

FINAL

Maine Welfare Directors Association
Business Meeting
Thursday, October 9, 2008
Augusta Civic Center

Present: Dorothy Meagher, Cindy Boyd, Cindy Clarke, Clyde Cavender, Daniel Flint, Gary LeVesque, Gerard Biron, James D Griffin, James S Gillway, Joseph Hayes, Michael Freysinger, Millard Billings, Rene Daniel, Robert Duranleau, Stephen D Bemiss, Thomas P Goulette, Warren D Hatch, Betty B McLaughlin, Carol Richardson, Cheryl Johnson, Cynthia Abbott, Darlene Beaulieu, Deanna Colwell, Deanne Greenlaw, Debbie Fitzpatrick, Deborah Given, Diane Abbott-Cookson, Elizabeth V Thompson, Ellen Heath, Glenna M Armour, Helen D Gordon, Janice Esancy, Judy Fournier, Karen Guillemette, Karla Giglio, KaTina Howes, Kristin Hutchins, Linda Fossa, Linda Lewandowski, Lori Santerre, Marian L Cadrette-Anderson, Marianne Izzo-Morin, Mary Frances Bartlett, Nancy Gove, Nathalie Perry, Pamela A Hile, Patricia Finnigan, Patricia Johnson, Robin M Bennett, Stacey Y Parra, Sue Charron, Serene Dana, Jack Robertson, Kate Dufour and Sharon Blodgett from Maine Municipal Association.

1. Call to Order: President Dot Meagher called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Rene Daniel and Linda Fossa of the MWDA Board.
2. Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2008 board meeting. Sue Charron made a motion to approve the minutes from September 11, 2008, seconded by Rene Daniel. All approved.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - Linda Fossa reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2008, with total assets of \$37,259. Cheryl Johnson made a motion to accept the Financial Reports for April 30, 2008, seconded by Jack Robertson. All approved.
 - Linda Fossa reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending May 31, 2008 with total assets of \$39,116. Sue Charron made a motion to accept the Financial Reports for May 31, 2008, seconded by Rene Daniel. All approved.
 - Linda Fossa reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2008 with total assets of \$37,697. Mary Francis Bartlett made a motion to accept the Financial Reports for seconded by Rene Daniel. All approved.
 - Linda Fossa reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending July 31, 2008 with total assets of \$39,890. Mary Francis Bartlett made a motion to accept the Financial Reports for seconded by Rene Daniel. All approved.
4. Committee Reports:
 - Legislative: Kate Dufour from State & Federal Relations of Maine Municipal Association was invited to speak to give a legislative update. Kate Dufour indicated that the legislature is no longer in session and the new legislature will not start until mid – December. So, she was not able to report on any current bills or their impact on General Assistance directors. For the upcoming Legislative Session, there will be a general focus on finances or a lack thereof. She reported that there is a shortfall of revenue compared to the current level of services. Based on the current state of the economy, the actual revenue for the next fiscal year may be lower than earlier projections. The legislature is going to be focused on how to reduce this shortfall and which programs to cut. The discussion continued and touched upon whether or not

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reimbursement formulas will be changed and whether there will be a reduction, or shift in costs.

- Professional Development: Rene Daniel stated that on November 14, the Professional Development Committee will be meeting at Old Orchard Beach and staying at The Edgewater to look at possible sites for the Spring Seminar. He asked that if anyone was interested in having input in the Spring Seminar to come to the November 14 meeting and to contact Joan Kiszely at MMA. Based on the evaluations, the committee is looking at holding the Annual Meeting at the end of the week, from May 14- 15, 2009. Rene Daniel also noted the committee has scheduled a membership meeting & training with holiday festival on December 18. Professional Development meetings are being held at Maine Municipal Association on February 12 and March 12. They both are scheduled for 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. The Feb 26 Basic GA & DHHS Statutes is scheduled for Westbrook, while the April 16 will be held at the Rockport Town Hall. Rene Daniel reminded everyone that they could get to Rockport even by train!
- Certification: No report.
- Membership: No report. Dorothy Meagher reported that they reviewed membership and there were some members who had paid as associate, but should have paid as a regular member. Those who qualify for Associate membership are those who do not do the General Assistance work directly. As an Associate member, they are not able to vote. The chair of the membership committee is still clarifying this issue Dorothy Meagher did warn everyone that Maurice may be contacting some of the members
- Newsletter committee—Stacey Parra reported that the committee is looking to have a newsletter by mid-November.

5. New Business

- Approval of Ethics Code - Motion to approve by Sue Charron, seconded by Stacey Parra. All approved.
- Review of By-law changes- Dorothy Meagher reported that the changes were primarily to the verbiage to keep up with times – updating DHS to DHHS and proposed changing ‘citizens’ to ‘the people’. There was a brief discussion about who owns the membership. It was reported that from the Maine Municipal Association’s perspective, the membership belongs to the individual not the town, but Dorothy Meagher will put this issue in front of the executive board for advisement. Also, there was a discussion on whether the membership should be for the individual or for the community. If the membership was moved from the individual to the community, there would be more equality for voting, but there would be fiscal ramifications of changing the membership. Dorothy Meagher ended the discussion indicating that more research needed to be done and they would look to vote on the By-law changes next meeting.

6. Other Business: None

7. Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn by Rene Daniel, seconded by Sue Charron. All approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 am.