

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes  
Acting Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Office for Family Independence  
11 State House Station  
109 Capitol Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel.: (207) 624-4168; Toll-Free: (800) 442-6003  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-3455

August 19, 2024

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

Re: PL 2023, c. 458, *“An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program for Incarcerated Persons.”*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

Please allow this correspondence to serve as the interim report required by PL 2023, c. 458, *“An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program for Incarcerated Persons.”* This act amended 22 M.R.S. § 3174-CC, in part, by requiring the Department to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with county and regional jails so that assistance can be provided to incarcerated persons applying for benefits.

The Department’s Office for Family Independence (OFI) started its outreach process for this effort with the Maine Sheriffs’ Association (MSA) in August 2023. In November 2023, OFI shared a draft of the MOU with MSA which has been an integral part in furthering the objectives of the bill. In December 2023 the Department submitted the MOU to all jails (in collaboration with MSA) and requested any additional questions, comments, or feedback. As of today, the Department has obtained eight (8) signed MOUs, has seven (7) MOUs awaiting final signature, and is continuing discussions with all seven (7) facilities/counties.

The status of this MOU effort by agency is listed below:

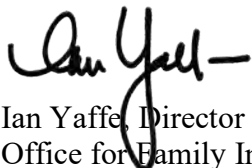
- **Androscoggin County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Aroostook County Jail**
  - Currently discussing requested edits to the MOU.
- **Cumberland County Jail**
  - Ongoing discussion.
- **Franklin County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Hancock County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Kennebec County Jail**
  - Currently discussing requested edits to the MOU.

- **Knox County Jail**
  - Currently discussing requested edits to the MOU.
- **Oxford County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Penobscot County Jail**
  - Ongoing discussion.
- **Piscataquis County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Somerset County Jail**
  - Currently discussing requested edits to the MOU.
- **Waldo County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **Washington County Jail**
  - Signed MOU received.
- **York County Jail**
  - Ongoing discussion.
- **Two Bridges Regional Jail (Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties)**
  - Signed MOU received.

An additional measure included in PL 2023, c. 458, Section 3 requires the Department to apply to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver pursuant to Section 1115 of the United States Social Security Act to provide reimbursement for services that can be provided under the MaineCare program to individuals who are incarcerated and that facilitate an individual's transition back into the community during at least the 90-day period prior to the release of an individual from incarceration in a correctional, facility, county jail or regional jail. The Department's Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) is leading this effort and OFI is actively collaborating to support this important project.

The Department is looking forward to reporting continued progress in this initiative and welcomes any questions that the Committee may have. Thank you in advance for your review and for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ian Yaffe, Director  
Office for Family Independence