

Maine Recovery Council

Procedure for Public Comment at Monthly Meetings

The Maine Recovery Council feels it is important that the people of Maine have a voice in the work of the Council. Currently, those interested may contact the MRC by email or speak at the yearly public forum. The Council would like to increase the ability of the public to comment on issues related to our work. The Council is particularly interested in the voices of people with lived or living experience with substance use, and those affected by the opioid epidemic.

Beginning at the May 8, 2025, meeting, 15 minutes of the meeting will be allotted for public comment. This will occur early in the meeting, after the introduction of Council members and staff. The Council Chair will moderate public comment unless the Chair delegates this to another Council member. Public comments may be given in person or on the Zoom for the meeting. Those interested in giving public comment should email INFORecoveryCouncil@maine.gov prior to the meeting and indicate if the comment will be given in person or by Zoom video. Requests to give comments at the Council meeting should be submitted beginning at 8am the Monday prior to the meeting. The Council will make a schedule for the public comment, based on a first come first served basis. Once all comment slots are full, people will need to wait until the following month to request to give public comment. Requests for public comment will not carry over to the subsequent meeting.

Each person giving comment will have 3 minutes to speak. At the end of 3 minutes, the speaker will be asked to stop. The speaker may give further comment to the Council by email. The comments should be regarding the work of the Council and do not necessarily need to regard items currently on the meeting agenda. Public comments during this time shall not include a request for funding for specific individuals or organizations. Public comments should be respectful of all people and groups involved. Any use of foul or threatening language, raising of voice, or general disrespectful language will be cause for the moderator stopping the speaker.

Those making public comment should not expect an immediate response from the Council or expect further discussion of the comment. Any Council member may respond to the public comment by sending email through the Executive Director of MRC. If an individual Council member is responding to a comment by email, they should cc INFORecoveryCouncil@maine.gov.