

## **Cabinet on Aging Meeting (Virtual)**

**April 8, 2026, from 2-3 PM**

### **Minutes**

Welcome by Commissioners.

Cabinet Updates:

The Cabinet on Aging's 2025 Annual Report was released in February and is available on the Cabinet website. The link to the report is: [COA GOPIF 2026.pdf](#) The report summarizes the work of the Cabinet and the State agencies to support older Mainers and caregivers and highlights activities in goal areas of sustainable living, community connection, and active retirement. The strategies align closely with the domains of livability in Maine's Age-Friendly State Plan.

The Cabinet has released a series of short videos highlighting the Community Connections programming to accompany the report. One provides an overview of the program and there are separate videos highlighting 4 different communities: Saco, Grey and New Gloucester, the St. John Valley, and Sullivan. The videos are available on the Cabinet website, as part of a Community Connections website. [Community Connections | Office of Policy Innovation & Future](#)

Jennifer Grant, the Director of Maine Dept. of Transportation's Bureau of Planning provided an update on LD 1451 and the Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility. While this work is focused on transportation needs across population, transportation needs are particularly significant for older adults. In Maine, 1 out of 10 people age 65+ live in a household without access to a vehicle and that tends to increase with age. The PowerPoint from this update presentation is attached as part of the meeting minutes.

The Cabinet Coordinator also described preliminary plans to support community volunteer transportation programming under the Rural Health Transformation Program. While final approvals and details are pending, this work would follow a similar framework to the Cabinet's Community Connections program. More details will follow as they become available.

Mary Lou Ciolfi presented the University's recent study and resource development focused on solo aging. Similar to transportation, this issue cuts across all agencies, programming, and planning. In Maine, over 28% of people age 65 and older live alone, and that percentage is significantly higher in certain regions and communities of the state. The PowerPoint from this presentation is included as part of the meeting minutes. The newly created Resource Page can be viewed here: [Solo Aging Resource Center](#)