



Augusta Local Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 19th 2025 at 5:00 PM

To join by video, click link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8938611710>

To join by phone only (no computer needed), dial: 1-929-205-6099 Enter Meeting ID# when prompted: 893 861 1710

No password needed!

Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

Introductions:

Ice Breaker Idea:

1.

Attendance:

Review Meeting Guidelines:

Establish Quorum: ____ Yes ____ No

Forum Discussion (One Hour):

2.

A) Transportation

B) *Upcoming Topics for reference*

December: Transportation

Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda & Minutes: (Vote)

3.

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: November 19, 2025

a. Motion to adopt made by:

b. 2nd by:

c. Discussion:

d. Y____N____A____

B) Review & approve the last meeting's minutes: October 2025

a. Motion to adopt made by:

b. 2nd by:



	c. Discussion: d. Y____N____A____ C) Review & adopt a past month's minutes: September 2025 a. Motion to adopt made by: b. 2nd by: c. Discussion: d. Y____N____A____
4.	<u>Ongoing Business:</u> A) Discuss current ideas for how to increase the peer voice at meetings by recruiting new local council members. Create a plan to accomplish these goals in the new year. B) 2026 Local Council Forum Topics have been chosen a. Topic 1: Crisis response services. Topic 2 : Aging/Seniors and mental health needs. Topic 3: The use of A.I. in mental health/social media impact. Topic 4: Mental health advance directives as a tool for self direction. Topic 5: Rural access to resources. Topic 6: Making a difference or connecting with our local communities. b. Additional dates and months to come for the 2026 Forum Topics.
5.	<u>New Business:</u> A)
6.	<u>Reports from SCC and Subcommittees:</u> SCC Report : A) Issue Statement Development Subcommittee: A) Meets second Wednesday of every month from 10a-12p via Zoom. B) Issue Statement updates Legislative Subcommittee: A) Meets first Wednesday of every month from 10am-12pm via Zoom. B) Legislative Subcommittee updates



7.	Outreach, Announcements, and Updates: LC Outreach: In the Community: At the Office:		
8.	Future Agenda Items:		
9.	Meeting Reflection 1) What went well? 2) What could be improved upon?		
10.	Meeting Recap & Next Steps		
	Task	Who's Responsible	Due Date
	<i>Pre-read all meeting materials and attend next month's LC Meeting</i>	All	Monthly
	<i>Prepare Agenda and submit to Outreach Coordinator</i>		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	<i>Take meeting minutes then send to Outreach Coordinator</i>		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	<i>Send out all meeting documents to all Local Council Members</i>		At least 7 days prior to next meeting date



Augusta Local Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM

1. Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

- **Introductions:** Completed at the beginning of the meeting.
- **Ice Breaker Idea:** Members shared their favorite memory from this past summer.
- **Attendance:** Vickie McCarty, Chair; Melissa Caswell, Co-chair and Secretary; Spencer Roberti; Carolyn Noble; Tracie Anderson; Alicia Hafford, and Sarah Savage-Bellavance (staff)
- **Review Meeting Guidelines:** N/A
- **Establish Quorum:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Forum Discussion (One Hour):

Discussion Notes: The central theme of the forum discussion was specifically around the challenges of transportation and potential solutions for Maine's rural communities and individuals with disabilities.

Key Problems & Challenges Identified

- **Rural Access:** A significant focus was on the severe lack of transportation options in rural areas (e.g., Washington County, Jackman), making it difficult for people to access essential services like healthcare, pharmacies, and mental health appointments.
- **High Cost & Inefficiency:** Existing services, like those for wheelchair users, were cited as being costly and inefficient for providers to run.

- **Impact on Well-Being:** The lack of transportation was linked to negative outcomes, including:
 1. Barriers to accessing medical care and prescriptions.
 2. Increased risk of relapse into substance use as a coping mechanism.
 3. Isolation and lack of access to community resources like peer centers, YMCAs, and after-school programs for youth.

Proposed Solutions & Research Highlights

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion on federally-funded micro-transit programs as a potential solution. Spencer provided significant research on this topic. Key points included:

- **Federal Grant Opportunities:** There are existing federal grants (specifically 5311 and 5310) designed for rural, tribal, elderly, and disabled populations. It was noted that \$54.2 million was still available and unallocated.
- **Micro-Transit Model:** This model proposes using small, flexible 12-passenger vans instead of large, fixed-route buses. This is more cost-effective and adaptable to low-demand areas.

Key Features:

1. **On-Demand & Flexible:** Combines fixed routes to central hubs (e.g., shopping centers) with on-demand service for the "last mile."
2. **Technology-Driven:** Uses free apps for booking, tracking, and notifications.
3. **Cost-Effective:** Can reduce the cost of a single ride for a wheelchair user from \$28 to \$5-6.
4. **Pilot Programs:** These programs typically require a minimum three-year pilot commitment.
5. **Community Engagement:** A crucial step is to survey the community (via peer centers, hospitals, libraries) to understand specific needs, such as preferred pickup points (door-to-door vs. "digital bus stops").

Members will continue research and more discussion on this topic will happen at the December meeting.

3. Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: November 2025

- a. Motion to adopt made by:** Vickie
- b. 2nd by:** Alicia
- c. Discussion:** None
- d. Y:**6 **N:** 0 **A:** 1

B) Review & adopt October 2025 meeting minutes:

- e. Motion to adopt made by:** Spencer
- f. 2nd by:** Melissa
- g. Discussion:** None
- h. Y:** 3 **N:** 0 **A:** 3

4. Ongoing Business:

- Outreach/Increase Membership: Continued discussion on how to increase peer voice at meetings by recruiting new local council members. The group suggested holding a governor candidate forum in the future, with all candidates in attendance. In the meantime, Melissa suggested that the group invite the local Augusta legislators to attend the December transportation forum discussion. She will reach out to these folks to extend an invitation and we'll keep Vickie and Sarah updated on her progress.
- 2026 Local Council Forum Topics: Reviewed topics list again for members not in attendance at last meeting. This list will be sent out soon to all members.

5. New Business: None at this time

6. Reports from SCC and Subcommittee

- **SCC Report:** Vickie gave a brief update of the November SCC meeting. The

main discussion was Outreach and the CCSM Outreach Team gave a PowerPoint presentation on current outreach efforts and how to navigate the CCSM website. The outreach team is currently working on condensing this information into a one page document that will be available soon for review.

- **Issue Statement Development Subcommittee:** Reviewed current issues statements:
 1. **Decriminalizing Being Outside-** Reviewed final draft that will be presented to the SCC for approval at the December meeting.
 2. **Importance of Mental Health Crisis Prevention-** Reviewed concept draft and provided feedback. Members have until Dec. 8th to provide additional feedback and all members are encouraged to attend the issue development meetings.
- **Legislative Subcommittee:** The committee is still waiting for the Legislature to hold a special session to address the items on the appropriations table (on-going); including legislation put in by the CCSM. Vickie explained about cloture as it pertains to legislative bills. She will be sending out her notes from the November Legislative Committee meeting for review and can be contacted if anyone has questions.

7. Outreach, Announcements, and Updates:

- **LC Outreach:** As the CSM looks ahead at 2026 outreach, it is important for everyone to keep in mind our limited ability to go into the community due to budget cuts. Members discussed economical ways to continue outreach efforts in the community:
 1. **Disability Peer Education Day:** to be held on February 12, 2026 at the Maine Statehouse. This day is used to educate legislators on peer support and peer driven mental health services. All members were encouraged to participate.
 2. **Peer Artwork Calendar:** Staff is finishing up organizing all artwork and creating the calendar. This is likely to be up for sale on the CCSM website in the next week or two. Sarah mentioned that if this is successful, it will be done each year!
 3. **Print on Demand Store:** Due to budget cuts, the CCSM had to brainstorm new ways to continue to sell mental health themed apparel.

A print on demand shop was agreed upon which means the CCSM does not need to order bulk merchandise to store but rather items would be created, printed and shipped to a buyer when that person orders online and pays for their purchase. This is a cost effective method that will save time, money and space!

4. **Legislative Training Video:** Staff is working to create a legislative training video to help those unfamiliar with the legislative process and will also be working on a miniature social media series that breaks the video down into steps.
5. **New Local Councils:** There has been interest in a Southern Maine Local Council and staff will be working to coordinate with interested parties to start a new council in this area.
6. **Rock & Talk:** These events have been popular and staff is working on creating a way for outside groups to “sponsor” a rock and talk due to decreased CCSM funding so these may continue.
7. **Other Outreach:** Since introducing mental health buttons at the HOPE conference, there has been a significant interest in people wanting to purchase ones with different sayings on them. Staff is working to create a premium button club that will be a subscription buying program. More to come on this at a later date.

● **In the Community:** No updates at this time.

- **At the Office:** Downsizing of the office continues and the current CCSM office space has been put up for lease. Once a new tenant is secured, staff will be able to move to the smaller office area agreed upon with the landlords. Staff is still currently trying to sell office items and furniture on Facebook marketplace. If there are still items left over that are not selling, then the CCSM will hold an office sale. Members will be kept updated on progress.

8. Future Agenda Items:

None at this time. Any ideas may be sent to Vickie or Sarah.

9. Meeting Reflection & Next Meeting:

- **What went well?** Continued robust discussions and the creation of plans to

increase membership.

- **What could be improved upon?** Nothing at this time.

Next Meeting is: December 17, 2025 @ 5 pm