**

 Date: May 3, 2024

 Time: 9:00 – 12:00

 Location: Zoom

Council Members:

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| Quorum: At any meeting of the Council a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Council members present who are voting members when the members present are no fewer than seven. The vote of those present and voting, if there is a quorum, shall constitute the act of the Council unless otherwise stated in these by-laws or State law. |
| **Present:** Bobby-Jo Bechard, Diane Bouffard, Stephanie Farquhar, Sarah Ferguson, Polly Finlay, Joel Gilbert, Helen Jones, Richard Ladd, Sr., Robin Levesque, Ariel Linet, William Lowenstein, Brianne Masselli, Vickie Morgan, Susan Parks, Elizabeth Randall, Jon Reynolds, Narissa Seamans, Malory Shaughnessy, Amy Taranko, Jeff Tiner, Tia Knowlton-Basford | **Excused:** Michael Freysinger, Christina Hardy, |
| **Absent:** Lauren Bustard, Sharon Jordan, Heide Lester, Sana Osman |

Guests: Tracy Moody -

| Minutes: |
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| Agenda | Discussion | Tasks/Conclusion | Responsibility | Date Completed |
| Establish Quorum | Established |  |  |  |
| Any changes to the agenda? | None |  |  |  |
| Overview of the SAMSHA Mental Health Block Grant and the TA |  | Notify the QIC when block grant updates are available on the website | OBH staff |  |
| This is the link for all RFA/ RFP https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants |  |  |  |
| The consumer survey from 2023 is available | Share the survey with QIC | OBH staff |  |
| Membership Forms | Please return membership forms to Susan | Susan will send out onboarding forms. | New members |  |
| *Follow up Business* | All QIC members please create a half-page bio for a document for the website containing date they became members, role in which they are a member, affiliations, etc. | Write a half page bio and email to Diane | Full QIC |  |
| *Follow up Business* | Administrative support through DHHS - QIC is very interested in receiving administrative support  | DHHS staff will elevate the question about providing administrative support. | Amy Taranko |  |
| OCFS, DOE, OBH, DVR, DOC, OMS update regarding support to populations with MH and SUD | DVR - DVR awarded the Pathways to Partnership Grant- interviewing for program manager. This is a grant that is working with 10-13 students (partnership with DOE and Center for Independent Living) and also working with students in high school. [https://www.maine.gov/labor/news\_events/article.shtml?id=11954718](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Flabor%2Fnews_events%2Farticle.shtml%3Fid%3D11954718&data=05%7C02%7CSarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C0261b4bb7dd24660969708dc6b702cdf%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638503376744330776%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nYGk4v1mlKuVrsU2ty6FDDhvImqTtim7m5a%2FQytnBVc%3D&reserved=0) * Hired 15 new people- just completed New Counselor Training. One of the largest sessions we have had- this group includes 2 Blindness Rehabilitation Specialists who primarily work with young children.
* Maine Employer Summit- May 14 in Bangor. Several DVR/DBVI staff assisting with sessions and Innovation Hall. [https://www.maineemployersummit.com/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maineemployersummit.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CSarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C0261b4bb7dd24660969708dc6b702cdf%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638503376744340293%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y%2FNqOeJuHP3Ka97SaB548JiG2NZo5%2FZDID5rRIs6dwE%3D&reserved=0) So far there are over 250 employers attending.
* DVR/DBVI staff attending Inclusion Conference- DOL efforts around DEIA for current and attracting new staff.at: [https://www.inclusionmaine.org/conference](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.inclusionmaine.org%2Fconference&data=05%7C02%7CSarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C0261b4bb7dd24660969708dc6b702cdf%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638503376744347008%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hhGnape%2FKir%2BhmQpV7eb363Et8bfI8EIuKpR4NpHXcg%3D&reserved=0)
* Staff have been attending Maine Parent Federation events at various schools across the State- sharing resources and information about VR services.
* Working with OADS on self-employment initiative for persons with IDD wanting to pursue self-employment.
* Two Presentations at CSAVR (Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation) in Bethesda early April. One presentation on Maine DOL and DVR DEIA efforts. The second presentation on the Maine intake unit.
* Summer services for youth continuing to be planned- two one night over nights with tours to several employers that are interactive about developing career pathways in aquaculture, construction, and healthcare.
* College bus tour- 2 one-week tours of college campuses and self-advocacy lessons
* No Barriers- opportunity for students to develop and practice self-advocacy skills.
* DVR and DBVI staff put on some fun and educational activities as part of “**Take ME to Work**” Day! From Orientation and Mobility demonstrations to financial literacy and career planning games – there was a lot to do and learn about! Special shout out to Career Center staff who were well-prepared and great with the young people who visited.
* Terry Morrell did a **Deaf Awareness** training for 911 Dispatchers with 14 people in attendance and the reviews were all positive. This was the first training for them here at 45 Commerce Drive in Augusta.
* Looking for Statewide Rehabilitation Council members: [https://mainesrc.org./](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmainesrc.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CSarah.ferguson%40maine.gov%7C0261b4bb7dd24660969708dc6b702cdf%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638503376744352678%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hdtUDlYEgQRyWWdM8%2BVaQjTZ4kFCcIcZ4W407NgiPFs%3D&reserved=0)

OBH* Mental Health Awareness Month is May – OBH Director is throwing out the first pitch at Sea Dogs on May….
* Additional dollars are sent to Lewiston to support Just in Time Bowling reopening
 |  |  |  |
| Approve minutes | Bill Lowenstein moved to approve. Liz Randall seconded.  | approved |  |  |
| Approve treasurer report | Sarah Ferguson moved to approve, Jeff Tiner seconded | approved |  |  |
| Set the next agenda:  | June: TAJuly: offAugust: consumer survey overview |  |  |  |
| Beyond QIC Activities | Collect activities that relate to the Block Grant to inform the applications  | Use this Google Form: [QIC Monthly Update](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxnvFOkU3wJBYi77CWskX6WcyPOUJjnetuzos4bcHYUuLzSg/viewform?usp=sharing) | Full QIC |  |
| Meeting adjourned at: 11:50 am |  |

Submitted by: Sarah Ferguson

 (Secretary)

Date: 5/14/2024