



Augusta Local Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 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:

- 1. Ice Breaker Idea:** If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what are you picking and why?

Attendance:

Review Meeting Guidelines:

Establish Quorum: ____ Yes ____ No

Forum Discussion (One Hour):

- 2. A) Crisis Response Services (Part 2)**

B) Upcoming Topics for reference

July/August: Mental Health in the age of AI

3.	Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda & Minutes: (Vote) A) Review & adopt the current meeting’s agenda: June 24, 2026 a. Motion to adopt made by: b. 2nd by: c. Discussion: d. Y____N____A____ B) Review & approve the May 2026 meeting minutes: a. Motion to adopt made by: b. 2nd by: c. Discussion: d. Y____N____A____
4.	Ongoing Business: A) Review and updates on task list
5.	New Business: A)

6.	Reports from SCC and Subcommittees: <u>SCC Report:</u> <u>Issue Statement Development Subcommittee:</u> A) Meets the second Wednesday of every month from 10a-12p via Zoom. B) Issue Statement updates: <u>Legislative Subcommittee:</u> A) Meets the 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? NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 5pm



Augusta Local Council Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM

1. Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

Introductions: Brief Introductions completed at the start of the meeting.

Ice Breaker Idea: Participants shared the answer to the following question: "If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

Attendance: Vicki (Chair), Melissa (Co-Chair/Secretary), Spencer, Joan, Carolyn, Sarah (Staff)

Review Meeting Guidelines: The group agreed to follow meeting guidelines.

Establish Quorum: X Yes No

2. Forum Discussion (Part 2): Crisis Response Services

This month's focus was on identifying issues within crisis response services.

- **Issues Identified:**

- Communication silos between hospitals and providers
- Lack of central data system for bed availability and patient information
- ER admissions vs. direct admissions no longer available
- Waiting lists for child mental health services
- Need for more child psychiatric beds in Maine

- **Service Gaps**

- Children being cycled through facilities without improvement
- "One size fits all" approach to treatment
- Geographic disparities in service availability
- Lack of continuum of care after discharge
- Need for preventative measures and early intervention
- Staff Protections & Support:
 - Frontline workers experiencing PTSD and stress from behavioral codes
 - Riverview and Dorothea Dix noted as providing good mental health coverage for staff
- Need to expand these protections to other facilities

● **On-going Barriers (Communication & Data Systems):**

- Hospitals not communicating effectively
- Medication verification delays (example: 3 days for Riverview and Maine General communication)
- Promised universal data system for bed availability not yet implemented
- Need for coordinated medical information sharing statewide

3. Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: June 2026

- a. Motion to adopt made by: Vickie**
- b. 2nd by: Spencer**
- c. Discussion: None**
- d. Y: 5 N: 0 A: 0 Passed unanimously**

B) Review & approve the May 2026 meeting minutes:

- e. Motion to adopt made by: Melissa**
- f. 2nd by: Vickie**
- g. Discussion: None**
- h. Y: 5 N: 0 A: 0 Passed unanimously**

4. Ongoing Business: Briefly reviewed task list from last meeting and most items still being worked on. Will review again at the July meeting.

5. New Business:

● Meeting Format & Schedule

Discussion on Monthly Topics Schedule:

- Proposal to allow each council to structure meetings independently
- Concern raised about separate advertising requirements if councils diverge
- Suggestion to keep 12 monthly topics but add optional secondary monthly meetings for broader collaboration
- Consensus to have each local council discuss the format changes internally
- Changes would take effect January 2027

● Major Advocacy Project: Consent Decree & Patient/Staff Protections

- Long-term Project Proposal (2027-2028 timeframe):
- Reintroducing consent decree-style protections for mental health patients
- Expanding protections to include both state and private psychiatric facilities
- Including protections for staff (physical and mental/emotional safety)
- Addressing disability rights agreement that has lapsed/expired
- Incorporating disparities and disability rights considerations
- Looking at OBH oversight and enforcement mechanisms
- Classifying people receiving services (forensic vs. civil) - concern about losing protections.
- Key Concerns Raised:
 1. Stigma around mental health diagnoses and misdiagnosis
 2. Diagnoses remaining on records after being corrected
 3. Discrimination based on inaccurate diagnoses
 4. Current administration's stance on consent decrees and institutionalization

5. Need to prevent regression in disability rights

○ **Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities**

Governor's Forum at the Governor's Mansion

Date: September 10, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Open to the public

Opportunity to ask candidates about mental health protections and consent decrees

Sarah to coordinate with Carrie on getting questions submitted

6. Reports from SCC and Subcommittee

- **SCC Report:** Vickie reported on the meeting highlights for the June SCC meeting (business meeting) and updates from monthly meeting with OBH:

SCC Meeting Highlights:

- Staff: Offices closed week of July 1st
 - Audit: Completed; waiting for results
 - Budget: Wellness benefits for staff being considered
 - Check Policy: 90-day cashing window now required for all CCSM checks
 - Office Space: Contract up in November; \$2,000 savings expected
 - AI Policy: FEC working on guidelines for AI use
 - Annual Report: Available on CCSM website (Contact Us page, bottom)
- **Issue Statement Development Subcommittee:** Currently on hiatus for the months of June and July. Meetings will resume in August. Reviewed drafts of the following issue statements and had brief discussion:
 - ***Intersection of Law Enforcement and Mental Health Crisis (Second***

Draft)

○ **Inappropriate Emergency Room Discharge (First Draft)**

Feedback Deadline: August 10, 2026

Personal stories from peers related to each issue statement are needed as well. These can be forwarded to Kerri Pitts, Policy Advocate: kpitts@maineccsm.org.

- **Legislative Subcommittee:** Currently on hiatus for the months of June and July. Meetings will resume in August where the group will continue discussing and planning the upcoming Governor's forum.

7. Outreach, Announcements, and Updates:

- **LC Outreach**

- *July Events:*

- 1. Governor's Opioid Summit (Bangor)**

- Date: July 16, 2026

- Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

- Location: Cross Insurance Center
515 Main St.
Bangor

- 2. Disability Pride Day (Augusta)**

- Date: July 17, 2026

- Time: 11:00 PM - 2:00 PM

- Location: Mill Park

- 3. CCSM Summer Bash (Liberty)**

- Date: August 27, 2026

- Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- Location: Lake St. George

- Handicap Accessible and \$5 entrance fee.

- This will be a community connection event and no formal CCSM

business will be conducted that day

- **Blog: Horizons seeking article submissions**

- ***Podcast Updates:***

- A. Season 2 in development-Upcoming topics

- 1. Animals and mental health (seeking guests)

- 2. Crisis response services (seeking peer/provider perspectives)

- B. Currently working on music and Hope Conference episodes

- **In the Community:**

- ***Disability Pride Day:***

- Date: July 17, 2026 (Friday)

- Location: Mill Park, Augusta

- Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- **At the Office:** The office will be closed for the first week of July (June 29 - July 4) for staff break.

8. Future Agenda Items: Members are asked to send any ideas to Sarah and/or the chair.

9. Meeting Reflection & Next Meeting:

- What went well? N/A

- What could be improved upon? N/A

Next Meeting is: July 22, 2026 @ 5pm