

Statewide Independent Living Council  
Full Council -Quarterly meeting  
Minutes of March 20, 2008

**Council Members Present**

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair  
Randy Collins, Vice Chair  
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer  
Rudy Buchanan  
Sherri Collins  
Fernando Cruz  
Laura Duval (as CIL representative)  
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels  
Ted Garland  
Ken Edwards  
Ken Jacuzzi  
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio  
Suzanne Malson  
Georgia McLaughlin  
Ashleigh Turner  
Joe Lee Yazzie  
Alfred Zulli Jr.

**Council Members Absent**

Gene Heppard, Treasurer  
Jenn-Yun Tein  
Gail Wilt

**Staff**

Tony DiRienzi, Sharon Engelhardt and Donna Powers.

**Guests**

Chris Deere, Mike Blatchford, Ez Bachand and Michael Magnan and Ron Kanter.

**Welcome/ Introductions:**

- Edward Myers III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes: *Ken Edwards motioned to approve the minutes of December 20, 2007. Seconded by Rudy Buchanan. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

**Approval of Consent List:**

***Suzanne Malson motioned to approve the Consent List for March 20, 2008. Seconded by Joe Lee Yazzie. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

**Executive Committee Report:**

**SILC Staff:**

- Edward Myers reported that Donna Powers resigned from SILC. She subsequently applied for and was hired for the SILC Program Coordinator position. Edward

Myers acknowledged and thanked Donna Powers for her service as a Council member and as SILC Chair. An award plaque and gift certificate were presented to her.

#### Council Officers Ratification:

- Tony DiRienzi clarified an action on the consent list regarding the changes in the board officers. He referenced the SILC by-laws and reported that the vacancies were filled accordingly. The current composition includes Edward Myers III as Chair, Randy Collins as Vice Chair, Gene Heppard as Treasurer, Kim March-Force as Vice Treasurer. The position of Secretary is vacant. Rudy Buchanan was nominated for Secretary. He accepted the nomination. Edward Myers III called for other nominations from the floor. None were presented.

***Randy Collins motioned to approve Rudy Buchanan to serve as SILC Secretary. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

#### SILC Congress Report (January 2008):

- The SILC Congress was held in January in New Orleans. Ken Edwards presented a verbal report of the Congress. His written report was not available because just prior to the meeting his computer's hard drive crashed. He gave the report from memory.
- The topics at the Congress included:
  - A discussion of establishing the SILC Congress as an independent corporation and applying for 501 (c) (3).
  - A presentation on the evolution of IL and how the SILC Congress started by Bob Michaels.
  - The OSERS/RSA process of reviewing SPIL's as well as SILC issues related to the SPIL content and purpose.
- Ken presented a proposal to the attendees for the AZ SILC to host the Congress in 2009. The attendees collectively agreed to have the 2009 Congress in Arizona.
- However, subsequent to the 2008 Congress AZ SILC staff communicated with the national planning committee and was informed that the protocols for hosting the Congress were recently revised. AZ SILC predicated its offer to serve as host on the protocols adopted by the national body at the 2005 Congress. The AZ SILC representative at the Congress also stated that our offer was contingent upon those protocols. Because the new protocols placed the fiscal agency with another state the AZ SILC executive committee decided to rescind the offer. They felt that AZ SILC would have the responsibility but not the corresponding control or authority and under those circumstances it would be onerous to coordinate the 2009 Congress. When the Executive Committee reached that decision it immediately informed the national planning committee chair of the same.

#### IL DOCUMENTARY PROJECT:

- Tony DiRienzi report that related to our SPIL Goal to change the cultural image of people with disabilities an A.T. project is being explored. He recently discussed this project with an independent film maker – Ron Kanter. Ron’s biography was distributed prior to the meeting (See Bio). Ron and Tony think that this project has merit for the basis of a documentary.
- The project involves a run way fashion show that will focus on the Assistive Technologies (AT) as lifestyle statements.
- Ron produces and directs documentaries for broadcast on the PBS network. He has been the recipient of two Emmys among other awards.
- Ron presented three short video clips of his work and talked about his experience, ideas and support for the project.
- Ron explained the process of how a documentary is produced. He talked about the research, concept, script development, among other considerations that go into making a film. But most importantly, he talked about the collective input of everyone involved in the project.
- He also presented his perspective of how a film takes people places they have never gone and how it stimulates curiosity to ask questions and want more.
- The Council discussed the concept, asked questions and decided to proceed with looking into more specifics.

***Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve exploring and developing an outline and financial plan for the IL Documentary project. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

#### **Financials**

- Tony DiRienzi reviewed the financial statements for the month ending February 29, 2008. The Financials were distributed by email prior to the meeting. (See financial statements).
- It was noted the program budget spending will be accelerated as the end of the fiscal year draws closer. The DME (Durable Medical Equipment) activities and expenses will increase shortly as the meetings and work of the task force accelerates. Tony also explained that the negative figures reflected in the remaining balance column. He noted that there were no allocations for budget amounts established in the beginning of the year and as income was received it is posted as a negative in balance column. The primary focus is with the Just Vote activities. He also reported that the prior year column was reinserted into the financial statements as requested at the last Council meeting.

***Kim March Force motioned to approve the financials for month ending February 29, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Georgia McLaughlin. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.***

### **Break**

## **AUDIT REPORT:**

- An independent audit of SILC for FY 2006-2007 was conducted by Michael Magnan CPA, PLLC. Michael was introduced. He reviewed two reports 1) the financial statements and 2) Report to the council members. (See Audit Reports).
- Michael began by going over the basis of his responsibilities of conducting an audit as listed in his report to the Council.
- He noted, in particular, that the amounts listed in accounts receivable and the corresponding accounts payable on the statement of financial position (page 2) may require additional procedures for the 2008 audit. Those amounts were related to the RSA/DES funding that became available as the FY ended.
- He also noted SILC has \$2,282 in temporarily restricted assets which is related to a specific grant received.
- The statement of functional expenses (page 4) is broken out by Program and Supporting Services (administrative and fundraising) as required.
- Michael commented that the audit went smoothly and he looks forward to working with SILC again.
- There was time for questions and answers.

***Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the audit report. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

## **AZRSA REPORT:**

- Katharine Levandowsky announced that March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be National Rehabilitation Counselor Day. She also announced that on June 16<sup>th</sup> the new facility for the AZ Industries for the Blind will have a grand opening. The day's activities will begin at 8 AM. She noted that the facility will have a video conference center, training rooms and computer training rooms which will be available for use. Katharine will send out more information on the events.
- Katherine reported that RSA now has signed agreements with all Maricopa County Community Colleges for accommodations.
- There are also signed memorandums of understanding with One Stops work force boards for VR to be a mandatory partner at the One Stop Centers
- The Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries has an agreement with U of A to develop a curriculum for medical students.
- Budget cuts are of concern. There is a legislative proposal to remove 2 million from the head and spinal trust and reallocate it to other programs.
- Outreach continues. Recently a call-in radio talk show in Prescott Valley was attempted. It was so successful that there is a request to do it again.
- The Capitol Times is doing an article on Independent Living.
- The bills related to the AZ Industries for the Blind continues to go through the legislative process.

- Chris Deere added that RSA ILRS (Independent Living Rehabilitation Services) is working on the SPIL.

#### Other:

It was announced that Eward Bachand was honored with the “Spirit of ABIL” volunteer award this year.

#### **OSERS/RSA SITE REVIEW:** OSERS/RSA (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration)

- Sean Barrett with OSERS/RSA in Washington DC joined the meeting by teleconference. OSERS will be conducting a site visit here in May to review AZRSA and SILC.
- Mr. Barrett sent an email prior to the meeting that was distributed to the members for their review. Three questions were posed to AZ SILC.
  1. How do you garner and use the input of each of the three mandated partners – CILS, SILCS and the DSU?
  2. What are the things about AZ IL that you are most proud of?
  3. What areas would you like to either expand or get better at?
- Regarding question #1 the following comments were noted: CIL representative serves on the Council and works with each CIL prior to meetings to collect information for reports to give to the Council. SILC hosts a quarterly CIL ED meeting after the SILC meetings. Collaborations are ongoing with projects, such as the current DME issue.
- Regarding question #2 the following comments were noted: Arizona SPIL is extensive and has been approved. Arizona is the only state to have a CIL on a reservation in the Country. Arizona has COIN (Community Outreach Information Network) on the Salt River Pima Indian Community. Arizona is recognized as a good model for home based community services. Arizona has good collaborations amongst disability organizations.
- Regarding #3 the following comments were noted: Outreach to hard of hearing and deaf community need to be expanded. Financial resources and diversified funds information and strategies needed. Scholarship funds for consumers need to be available. Rural program delivery of services needs to be better.
- Mr. Barrett thanked the Council for their comments and gave his phone number if anyone had anything additional to pass on to him. 202-245-7604.

#### **SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) Report:**

- Ken Jacuzzi prepared a SRC report and reviewed the handout (See report). Ken stated he will forward the report to the SILC office to be distributed.
- Noted are some key points from the report: The SRC annual planning meeting will be held April 3 and 4, 2008. The CCD Employment and Training Task Force convened a meeting to go over the provisions in the draft Senate bill to reauthorize

the Rehab Act. Proposed 18 billion in budget cuts in the President's budget are of great concern which will impact people with disabilities.

### **121 PROJECT REPORT:**

- Suzanne Malson gave the 121 report. She distributed the report. (See 121 Report).
- Listing of the Project 121's in Arizona with contact information was on the report.
- Suzanne reported that SILC hosted a meeting with the Project Directors on March 18<sup>th</sup> where they discussed IL issues in rural Arizona.
- It was reported that a potential project 121 is being developed and that two are scheduled for funding support by grant this year. Letters of support from SILC are requested.
- The CANAR (Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation) will be in Arizona in November.

### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE:**

- Alfred Zulli reported that the Committee met the end of January and discussed the IL branding under the SPIL goal to promote and support events and/or programs that enhance the cultural/societal images of people with disabilities. The IL documentary project as presented earlier in the quarterly meeting will be a focus of the Committee. The Committee meets again today at 2 PM.

### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE:**

- Rudy Buchanan reported that Committee is working on several outreach workshops to unserved/underserved populations as part of their SPIL goals. A workshop in South Phoenix has been set for May 16<sup>th</sup>. A workshop on the Salt River Pima Indian Community will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. Another workshop is planned to be held in West Phoenix targeting Spanish speaking people with disabilities. Flyers will be sent out on the workshops.
- The Committee is looking into audio translation of the SILC IL booklet into Navajo. The Committee meets today at 2 PM.

### **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE:**

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the Public Policy Committee has had a DME (Durable Medical Equipment) focus and the DME Task Force meetings are commencing.
- Accessibility at the State Capitol has been improved but some unresolved issues are still being addressed.
- The legislative training day held in February was very successful. Tony noted that staff from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing took lead on the project and did a great job.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

New Staff:

- Tony DiRienzi reported Donna Powers as the Program Coordinator is on board with SILC and has been very helpful. The new staff position is allowing the ED to dedicate more time to other business such as the SILC budget and resource development, legislative issues, and preparation for the upcoming OSERS site visit.
- A new computer station has been set up for Donna Powers.

Office updates:

- New safe codes and new security measures are in place since ten checks disappeared in January.
- A storage unit has been set up for the extra boxes that were accumulating in the office and for archiving out dated files.
- A training course from ILRU called Smooth as SILC is available online if any Council members are interested. SILC office to send an announcement.

Other:

- State budgets cuts are of concern.
- Tony was invited to participate on a Governor’s work group to discuss poverty and vulnerable populations. The group met with Governor’s Senior Staff. Staff solicited input from those attending about how budget cuts would affect human services.
- Randy Collins added that he has been working with Sky Harbor Airport with looping the gates to make them accessible for hard of hearing people. Those efforts have recently ceased as budget cuts are explored.

National Disability Vote Alliance Summit:

- The National Disability Vote Alliance Summit will be held in Arizona the end of April. Tony reported that Ramon Garcia is no longer with the Just Vote Arizona project and the Organizer position will eventually be replaced. During the interim, Tony is working on the planning and preparations for the Summit. Secretary Brewer is to be a keynote speaker. The focus of the Summit will be on organizing for power.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None**

**ADJOURNMENT: *Sherri Collins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alfred Zulli. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.***

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt \_\_\_\_\_ SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Rudy Buchanan/Tony DiRienzi \_\_\_\_\_ SILC Secretary/SILC ED