

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Executive Committee

Minutes of September 5, 2007

Committee Members Present

Donna Powers, Chair
Ed Myers, Vice Chair
Randy Collins, Secretary

Members Absent

Kim March Force, Vice Treasurer
Gene Heppard, Treasurer

Staff

Tony DiRienzi, Executive Director
Sharon Engelhardt, Executive Assistant

Guest

Jodi Paulsen, Geeks IT Services

Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:14PM in the SILC conference room at 2400 North Central Ave, #105, Phoenix, Arizona.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Edward Myers III motioned to approve the minutes of 08-22-07. Seconded by Randy Collins. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

FINANCIALS:

- There were not any new financial statements since the last meeting because of the short frame between the two meetings. In addition to date SILC has not received the bank statements for August.
- Tony DiRienzi said a tentative appointment for next week has been set with the accountant. The agenda topics for the meeting includes;
 - closing out the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2007
 - preparing year end financial statements
 - preparing for an independent audit, and
 - exploring any modification we might need to make in our accounting protocols to accommodate our new RSA performance based contract.
- Tony also reported that the current FY budget will be revised as requested by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). They are the federal agency that has the responsibility of allocating and monitoring SILC's funding. After they reviewed and evaluated our SPIL they requested that the 40K for Cybercil and CochiseAbility be part of a contract that AZ RSA administers. OSERS does not want those contracts to be with SILC. Their interpretation of the regulations to the Rehab Act is such that SILC is precluded from administering those contracts, The funds will no longer pass through SILC but will pass directly from RSA.
- Tony noted that our Peachtree accounting software has been transferred onto Sharon's CPU only. It was felt that having it on the network made it vulnerable to security and/or virus problems.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN Update:

- Tony DiRienzi reported a Corrective Action Plan associated with the D.E.S. audit recommended that SILC develop and implement an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan. He drafted a plan accordingly which the Committee reviewed and approved (see handout).

Edward Myers motioned to approve the Cost Allocation Plan as revised and presented. Seconded by Randy Collins. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

AMICUS BRIEF:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that SILC was asked by the Montana Protection and Advocacy Program to sign an Amicus Brief regarding litigation involving accommodations related to service animals.
- Edward Myers explained that the brief is on behalf of a woman in Montana whose service dog was repeatedly injured walking on a slippery floor in the State Department of Economic Security where the woman was employed. The dog was injured to the point that it was not able to perform the service. The woman subsequently lost her job.
- SILC was asked to sign onto the Amicus Brief in support of the woman. The case is McDonald vs. Department of Economic Security of Montana and will heard in the ninth circuit.

Randy Collins motioned to approve SILC signing on to the Amicus Brief of McDonald vs. Department of Economic Security of Montana. Seconded by Edward Myers. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Tony DiRienzi reported last week he was busy working on completing the Cost Allocation Plan which was previously discussed. The plan was submitted and is awaiting final DES approval.
- At the last meeting it was discussed that Tony pursues a fundraising event with Scottsdale Center for the Arts. Tony distributed a draft for a Save the Date flyer. The event will be a dance performance by AXIS Dance Company on Oct. 21, 2007 (see flyer). AXIS is famous for its choreography incorporating wheelchair dancers. Tickets for are \$38 each and SILC will realize \$19 on each ticket sold. Tony noted he is working on trying to arrange a question & answer session with the performers after their performance. Tony will also explore with the Arts Center about providing ASL interpreters, assistive listening devices, and audio description at the event as well.
- SILC is beginning to acquire different pieces of Assistive Technologies (AT). There was a discussion about renting our AT equipment as a revenue source. SILC will be establishing business partnerships soon and those partnerships might involve AT.

- Jodi Paulsen with Geeks IT Services was at the SILC office working on the SILC computers and server and was asked to join the meeting. Jodi went over the newly purchased Toshiba laptop computers and explained the latest SILC computer upgrades in hardware and software.
- Tony reported that the SILC report related to the RSA allocation of funds dedicated to the Development and Expansion of CILs was completed and delivered to RSA this morning. SILC's report to RSA incorporated all of the individual reports from the CILS on how they respectively expended their portion of the funds allocated to them. The committee discussed an editorial note that SMILE inserted into its report. The negative focus of the comments puzzled the committee and they were disheartened by SMILE's posture and reaction. The committee unanimously agreed that SILC should respond and convey to SMILE their feelings about the remarks. Donna and Ed will work with Tony on how to best respond to SMILE.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

- It was noted that Oaths of Office were mailed out recently from the Governors Boards and Commissions office for new and reappointments to SILC.

APRIL CONFERENCE:

- Edward Myers will be attending the APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) next month in Missoula Montana. Edward is attending the pre-conference on Assistive Technology. Edward noted the conference focus will be on youth and rural issues.
- It was discussed and suggested that Arizona consider hosting the APRIL conference in the future.

SILC CONGRESS:

- The next SILC Conference will be in January of 2008 in New Orleans Louisiana.
- It was discussed who might attend from the Executive Committee. Donna Powers will not be attending. Edward Myers might be able to attend. Randy Collins stated he will go if no other SILC representatives can.
- Supporting the future 2009 Congress to be in Las Vegas was discussed. It was noted that if Las Vegas is not a go, that AZ SILC could be a possible host again.

QUARTERLY MEETING/AGENDA:

- Next Quarterly meeting to be September 20, 2007. Cost Allocation Plan, Advisory Panels and NCIL report to be on the agenda as well as regular agenda items.

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING/AGENDA:

- Next meeting is October 3, 2007.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT: Edward Myers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Randy Collins. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC staff

Reviewed by: Donna Powers _____ SILC Chairperson