

Maine Travel Voucher Legislative Workgroup

July 14, 2016

2:30-4pm DHHS Legislative Committee Room Cross Building Room 209

Attendance: Mike McClellan, Mel Clarrage, Mary Lou Dyer, Rachel Dyer, Dennis Fitzgibbons, Simone Maline, Jim Phipps, Riley Albair, Eric Dibner and Kelly Arata

Excused: Rep. Matt Peterson, Rep. Dale Crafts and Karen Mason

Mel C. welcomed all at 2:30

Mike M. gave an introduction of this workgroup membership and how the participants mirror the Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent Living group of a few years back.

Mike M. shared a history of how we have come to be here today. He include the Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent Living work and the LD 949 effort. There is some information and links to these processes at www.mainesilc.org.

A short discussion ensued as to the topic of transportation vouchers. Jim asked about the brokerage system. Dennis suggested many could speak to it. There is a nonemergency transportation system for Maine Care. Was not meant to be as big as it has been used. Marylou suggested there are issues there and she will be contacting the empowered department with these issues. Brokerage is not the same as travel voucher system. Mel shared that it is an important issue, transportation freedom would go a long way for people seeking independent living. The voucher is speaking to people living in the community seeking independence. Dennis asked if anyone here thought the system is working well for people with disabilities.

Dennis F. was asked to give a repeat of the talk he gave during the LD 949 discussion that first looked at the idea of having a travel voucher system in Maine for people with disabilities. He supplied various written materials and discussed the idea sharing many points. Dennis also updated the talk to add some current information.

A video of Dennis's talk was taken to both allow workgroup members to use the information as well as to make it available for others who have interest in this work. Mike will post the video after the meeting for future use.

Group discussed points during Dennis's talk. At the close of his talk it was decided to consider a few items. It is hoped that after our next meeting the work will be more defined.

For next meeting:

Mary Lou will look at a transportation program that worked and closed to see why it did not survive?

All should read the materials supplied, Mike will seek to send them to you or post them to the Maine SILC website (www.mainesilc.org)

What are the characteristics of a system we would like to see? Be prepared to discuss as we begin the next meeting. Again, there is no preconceived model as we begin the work.

Dennis commented that he met with Maine care folks. There was real buy in from departs on getting involved.

My note: In holding the IPAD to film Dennis, I stopped writing things down. Please feel free to bring items we should add to this minutes for next meeting!

Submitted,

Mike McClellan
Executive Director
Maine SILC