

Maine Recovery Council

August 10, 2023

Minutes were tabled due to technical difficulties. Some members of the Council were not yet visible, therefore their votes could not be recorded.

The first item of discussion was a recap of the Governor's Summit. Comments included appreciation for the attendance by Council members and for participation in the breakout session. The session was recorded. Gordon remarked on the importance of the presence of federal partners and said the monthly webinars would start again in September.

The second agenda item concerned the Remote Meeting Policy. Chair Kimball opened the public hearing on the matter and did not receive any comments. The policy was adopted on a unanimous vote of a Smith/Gary-Allen motion. In order to eliminate some confusion as to attendance via in-person or zoom, Haley will send Google calendar "panelist" invites to each Council member. The meeting room has been reserved for the second Thursday of the month through November 14, 2024 with the exception of this coming October which will be the 10th instead of the 12th. All meetings are scheduled for 2-4 pm.

The next agenda item sparked a robust discussion on the release of funds. Council members are cognizant of the need to create policies and procedures so that funds can be disbursed. Many perspectives were heard as well as some frustrations as to missing pieces of services needed for recovery. Liz Blackwell-Moore said the Council should consider funding for state programs already developed if the Council does not have a process in place. The group agreed that arriving at a process was the most important next step. It was agreed that everyone should have to use the same process.

Gordon Smith reminded the Council that the strategic plan had just been published and it contained focused areas and activities that could inform the release of some funds. He said Maine is falling behind and there is criticism regarding the speed at which funds might be released. A number of suggestions were made. Bruce Noddin said the Council ought to find a way to reach some agreement; set aside \$3-4 million with priorities for now to allow for time to identify more state-wide priorities and not get caught up in the enhancement of existing programs. Hearing from other than state programs was mentioned. Liz Blackwell-Moore volunteered to spearhead a survey to solicit information. What are the needs? What are the gaps? The public should be to be involved as well.

Pat Kimball suggested a conversation at the September meeting regarding priorities. She said the Grants Committee really needs to meet and gave them 7 days to come up with a date for that meeting. The Governance Committee would also be meeting to consider the conflict of interest policy. The September meeting agenda would include updates from the committees, progress on the survey, the establishment of a schedule for presentations from departments, and consideration of the job description for an operations manager. Pat said the applications would be reviewed by the Executive Committee in Executive Session and the top three would be brought to the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.