

# MT ABLE Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 28, 2024

**Time:** 01:00 PM

**Attendees:** Theresa Baldry, Kathleen Magone, Cathy Murphy (Designee), John Pavao

**Absent:** Mitch Bohn

**Minutes:** Ryan Bonser

**Location:** Zoom

## DISCUSSION:

- **Introduction of Committee Members**
  - ABLE Committee Members introduced themselves.
  
- **Governance**
  - Montana Code Annotated  
[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0530/chapter\\_0250/part\\_0010/sections\\_in dex.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0530/chapter_0250/part_0010/sections_in dex.html)
    - Provides governance and oversight for the MT ABLE program.
    - MCAs to be reviewed and updated at some point for language and consistency.
  
  - Administrative Rules of Montana  
<https://rules.mt.gov/gateway/Subchapterhome.asp?scn=42%2E15.10>
    - Provides governance and oversight for MT ABLE program.
    - ARMs to be reviewed and updated at some point for language and consistency with federal requirements. This will be the focus of the next meeting.
  
- **Administration**
  - National ABLE Alliance
  - Ascensus
  - Fifth Third Bank
  
- **Should the Committee have monthly/quarterly meetings, either in person or virtually?**
  - Brief discussion occurred to determine meeting frequency. Members agreed upon virtual attendance with monthly meetings as the committee gets started. The day of the week is still to be determined, but Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays seem to work, with Wednesday possibly the best for most of the group.

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- Cathy will send some possible times to consider.
- Theresa volunteered to set up the Zoom meetings as she has a more advanced account than what Cathy has available.
- **Were responsibilities and goals established for the Committee at its inception? If so, could we have that information? If none were established, should we take that on?**
  - Theresa noted she was part of the MT ABLE Committee previously. She would like to reach out to John Bennion, former Chair, to see what documents he might have.
- **Can we review documentation of prior meetings so we can familiarize ourselves with the general business of the Committee?**
  - Theresa will ask John Bennion if there are copies of former minutes/notes available.
- **Can we review the numbers of ABLE accounts established by Montanans, as well as data on the monetary values of those accounts and any other information we should know?**
  - As of 4/26, there were 929 active Montana ABLE accts, 885 with funds available.
  - Cathy also noted there are messages emailed out quarterly to MT ABLE account holders. The upcoming message will be the third message and will be sent specifically to account holders who have not yet made contributions to their accounts this year. Previous messages have focused on U-Gift<sup>®</sup> as a method for friends and family to contribute to a member's account.
  - Kathleen would like to know how many Montanans have an ABLE account not set up through the MT ABLE plan, but are using plans from other states, and what features do they like that aren't part of the MT plan.
- **Is anyone actively educating Montanans about ABLE accounts? If not, is that the Committee's responsibility?**
  - Theresa has done some education with various groups as part of her position at the Rural Institute.
  - Kathleen also mentioned the MontGuide, developed by Marsha Goetting at MSU Extension.
- Other Information
  - Blackout – no amendments or new ARMs – Begins October 1, 2024
  - Facilitator – Theresa Baldry to take on for 1 year.
  - Cathy – back up notetaker, will also post upcoming meeting, and notes to website

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- **Next meeting agenda items and date**
  - Determine what amendments are needed to the MCA and/or ARMs.
  - How many Montanans have ABLE accounts outside of the MT ABLE plan?
    - What features do people like that aren't available within the MT ABLE plan that led them to choose a different state's plan?
    - Review and edit MontGuide.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm due to Zoom account limitations. No public attendees present to make public comment.