Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board - Meeting Summary

Date: August 18, 2026
Location: Zoom
Time: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Key Topic
- ❖ Lifespan Waiver

Attending

Board: Cullen Ryan (Chair), Kimberly Christensen, J. Richardson Collins, David Cowing, Richard Estabrook, Kim Humphrey, Barrett Littlefield, Ann-Marie Mayberry, Bernie Oster, Rory Robb, Fatia Waite
Staff: Valerie Landry, Interim Executive Director; Amanda King, Clerk of the Board

Kim Christensen announced the recent death of former board member, Amy Madsen. According to a posting from Spindleworks Art Center, "Amy was not only a talented and dedicated artist, but also an enthusiastic Special Olympian who had the honor of representing Maine at this summer's USA Games in Minneapolis. Her contagious smile, positive attitude, and joyful spirit made her a wonderful ambassador for our state and a source of joy to everyone who knew her. Amy was a beloved member of the Spindleworks community, and her loss has deeply affected our artists, staff, and all those who had the privilege of knowing her. We will miss seeing her in the studio, sharing her creativity, laughter, and her bright colorful personality."

Actions
- ❖ Accepted without objection: July 21, 2026, Board Meeting Summary
  Motion made by Rory Robb; Seconded by David Cowing
- ❖ Agreed: September 9 board meeting will be held from 10:00-12:00 (rather than 11:00-12:00).
- ❖ Agreed: The board will hold a regular meeting on **September 29** from 10:00-12:00.
- ❖ Agreed: **No** board meeting will be held on September 22.

Discussion

1. Lifespan Waiver

Betsy Hopkins, Director, Office of Aging and Disability Services offered to meet with the board for dialogue on the Lifespan Waiver applications. The board appreciates Director Hopkins' willingness to meet and will provide information to her in advance regarding the board's areas of interest, which largely mirror the board's written comments to the department in May. It is not anticipated that all the topics raised at today's meeting (see below) will be covered at the September 9 meeting. Joining Director Hopkins at the meeting will be Derek Fales, Associate Director Developmental Disability and Brain Injury Services

Financial
- What is the department's financial prediction the effect of Lifespan on existing services?
- Given potential federal reductions in Medicaid, what contingencies have been developed?
- Is the Shared Living rate being reduced? If so, what effect will this have on existing services?
- How many people who are not now receiving services are expected to enroll in Lifespan?

Unmet Needs
- How are unmet needs now documented to ensure a realistic view of future service needs and costs?

Capacity
- By all accounts, staff turnover in provider organizations is high, posing serious threats to service quality and stability. How will Lifespan improve this issue?
- What is the estimate of the resources needed to support increased participation in self-direction?
- How many individuals in Shared Living are residing with parents? Of this cohort and based on the ages of the parents and needs of the individuals, what are the predictions (timing, type, and cost) for residential needs when the parents "age out?"
- What are the department's capacity needs for implementation, e.g., staffing, expertise, etc.

Case Management
- What is the current turnover rate of case managers?
- What is the projected caseload under Lifespan, and will this be different for other waiver services?
- What is the expected impact of the proposed change in case management, i.e., how many people will be required to change case managers?

Residential Closures
- How many people have been displaced by the recent residential closures; how many more closures are anticipated and how many additional people will be displaced?

Youth services
- Specifically, what groundwork has been established with MDOE to ensure a smooth transition and outreach to Maine schools. What additional resources will MDOE need to support participation?

SIS
- Maximus' $100. incentive to participate in an SIS Assessment was described as an effort to gather critical systems data to support development of Lifespan. Some individuals believed that the assessment was part of a pilot study for information gathering purposes, rather than an official assessment. What was the purpose of the assessments? What funding supported the incentive funds? Is the macro data collected available for review? Is the Maximus contract available for review?

Grievance process
- How will the department ensure an independent grievance process?

Processes
- What is the anticipated Quality Assurance Process?
- How is oversight carried out in Shared Living?
- Will all aspects of Lifespan be considered Major Substantive?
- What is the timetable for proposed implementation?

2. New business: Items for future board meetings.

- Continuing action from prior board meeting: Maine dropped its participation in the National Core Indicators—a national effort to measure and improve the performance of public disability agencies through collaboration with the National Association of State Developmental Disability Services, the Human Services Research Institute, and state I/DD agencies. This action should be reviewed/discussed further by the board. https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org