

EMPLOYMENT FIRST MAINE COALITION  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2016

**Attendance:** Betsy Hopkins, Debbie Gilmer, Shannon Hartmann, Terry Morrell, Catherine Johnson, Simonne Maline, Elaine Ecker.

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

2. **Update from Debbie Gilmer:** Debbie and Betsy reported that a meeting was held earlier this month with ODEP to update the work plan on the strategic report, but have not yet heard back as yet. Proposals were made to adjust some of the objectives. The “Community of Practice” did not work well, because Discovery Personal Genius (DPG) and Customized Employment providers are not ready yet for the hands-on technical support. Providers have been dealing with systems issues, i.e. rate increase that didn’t go into effect. Some started, but stopped because the current rates won’t support those models.

As for the final report of the EFM Coalition, Betsy and Debbie clarified that our recommendations will become part of the overall Maine strategic plan that Lisa Mills is writing. ODEP has given Maine an extension to finalize it, until mid-December, if needed. Lisa will utilize Maine’s “ODEP hours” in October and November, with the completion goal being mid-November. We, the Coalition, will write a letter that summarizes our work to accompany it, when it is presented to the legislature.

3. **Reviewing Recommendations and Clarifying Activities for the Final Report:** The discussion for this item was somewhat limited in scope, but the group did make some progress.
- a. **Data/Capacity:** Lisa Mills will handle that data recommendations for the report.
  - b. **Transition/Youth:** Maine has applied for a PIE grant (Partnerships for Integrated Employment) for transitioning youth with Intellectual Disabilities, within which the recommendations of our transition work group were included. The proposal focuses mainly on capacity-building at the educator level. Parts of that grant proposal can be useful in the final report.

**ACTION:** Betsy and Libby Stone-Sterling will pull together pertinent information from the grant proposal.

The State Transition Plan was also discussed, which will define how Maine will meet comprehensive new requirements for employment and community integration within all HCBS waiver services. We may want to weigh on this. All waiver services must be integrated and people cannot be served in settings which does not meet the inclusion requirements. This “transition” is from providing services in a segregated setting TO providing services in integrated settings. This applies to residential settings, too, which is very challenging, perhaps due in part to current reimbursement rates. In any event, the deadline for the State to have these transformed services in place is March 2019. Considering the vast amount of work that needs to be done, that’s not very long. If

Maine does not comply by that time, CMS will no longer fund the services. We may want to crosswalk our recommendations with the State Transition Plan to make sure the steps necessary to meet those goals are included.

**ACTION:** Ask Lisa Sturtevant to report on any progress on these settings rules at the next meeting.

The State is holding Comprehensive Waiver Forums for feedback from stakeholders. These are conference call forums and the dates/times/audience/call-in numbers are listed below.

**S.21 Comprehensive Waiver – Member, Guardian and Family Conference Call**

*OADS will be holding two conference calls to discuss proposed changes to the Section 21 rules with members, guardians and families. This discussion will include information about the proposed rule, how to provide feedback, and a question and answer session.*

Thursday August 17th 5:30-6:30pm  
Friday August 25th 4-5pm  
1-877-455-0244 Pin 2072874227

**S.21 Comprehensive Waiver – Provider Conference Call**

*OADS will be holding two conference calls to discuss proposed changes to the Section 21 rules with Providers. This discussion will include information about the proposed rule, how to provide feedback and time for a question and answer session.*

Friday August 19th 1-2:30pm  
Thursday August 25th 12-1:30pm  
1-877-455-0244 Pin: 2072874227

**ACTION:** Catherine will forward information on the forums to Elaine to send out to the Coalition's email list.

- c. **Business Engagement:** Discussion on this item was postponed, because the two most knowledgeable steering committee members were unable to be present due to a scheduling conflict.
- d. **Policy/Legislation:** This conversation centered on the Mental Health 1915i Waiver State Plan Amendment (iSPA). The iSPA may be dead at this point, as things have gone silent at the commissioner level. It is important to include aspects of the proposal as recommendations in our report.

The Maine Policy Analysis report Lisa Mills presented to the Coalition speaks to the critical need for these services. She can pull from that report for the final plan.

**ACTION:** Simonne will send the iSPA information/documentation to Elaine to forward to committee members.

4. **Other:** The committee decided it would be efficient and productive for a few members to have a working meeting with Lisa Mills to go over things in detail, and have more succinct information to provide to the Coalition at its next meeting.

**ACTION:** Debbie will coordinate with Lisa Mills to schedule that meeting for early September.

Also, it has been noted several times that the feedback collected at the EFM Summit in 2014 needs to be considered in our final recommendations.

**ACTION:** Elaine and Betsy will review the feedback for items the coalition hasn't included.

5. Adjournment at 12 noon.