

**Cabinet on Aging Meeting Minutes**  
**May 28, 2024 from 10:30-11:30 (by Zoom)**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Update on Cabinet on Aging Activities**

Elder Justice

Saturday, June 15th is **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. Governor Mills issued a proclamation recognizing the importance of the day to raise awareness and our work to advance elder justice. The Cabinet has joined the Maine Council on Elder Abuse Prevention to continue and strengthen this work.

Funding awarded through the National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions supports a coordinator position to advance the work of Maine's Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership and its broad coalition of public and private sector members. The Cabinet is announced that Laurie McDonnell has recently joined the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future in this position to support the Partnership as it continues to implement recommendations of Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap.

Community Connections Pilot

The Cabinet Coordinator provided a brief update on the Community Connections pilot, a \$2.5 million initiative funded through federal dollars received by the Department of Health and Human Services through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date all 5 Area Agencies on Aging have created Community Ambassador positions to strengthen partnerships between and among Maine's Lifelong Age Friendly Communities and municipalities. The State's contracting process is in the final stages with the University of Maine's Center on Aging, and it is anticipated that the list of pilot communities interested in creating a Community Connector programming will be finalized shortly.

**Presentation: Long Term Care Rate Reform and Quality Innovation**

Michelle Probert, Director of the Office of MaineCare Services and Paul Saucier, Director of the Office of Aging and Disability Services, co-presented on Maine's nursing facility rate reform initiative. This included a summary of recent legislative changes that impact nursing facility

reimbursement methodology. The PowerPoint is included as part of the minutes for this meeting.

### **Closing**

The Cabinet recognized and thanked Commissioner Lambrew for her commitment and contributions to the work of the Cabinet since its inception by Governor Mills. With Commissioner Lambrew stepping down in her role as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services at the end of May, the co-chair role transitions to Acting Commissioner Sara Gagne-Holmes effective July 1. Commissioner Lambrew thanked the leadership of the Cabinet members and state agency staff that support the Cabinet and its work.

### **Next Cabinet on Aging Meeting:**

**The next Cabinet meeting is currently scheduled for August 5, from 2-3.**