

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council
-Quarterly meeting-
Minutes of March 3, 2005

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Robin Hungerford, Vice Treasurer
Al Villaverde, Treasurer
Sherri Collins
Fernando Cruz
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
Gene Heppard
John Hunter
Ken Jacuzzi
Kim March-Force
Lavern Lizer
Joyce Weber
Olan Williams
Skip Bingham, Ex-Officio

Council Members Absent

Ez Bachand, Past-Chair
Mary Busfield, Secretary
Marquita Beene
Randy Collins
Glen Reiner
Naomi Ortiz

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt

Guests

Bob Michaels, Kathryn Robins, Mary Garland, Phil Pangrazio and Bill Scott

Welcome and Introductions: Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona. The Council was welcomed and introductions made.

Approval of Minutes: *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the minutes of November 4, 2004. Seconded by John Hunter. There was a correction to under the CIL report to use the word “in” Yuma not “and” Yuma and a correction of the spelling of “Navajo” under the 121 report. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved with the corrections.*

Approval of Consent List:

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the March 3, 2005 Consent List. Seconded by Joyce Weber. There was a suggestion to include more detail along with the motions for future lists. There was clarification of the detail regarding the consent list item on the “for profit affiliate”. A vote as taken and the motion unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

- The January financial statement was sent out to all prior to the meeting. Al Villaverde reported that all looks good. The statement is through the end of January and Al noted that over \$30,000 has been spent in the month of February.

- It was mentioned that a larger safe is an item that SILC will need for safe keeping of financial records and important documents.
- AL reported that for 3 days the auditor's were in audited the fiscal year ending June 2004.
- Tony DiRienzi reported that the audit firm will be giving a full presentation of their findings at the next SILC Quarterly meeting in June.
- There was a question of any findings and Tony noted that SILC needs to treat all SILC accounts under the state procurement policies including the SILC Congress account. The SILC office was educated during the audit policy. One change is that all of SILC's assets will be incorporated into one financial statement and will not have the 2 other accounts listed at the bottom of the financials as is the current reporting.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Report:

NCIL (National Council for Independent Living):

- Donna Powers reported that on July 11-14 the annual NCIL conference will held. The conference normally was held in June.
- SILC will be able to take a few council members and Donna requested that those interested submit a response stating their motivation to attend, how they plan to contribute at the conference and what they hope to bring back. The Executive Committee will review the submissions.
- It was noted that a primary focus of the NCIL conference is advocacy. Phil Pangrazio mentioned that ABIL schedules appointments with legislators and all those from Arizona should attend as a group.
- It was announced that Fernando Cruz will be a presenter.

Board Training Retreat:

- Donna Powers stated that SILC will be having a board retreat on April 29th at the PV Embassy Suites. The focus in the morning will be council members' conduct/rights/responsibilities. The afternoon session will focus on strategic planning and budgeting.
- Herb Paine will be the facilitator.
- It was noted as important for all to attend. Travel arrangements for lodging will need to be completed for the out of town members.

Executive Director Report:

RSA:

- Tony DiRienzi reported there has been a lot of activity with the RSA office regarding contracts. It seems likely that as of July 1, 2005, SILC will have a performance based contract versus a cost reimbursement contact with RSA. The remaining issues to be resolved are related to what will be the appropriate deliverables and reporting protocol. The issue is to be addressed after the board agrees on the strategic plan for next year. SILC may have 80% of their annual budget within the first six months if the new contract is approved.

RSA- Administrator position:

- Tony DiRienzi stated he will be on the interview panel for a replacement for Skip Bingham's position. There has been a second announcement calling for candidates. Tony requested any questions/issue/concerns that Council members would like to have brought up during the process be conveyed to him so he can represent SILC appropriately as he sits on the panel.

Contracts:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the Cybercil contract has been signed and is ongoing. He also reported the Cochise Ability contract has been signed with DIRECT, a PCA contract survey contract has been signed, The new contract with the accountant has been signed and that SILC is about to sign a contract for an IL needs assessment survey.

SILC Congress:

- The Congress was successful with 211 attending of which 184 were SILC representatives.
- The 2006 Congress will be in Orlando, Florida.
- Two years ago AZ SILC was given a cash reserve of \$10K for coordinating the 2004 Congress. After the 2004 and 2005 Congress the reserve has increased to \$28K.
- It was announced that Tony DiRienzi was elected as the Region IX Regional Representative for the SILC Congress and will be working on next years Congress.

704 Report

- The 704 report was done and submitted in December.

Multi-Disability Related Organizational Campus:

- Tony DiRienzi noted that he represented SILC at a meeting ABIL recently had regarding having a multi disability organizations "campus".
- The vision is to have a state of the art, universally accessible facility for disability organizations. Eight organizations have been meeting to discuss the concept.
- The City of Phoenix is supportive of the concept. 5-7 acres would be needed. It would be 100K square foot complex with a sports complex.

Office Updates:

- Tony DiRienzi noted that the auditors inquired about firewall protection on the SILC computers. One computer did need the protection and it was installed the next day.
- Tony noted that antivirus updates are programmed to be automatic and are yearly renewed.
- Tony is looking into a program/access data base for SILC logging programming, fundraising and administrative time.
- It was questioned about SILC's back up procedures. Tony noted that a cd back up is done every two weeks or more if needed. The latest cd is stored in the safe and the older one is taken offsite with Tony. Additionally the Maxtor backup machine is completed monthly and taken offsite with Sharon Engelhardt.
- Tony mentioned that a larger storage safe is needed for all the important SILC documents. The cost may be around \$1,000. It was suggested to purchase the safe through the state contracted vendor.
- Tony reported that since last quarterly meeting he went on a road trip visiting the CILs over the state. During his visits he was able to identify a person in the western area of the state

that should be on our council and is needed for the SPIL. More on the candidate identified will be given during the Nominating Committee report.

- Tony mentioned that he will be embarking on another road trip as part of the IL survey that the Public Policy Committee is working on. More about the IL survey during the Public Policy report.

IL Summit:

- Tony DiRienzi announced that the IL Summit will be August 4 & 5, 2005 at the PV Embassy Suites. SILC is part of the Summit as well as all the CILs.

REPORTS:

RSA Report (Rehabilitation Services Administration)/ILRS report: (later in meeting)

SRC Report: No report

121 Report (American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Programs):

- Lavern Lizer reported that the Navajo Nation will be having a Res. Tech Conference on the 18th. The Hopi tribe will be doing a presentation at the Conference.
- The Navajo Nation grant is ending in September so they will be reapplying.

CIL Report (Centers for Independent Living): Ken Edwards gave a report from each CIL.

ASSIST!:

- ASSIST recently completed a video on disabilities on the reservation. Free video tapes are available by contacting Mike Blatchford.

ABIL:

- ABIL had their 3rd annual Spirit of ABIL to honor volunteers.
- ABIL continues to consult with DIRECT on the PAS Program.
- They are implementing their short term transition housing program.
- They initiated and supported a house bill on changing participation requirements for TANF members for people that are deferred because of disabilities.

NEW HORIZONS:

- NH had their 3rd disability summit in the town Prescott Valley. They are pushing the town to adopt an ordinance on visitability on new single family housing.
- NH has established a collaboration with SMILE on a developing a grant on assistive technology.
- NH submitted a grant for another accessible van.
- NH submitted a bid to the town of Prescott Valley to become the town's ADA consultant.

SMILE:

- SMILE continues to grow with a 20-25% financial growth from grants.

DIRECT:

- Kim March-Force gave a report on DIRECT's activities.
- DIRECT continues to work with ABIL on the PAS program
- Yesterday they had their annual transition fair with over 100 participating.
- DIRECT will be bringing up participants for the upcoming Legislative Awareness day in Phoenix March 9th.

- A memorandum of understanding between DIRECT and Cochise Ability has been signed. Cochise Ability will serve as a satellite of DIRECT. Also Cochise Ability is negotiating office space as there are some accessibility issues to resolve. Cochise Ability has identified 6 possible board members. They are finalizing their articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- DIRECT continues to work on state housing funds.
- DIRECT is working with the CERT program for emergency preparedness.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Collaboration Committee.

- Gene Heppard reported that the Committee is working on a PCA survey so we can identify unserved and underserved populations in the 15 counties regarding people who need PCA services.
- Another project the Committee is working on is the Disability Mentoring Day which will be in mid October. The Committee will be asking for participation by SILC and others as the time draws closer.
- Bill Scott with Abilities Unlimited gave a presentation on the PCA project that they have been contracted to conduct. A power point presentation was reviewed (see handouts). Bill noted that there are 5 service goals. The goals are as listed:
 1. To present a census profile, for each of the 15 counties in Arizona, of residents that may need and/or use Personal Care Attendants.
 2. To compile a comprehensive list of the name, addresses and contact information for various services providers, organizations and other entities located in each of the 15 counties of Arizona that can be used to employ, engage, and/or obtain Personal Care Attendants.
 3. To report on the fee structure, schedule, and billing procedures associated with those respective services providers, organizations and other entities.
 4. To identify funding resources, including private and public that can be used to pay for and/or support employing, engaging, and/or obtaining those PCA services.
 5. To identify existing systems, networks and other means of connecting PCAs to PWD who may need or use those services.
- The deliverable will be a document that provides a written analysis, summary, graphs, and other materials related to the need for PCA services in Arizona and what is the potential capacity in Arizona to meet those needs.
- There was a discussion after the presentation and suggestions of having more studies after this one that might address issues as employer obligations regarding PCA's, support systems for PCA's, trust issues and the aging and their PCA needs.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee.

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the Cybercil contract has been signed and is moving forward.
- Tony also reported that the contract with DIRECT and Cochise Ability has been signed and is moving forward.

Nominating Committee

- Donna Power reported that in June Mary Busfield our secretary will be leaving. Elections will then be in June.
- The slate of officers up for vote in June will be: Robin Hungerford as Secretary, Al Villaverde as Treasurer and Gene Heppard and Marquita Beene for Vice Treasurer.
- Other nomination requests were asked to be submitted through the SILC office or they can be submitted the day of the election.
- The Committee recently met and discussed the one vacancy position coming up in June. Darryl Long was identified as matching the profile of Council representation that is needed on SILC. The Nominating Committee recommended that his nomination be put forth to the Governor's office for appointment. A full recommendation by the Council was requested.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to bring forward the name of Darryl Long to the Governor's office for SILC's recommendation of appointment. Seconded by Kim March-Force. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

Outreach Committee.

- Lavern Lizer reported that the Outreach Forum in November at North Mountain Rehab was successful. Lavern stated she had 2 good outcomes with Native Americans from that forum.
- A future workshop will be up coming in Globe but no date is set.
- SILC participated in the Disability Expo in January where they gathered contact information for future surveys and focus groups.
- SILC will collaborate with St Joe's to work with the Day on the Lake event. SILC will also work with St. Joe's on IL presentations and in-service presentations.
- The Committee recently purchased a table skirt with the SILC logo to use at outreach events.

Public Policy Committee:

- It was noted that Randy Collins has done a great job with including people with disabilities into the State Plan for Emergency Preparedness. Although Randy was not in attendance Donna Powers acknowledged his efforts and a certificate of appreciation was given to Sherri Collins to give to Randy.
- Sherri Collins reported the Committee is working on an IL survey to assess the needs and concerns of people with disabilities.
- Tony DiRienzi added that "Full Circle" (FC) was award the contract on the IL Survey/Need Assessment project. Tony will be working with FC to conduct 6-8 focus groups of 8-10 people statewide. The results of the surveys will be presented to the Council.
- It was noted that the Council would like to see the IL questions prior to the survey being conducted for their input.
- Sherri Collins stated the Public Policy Committee has been discussing establishing an IL Task Force. The Task Force can research and analyze data for official documentation that will be useful for all IL services. Identifying what works for people with disabilities and what does not and what is needed and what is not will be issues for the Task Force.

Joyce Weber motioned to approve SILC establishing a statewide Independent Living Task Force. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

- An activity for consideration for the ILTF was noted as a study on voting and to collect various voting data by district regarding people with disability.
- Joyce Weber volunteered to be on the Task Force.

Other:

- Donna Powers commented that she is impressed on all of the Committees and the work they have put forth since the last meeting.

RSA Report:

- Skip Bingham reported that alerts have gone out regarding the President's budget as there seems to be cuts on services for people with disabilities. There is a call for elimination of fifty-six positions of the Federal RSA office which equates to the number of staff in the regional offices.
- There is good news that advocacy has seemed to stop an amendment to WIA Plus (Workforce Investment Act) which involved block grants to the states for various programs to be bundle together. Those grants would provide for the states to make discretionary allocations for the programs involved. VR would be one of those programs.
- The 1-stop centers will continue. Skip suggested touring a center with a Navigator. Skip also suggested the Council attend the Workforce Investment board meetings and present an advocacy perspective.
- Skip reported they have been working on increasing opportunities on interpreter training. He also noted that the Head and Spinal Council is seeking to direct some of their funds to set-up grants for AT. Announcements about grant opportunities will be forthcoming.
- Skip stated that the person sitting in his chair next year is going to be needing SILC's support for increased state funding.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC ANNOUCMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- John Hunter announced that he is chair of a task force on accessibility for religious venues. Any information regarding assisting people with disabilities that can be shared with him would be appreciated.
- Ed Myers stated that AZTAP is looking for new board members.
- Donna Powers stated that Easter Seals was given a grant by the Governors Council on DD for putting into practice a travel training manual for people with mental retardation. They are looking for a temporary part-time Program Manager to mainly help with organizing.
- Tony DiRienzi announced that AZTAP's AT Conference is June 13 & 14 and anyone wanting information and/or to attend should contact him.
- Gene Heppard acknowledged the updating of the SILC website.

ADJOURNMENT: *Ed Myers motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Joyce Weber. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC staff

Reviewed by: Mary Busfield _____ SILC secretary