

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)  
**Executive Committee**  
Minutes of January 15, 2010

**Committee Members Present**

Edward Myers, Chair  
Gene Heppard, Treasurer

**Members Absent:**

**Teleconferencing:**

Randy Collins, Vice Chair  
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels, Vice Treasurer  
Rudy Buchanan, Secretary

**Staff**

Tony DiRienzi – Executive Director  
Linda Jane Austen – Executive Assistant

Edward Myers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08pm in the SILC conference room at 5025 East Washington #214, Phoenix, Arizona.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Randy Collins moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2009. E. Mari Herrera-Daniels seconded and motion carried.

**FINANCIALS:**

- Due to the holidays and attendance at the 2010 SILC Congress, the December 31, 2009 financial reports will be reviewed in February.
- Tony DiRienzi has received bleak news from Kathy Levandowsky at RSA regarding the FY11 and FY12 SILC budgets. DES, RSA, et al are being decimated in light of the state budget crisis and RSA proposes a \$112,000 reduction to the SILC FY11 budget. Although Tony anticipated at least 10%, he did not expect 40 – 45% of the total budget. Both Tony and Ed Myers reminded the Executive Committee that although there will be serious cuts, the upcoming budget will be negotiated based on the three-year SPIL currently underway and that the \$112,000 is not a fait complet. To Tony's knowledge, stimulus monies will not be available to help cover this shortfall.
- During the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that energies must be reprioritized to focus on strategies for aggressively identifying alternative funding sources, moving advocacy efforts forward,

testifying at the state level (in particular regarding the good that VR does for people with disabilities), drafting and negotiating the SPIL, shifting some responsibilities and diversification.

- Tony reminded the Committee that the SILC budget is not specified at the federal level, but is at the discretion of the state unit. He also reminded the Committee that as a 501(c)(3), SILC is able seek funding through competitive grants, contracted services and general funds from the populace.
- Tony reported that he believes the budget will allow SILC to minimally operate and maintain staff and space. Through creativity and resiliency the budget reduction will not represent our demise, although SILC may change.

### **Meeting Schedule:**

- It was agreed the Executive Committee would meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

### **State Vendor List:**

- Randy Collins reported on his concern for people with disabilities being added to the state preferred vendor list; further discussion of this issue will be postponed until the economic climate changes.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

- ARRA Part C Funds: The proposed SPIL amendment was sent to RSA in December for technical assistance. Although RSA has still made no comment on the amendment, it has recommended that SILC proceed to schedule meetings for public comments. Tony plans the public forum in 30 – 45 days, after which the amendment will need RSA approval followed by disbursement of ARRA funds.
- Related to ARRA funds, the IL Summit to be underwritten by ARRA funds and originally planned for September 2010, has been rescheduled for May 2011. Final planning for the IL Summit will not proceed until the projected cost of \$120,000 has been banked.
- SPIL Related Activities: In preparation for drafting the SPIL, Tony, Jenn-Yun Tein and Bob Michaels have developed an assessment survey to identify IL needs throughout the state. The survey will be available February 1 – 28. Tony reported that although Jenn will do the analysis, executive summary and report, the cost of Survey Monkey, postage, copies, etc. are unbudgeted expenses.

**Motion: Gene Heppard moved that SILC staff has the authority to spend up to \$2500 from the Executive Committee budget line to support the cost of the IL needs assessment survey. E. Mari Herrera-Daniels seconded and motion carried.**

- A series of four focus groups around the state has been planned in addition to the needs assessment. Original bids for an outside consultant to conduct the groups came in between \$12,000 and \$23,000 and therefore Tony is redrafting the proposal for a consultant to compile and analyze data he and Linda will collect.

**Motion: Gene Heppard moved that the remaining balance of the Executive Committee budget be allocated to support the focus groups for assessment of IL needs in the state. Rudy Buchanan seconded and motion carried.**

- SILC Congress: Tony DiRienzi, Bob Michaels and Linda Jane Austen attended the recent 2010 SILC Congress which included informative sessions and workshops on SPIL preparation, IL Act possibilities and the reauthorization act.
- Staff Evaluation: Tony reported that Linda has completed her three-month probationary status and is officially on board.

**Next Meeting**: Following the schedule change noted above, the next Executive Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the SILC Conference Room.

**Announcements**:

- Tony reminded the Executive Committee that SPIL materials will be forthcoming to all Council members on a regular basis. Comments and editorial will be collated by Tony and Chris Deere in preparation for the facilitated March 18 retreat which will be held at the DEC with RSA staff. The official business meeting will run from 9:00am – 10:00am followed by the retreat from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

**Motion: Rudy Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting; E. Mari Herrera seconded and motion carried. Meeting ended at 2:23pm.**