

Maine Recovery Council

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

Recording available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@MaineRecoveryCouncil>

Date of meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023
Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Department of Health and Human Services Building, in rooms Maine A and B at 109 Capitol Street

Attendees:

Liz Blackwell-Moore ✓	Ben Mann ✓
Todd Brackett ✓	Bruce Noddin ✓
Lydia Crafts ✓	Myles Ouellette ✓
Joe Everett ✓	Eric Small ✓
Betsy Fitzgerald ✓	Gordon Smith ✓
Courtney Gary-Allen ✓	Kinna Thakarar ✓
Pat Kimball ✓	Chasity Tuell ✓
Paul Vinsel ✓	

Proceedings:

Interim Chair Pat Kimball began the meeting, she ran through some feedback the Council has been receiving from the public about their meetings, and the council reintroduced themselves to the public. Interim Chair Kimball then reviewed a recent presentation that she and AAG Brendan O'Neil made to a legislative Health and Human Services Committee, and the Council discussed pieces of legislation that might call for their funding.

The Council reviewed the minutes from their December 20, 2022 meeting and January 31, 2023 ad-hoc committee meeting, Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the December minutes, and Councilmember Courtney Gary-Allen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilmember Gary-Allen moved to approve the January minutes; Councilmember Gordon Smith seconded. The Council then began the review the changes to the drafted by laws that the ad hoc

committee devised in the January 31st meeting. Some additional changes were made to the proposed by-laws. Councilmember Gary-Allen moved to pass the bylaws as amended; Councilmember Fitzgerald seconded. The Council discuss forming a committee to establish a conflict-of-interest policy to add to their bylaws.

AAG O'Neil made a presentation about approved uses for the Opioid Fund and reporting requirements on expenditure data, and then reviewed the money currently in the Recovery Council Fund, and when future payments can be expected. Councilmembers discussed how individual municipalities and counties are reacting to receiving their first round of payments, and how to work with them moving forward.

Interim Chair Kimball brought up the idea of a longer meeting for the Council soon, which they have discussed doing in the past. She posed administrative questions to the council at large; they ultimately agreed that they would have a four hour meeting, with a focus on how the state is currently spending money on opioid abatement, and where they see opportunities for more funding. The Council works out more administrative aspects for their upcoming four hour meeting, and future meetings, and then the meeting is called to an end.