

**Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council – Quarterly Meeting
Disability Empowerment Center
5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034
Minutes of March 18, 2010**

Council Members Present:

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair	Suzanne Malson
Randy Collins, Vice Chair	Georgia McLaughlin
Gene Heppard, Treasurer	Robert Michaels
E. Mar Herrera-Daniels, Vice Treasurer	Sonya Perduta-Fulginiti
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio	Jami Snyder
Sherri Collins	Alan Strauss
Fernando Cruz	Jenn-Yun Tein
Wendy Dewey	Gail Wilt
Ken Edwards	Joe Lee Yazzie
Ted Garland	

Council Members Absent

Rudy Buchanan, Secretary
Ashleigh Turner

Staff

Toni DiRienzi, Executive Director
Donna Powers, Senior Program Manager

Guests

Mary Bradley	Regina Mitzel
Chris Deere	Linda Cannon
Laura Duval	Ruth Voytek

Welcome/Introductions

Edward Myers called the meeting to order at 9:13 am. Introductions were made, guests introduced and a quorum was announced.

Motion: Sherri Collins moved to accept the minutes of December 17, 2009; Gail Wilt seconded; motion carried.

Motion: Suzanne Malson moved to approve the Consent List; Ken Edwards seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Gene Heppard presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining that although no income was reported for January 2010, the SILC budget is balanced and on track. Tony DiRienzi pointed out that income numbers in parentheses indicate revenue in excess of the FY10 Board approved budget. SILC originally projected revenue of \$17,000 but may actually end the year at \$30,000 - \$40,000 due to SILC's endeavors to generate income. In addition SILC's audit was clean for FY1009 and the 990's have been filed.

Executive Committee Report

Funding for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is starting to slowly flow throughout the country. The SILC has submitted an amendment to the SPIL at the request of OSERS and is now awaiting a decision on the amendment and subsequent disbursement of funds. Chris Deere reminded the Council that ARRA funds are designated for programs falling under Part B and VR and that the specific CIL allocation is \$1.8 million.

RSA Report – Kathy Levandowsky

Kathy Levandowsky reported that ARRA funds received for VR are to serve clients on the wait list, with \$220,000 in general IL funding and \$721,000 for services to unserved clients who are blind. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2011. When asked if Part B funds for the current year are in addition to Part B ARRA monies, Kathy reported that there has been a 36.9% reduction in funds from the state in the ILRS program and a 44% reduction in VR funds from the state, which also means the state will not receive adequate matching funds needed to draw down the federal match. DES is currently considering alternative ways to identify matching funding, including the possibility of third party agreements.

The Council was reminded that federal matches for VR are four to one and that monies left on the table by the state's not providing the \$1 match will go to another state. Similarly, the federal match for Independent Living programs is nine to one thereby losing nine dollars for each one matched. Kathy explained that in the past, and as recently as 2008, there were various other resources and funds available for making the match, but that these sources have been greatly reduced during the present economic downturn.

Proposed cuts to the SILC budget will greatly reduce SILC's activities and their implementation. Estimates of projected cuts have been fluid, as low as 33.3% during conversations earlier in the month with Kathy, and as high as 56% to VR and 36% to Independent Living as announced at the Quarterly Meeting. Chris Deere stated that

final cuts will not be determined until later in May, but warned that depending on the actions of voters and legislators in November even harsher reductions may lie ahead. The Council observed that advocacy efforts need to be intensified, even though 15%-20% of the budget comes from other sources. Although the state provides the majority of SILC funding, Tony also reported that Just Vote, the contract with Veolia of Tempe, and other outstanding grant proposals will also be critical to funding.

The Council was reminded that the ongoing budget discussion will shape how the three-year strategic plan is developed during the afternoon retreat which will include representation from the RSA Central Office staff, the SILC Council and SILC staff.

Executive Director's Report

Tony DiRienzi reported that Donna Powers has been selected to represent SILC on the National Council on Disability's (NCIL) Advisory Council to the President. The summit taking place in July 2010 will address concerns relating to transportation issues as well as work on development of policy recommendations to go to President Obama. SILC will seek funding to support Donna's travel costs to attend the summit.

Donna Powers has also developed a curriculum for training transit operators on best practices for serving persons with disabilities on public transit. The 4-hour training is currently being conducted at Veolia in Tempe where 468 operators are expected to attend over the course of the next six months. SILC intends to market similar training curriculums in other areas, including Ollie the Trolley in Scottsdale and Phoenix Transit (Freedom Grant and United We Ride).

Tony also gave a report on SILC staff's recent assessment of its collective strengths and discussion of possible means to diversity funding and exercise options under the 501 (c) (3). As stated, Donna's areas of expertise are strong in transportation, PCA management and emergency preparedness; Linda Austen's background includes grant writing, grant review, curriculum development and community networks, and Tony's past experience in the for-profit sector should lend itself to entrepreneurial endeavors and development of a Disability Chamber of Commerce.

Motion: Robert Michaels moved to adjourn the meeting; Gene Heppard seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Voytek