

Minutes - Maine Recovery Council Finance Committee Meeting
September 19, 2025
Zoom

Present:

Chasity Tuell – Executive Director
Elizabeth Fortier – Coordinator
Brendan O’Neil – AG’s office
Grayson Havens – AG’s office
Debra Poulin – Chair, finance committee
Pat Kimball – MRC Chair
Darryl Stewart
Paul Vinsel

Actionable:

Deb – will look at language of MRC indirect cost policy and lead discussion at next finance committee meeting

MRC will need to develop communication between contract management and finance committee

Elizabeth will continue to update finance committee on contract updates

Pat will discuss with MRC the use of funds allocated to COSI that will not be spent due to the termination of this contract.

MRC should develop operational budget for the ED

Deb will lead discussion of SOP for finance committee

Funding and Budget – Presented by Debra

June- began with \$32.5 million, ended with \$26.7 million. There were many contracts that went out totaling \$5.9.

July – began with \$26.7 million, ended with \$26.4 million. Four contracts went out totaling about \$350,000.

August – began with \$26.4 million, ended with \$32.4 million. No contracts went out. Four settlement deposits came in totaling about \$6 million.

There was a blackout period with state toward end of fiscal year 2025 and extending to start of FY 2026 during which contracts could not be completed. That period is over and remaining contracts will hopefully be completed soon.

Most contracts are 2 years. If 1st year funding was in FY2025 contract will extend to FY2026. If 1st year funding was in FY2026 contract will extend to FY2027.

Bredan asked if finance committee should include grantees' indirect costs in the expense reporting.

Deb would like to have finance committee look at language of MRC indirect costs policy. She will prepare this for next finance committee meeting.

Deb – Contract managers at DHHS look at contract finances. Who will be doing this for MRC? Pat feels this will be part of the RFP for contract management. Finance committee should review these if contract management flags any grantee's expenses for concern. MRC will need to establish policy for communication of concerns between contract management and finance committee.

MRC recently had to discontinue funding of a grantee. Deb asked what recourse the MRC has if grantee does not comply with contract, requiring discontinued funding.

Ben – 1) Any further payments from MRC will be discontinued

2) Any unused funds should be returned to MRC

3) Regarding money already spent not pursuant to deliverables in the contract

Start with MRC discussion with grantee. If this is not successful Brendan would investigate further action.

Ben – Grants are made by MRC rather than reimbursing expenses. This decreases barriers for grantees and comes with some risks regarding compliance from grantees. This is reason why contract negotiations are slow and contracts are lengthy.

Contract Updates – presented by Elizabeth

There are 4 contracts remaining that should be complete on November 3, 2025, totaling \$2million. There are 5 amendments to contracts pending that will not change financial totals.

Maine CDC contract negotiation is ongoing.

Vendor Support – presented by Chasity

RFP for grant management is being redone

Current contract for Barry Dunn is ending soon. MRC did not spend entire amount of money included in contract. Barry Dunn is willing to extend the time of contract which would match the current funding. Deb recommends extending the Barry Dunn contract until December 31, 2025. New contract management contract should be completed by December 31, 2025.

Other Concerns

From Pat:

Last year of COSI SSP contract will not be funded. This leaves \$225,000 of money in MRC account that was budgeted to be spent. If MRC spends this money on community needs, it will not affect out year budgets. MRC finance committee will recommend MRC task grants committee with recommendation for allocating these funds.

From Chasity:

Governance committee is looking at bylaws change to allow ED to spend some money without having to go through the MRC or MRC chair. This would include spending such as mileage reimbursement, funding consulting staff already approved by MRC.

Pat – ED could spend money already approved by MRC – such as the Barry Dunn contract extension, mileage, reasonable conference expenses for staff.

Deb – Certain funding should be considered MRC operations. MRC should develop an operational budget that would be used by the ED for MRC operations, not including grants to the community for opioid abatement.

Deb will bring thoughts on standard operating procedures for finance committee