Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board – Meeting Summary

Date: October 20, 2026
Location: Zoom
Time: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Key Topics

- Residential Closures
- 2027 Priorities

Attending

Board: Cullen Ryan (Chair), Kimberly Christensen, David Cowing, Rachel Dyer, Kim Humphrey, Ann-Marie Mayberry, Bernie Oster, Jennifer Putnam, Katie Qualey, Rory Robb, Fatia Waite, Joshua Weidemann
Staff: Valerie Landry, Interim Executive Director; Amanda King, Clerk of the Board
Guest: Derek Fales, Associate Director Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury Services (10:30-11:15)

Mark Kemmerle

Members shared thoughts and feelings about Mark Kemmerle who passed away on October 8, 2026. Mark was a former Executive Director and board member of the MDSOAB. He was described as a tremendous advocate—quiet but fierce—kind of a lion. Someone who was invariably graceful, kind, constant, steady, and a really good sounding board. Mark was always there to help—a go-to person for advice. He was smart, on-target, and dedicated. We need more people like Mark in systems advocacy who are willing to do the boring work as well as the exciting work. He loved his son and cared deeply about people with disabilities. One board member put it simply:
I will miss him so much.

Actions

- Accepted without objection: Quarterly Financial Report
- Accepted without objection: September 29, 2026, Board Meeting Summary

Asterisks (*) next to information below denotes additional information at the conclusion of the summary.

Discussion

1. Residential Closures

Derek Fales, Associate Director Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury Services

Derek reported that two additional agencies have had their license applications denied and funding suspended. He will send a complete list to the board of involved agencies including the number of individuals affected. The DHHS Rapid Response Team is working with case managers and providers to find alternative residential settings. Licensing authorities are legally required to notify everyone involved, i.e., individuals, families, and case managers. Some individuals and families are dissatisfied with their new accommodations. The impact on individuals is not available in the aggregate. No prohibition exists for an entity whose license has been denied from starting a new entity, or its leadership and staff from working elsewhere in the sector. Derek also reported that several federal agencies are collecting data, with an emphasis on billing notes. *

Follow-up questions:

- How is individual impact information being collected?
- Were the issues prompting closure included in Reportable Events? Where are they documented?
- Were families apprised of individual impact of these issues on their family members?
- What information and support was provided to people who are their own guardians?
- How have "new staff" been trained to fully support individuals in their new locations?
- How are individual relationships and activities being supported in such abrupt relocations?

2. 2027 Priorities

The board discussed a preliminary list of topics raised over the past year and agreed on areas of emphasis to include, but not limited to:

- Capacity: Examine the system, e.g., provider capacity, workforce, safety and health, and Lifespan impact in this environment
- Outcomes and Data: Adopt holistic approach; connect the dots; group the priorities; create a dashboard
- Consent Decree: Ensure compliance
- New enrollees: Examine implications of not allowing individuals to enroll in Section 21 or 29 once Lifespan is launched
- Workforce: Improve capacity for workforce training and better understand causes of high staff turnover
- SIS: Examine the Support Intensity Scale (functional assessment) data, i.e., what information has been collected; what is the impact on the "tiers?" What is the impact of Maximus on these assessments?
- Case Management: Examine proposed impact of reduction of choice of case manager on individuals; how many will be affected; how have they been consulted?
- Waitlists: How long are people waiting on Section 29?
- NCI: Review status of state's participation in National Core Indicators, which enables state comparisons

3. Q1 Quarterly Financial Report
Motion to Accept: Ann-Marie Mayberry
Seconded: David Cowling
   - ❖ Accepted without objection

4. September 29, 2026 Meeting Summary
Motion to Accept: Rory Robb
Seconded: David Cowing
   - ❖ Accepted without objection

***Federal Agency auditing of Maine Medicaid program; supplemental information**

Portland Press Herald, October 9, 2026, Joe Lawlor **(Excerpt)**

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has launched a program integrity audit of Maine's Medicaid program, federal officials confirmed. The agency said in a statement Friday that the audit will examine MaineCare's "oversight operations and processes in high-risk areas." "The audit will assess the state's safeguards against fraud, waste, and abuse, including how it identifies risks, refers suspected fraud, and addresses improper payments," according to the agency's statement. CMS oversees the Medicaid program, which is operated by the states with federal oversight. Medicaid programs, which include insurance and healthcare services for lower-income people, are funded with a blend of federal and state dollars. The statement offered that no further details, including what specific programs the agency is auditing, will be available while the audit is ongoing.

The next board meeting is November 17, 2026, from 10:00 – Noon via Zoom.