

CONNECTME



State of Maine

ConnectME Authority

59 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0059

Connect.ME@maine.gov

www.Maine.gov/connectme/

Authority Members - Denise Garland - Susan Woods - Bruce Williamson – Fred Brittain

July 26, 2019

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Sue Woods & Michael Johnson.

Authority Staff: Brooke Johnson and Peggy Schaffer.

Members of the public were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Telehealth Initiative Discussion: Peggy Schaffer briefly explained that we have broad rules around what our policies are, but one is telehealth. Sue Woods requested we begin a conversation about what is happening in the State around telehealth and how ConnectME can help that role. Broadband and telehealth go hand and hand due to needing broadband to do telehealth. Peggy Schaffer introduced Dawn Gallagher from HealthTech Solutions who is here to speak about the FCC proposed Rulemaking titled: Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers and what this means for Maine. Some highlights from the presentation were, \$100 million for a 3-year pilot project, reimburses eligible health care providers up to 85% of the costs of providing connected care services/and or equipment and proposed limit to projects that focus on health conditions requiring several months or more to treat like behavioral health issues, opioid dependency, chronic conditions and high-risk pregnancies. Some of the goals of the pilot project are to improve health outcomes through connected care, reduce health care costs for patients, facilities and the health care system. Comments on this rule will be posted on the Federal register in mid-August and comments will be due 30 days after publication so sometime in September.
3. DECD Update: Peggy Schaffer briefly talked about the recent activities inside DECD including her role in the Strategic Planning Task Force who is charged with creating the State's 10-year Economic Development Plan. They meet weekly and the plan should be completed in November 2019. Peggy Schaffer also talked about how all agencies within DECD have been working together in many capacities to figure out what are common needs are to help the Department run more efficiently. Peggy Schaffer explained that we have all the new grant round contracts in the State system and are waiting for State approval.
4. Review of Monthly Financial Report: Brooke Johnson explained the June financial activity. The ConnectME Authority received \$286,649.08 in assessment money and she noted that the missing assessment concern has been resolved and ConnectME was right on target for the fiscal year. ConnectME paid \$15,705 in grant payments. The ending balance for the month of June was \$1,784,062.32.
5. Approval of April 26, 2019 Minutes: No quorum. Minutes approval moved to next meeting.

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6. Director Report: Peggy Schaffer described the type of calls we get and how we handle them. She also talked about the recent conversations we have been having with the most recent grant awardees and what the next steps are for them. Peggy Schaffer talked about her speaking engagement she had on Monday for the BDN in Bangor.
7. Other Business: n/a
8. Public Comments: Ben Sanborn wanted to let everyone know about the TAM event in Rockport coming up on September 10th. Nick Battista thanked Peggy Schaffer for her talk at the BDN. The Climate Change Council is being formed and he thinks that ConnectME should weigh in on that.

Board meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.