

**Maine Cabinet on Aging
February 10, 2023 (Virtual by Zoom)
Meeting Notes**

Agenda Items

1. Updates
2. Review of proposed priorities for 2023-2026
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Next steps
3. Stakeholder engagement and outreach planning

Meeting Discussion

Updates. Several Departments provided brief updates on legislative priorities and key initiatives. This included:

- Highlights of proposed budget initiatives proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), including a proposed \$25 million in the emergency supplemental budget to support nursing facilities and an additional \$144 million in the biennial budget to support activities that include elder justice initiatives, funding for home delivered meals, home and community-based services, and nursing facility services.
- The Department of Financial and Administrative Services (DAFS) announced the successful certification of the State of Maine as an Age Friendly Employer. This designation is a national certification through the Age Friendly Institute. Staff will be working in the coming weeks to highlight this certification and its significance.
- The Department of Transportation (DoT) is in the process of finalizing the Statewide Strategic Transit Plan and meeting with stakeholders to improve coordination of services. This includes working in partnership with DHHS.

Goals and Strategies. Three key focus areas were reviewed, which were developed by Cabinet members and staff, building on themes heard from older adults, caregivers, and others with an aim of creating livable communities that work for all and support older adults to live and thrive in the settings of their choice. These overlapping goal areas are:

- Creating sustainable living for older Mainers in their communities.
- Supporting community connections to improve quality of life and, inclusion, and engagement of older adults.
- Engaging older adults in active retirement and work.

The Cabinet members reviewed key strategies in each goal area (**see accompanying Power Point for detail**). These strategies focus on initiatives and activities that benefit from inter-agency collaboration and partnership. The Cabinet will be consulted on or monitor other initiatives that impact the well-being of older adults and caregivers.

Cabinet members voiced support for the current priorities, noting that many fit into existing cross-department initiatives and overall, they represent the breadth of Cabinet membership. Several Cabinet members noted that the strategies provided opportunities for strengthening and expanding current activities and were consistent and reaffirming of mission and direction. Cabinet members were able to see a role for their agencies, with shared ownership across departments and agencies. Additional themes discussed included increasing access to existing services, leveraging technology, and strengthening partnerships at the local level.

Next steps are to further develop action steps, timelines, and indicators/metrics.

Stakeholder Engagement: The Cabinet discussed multiple strategies for continued stakeholder engagement. In addition to in-person and more targeted outreach activities, the Cabinet plans to continue virtual listening sessions. The next virtual Listening Session has been scheduled for March 16, 2023.