

# *Community Connect*



## *September 14, 2016 Midcoast meeting summary*

**4:30PM-6:00PM at Elmhurst, Inc. in Bath**

This meeting was our first following a summer recess. We discussed various challenges faced by the parents and family members in attendance, and several questions were posed that those attending were unable to answer, including:

- What does it currently mean to be considered Priority 2 on the Section 21 waitlist? What is the expected mechanism and timeline for providing Section 21 services for individuals considered Priority 2? Challenges related to aging parents and siblings of Priority 2 individuals being unable to adequately support their family members were discussed.
- What should be done when an individual has been approved for Section 21 services, but there is no Provider willing or able to offer needed services?
- What is being done to increase access to respite services, especially in the midcoast region? Stories were shared about an out-of-state family wedding that could not be attended due to lack of support for a family member recovering from an injury. Another recent difficulty faced by a mother (who is the sole caretaker of her adult son) was her emergency hospitalization, resulting in no support available for her son at home.
- *Current systemic issues update* – Several family members, as well as a case manager, at this meeting discussed the constant staff turnover in DSP and home support personnel. People able to work in these positions often leave to find higher pay and less demanding working conditions. Difficulties families and individuals face getting to know new people and losing knowledgeable staff who are also considered to be friends were highlighted.

*Community Connect* is an avenue for providing opportunities to partner with existing state and community resources. We want to support efforts to develop, expand, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community resources. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, and for those that represent, support and care for them. For more information, go to **[www.maineparentcoalition.org](http://www.maineparentcoalition.org)**