denise Ranger, Craig Patterson/OADS,

Staff Attendance: Nancy Cronin, Rachel Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Angela Burgess

Absent: Elissa Wynne/OCFS, Roy Fowler/CDS, Erin Frazier/DOE, Courtney Putnam