

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council
-Quarterly meeting-
Minutes of September 7, 2006

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer
Fernando Cruz
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
John Hunter
Lavern Lizer
Ken Jacuzzi
Darryl Long
Naomi Ortiz
Kathryn Robins
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio

Council Members Absent

Marquita Beene
Randy Collins
Sherri Collins

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt

Guests

Ez Bachand, Mike Bradshaw, Phil Pangrazio, Rachel Scoggins, Ivy Meadow and Karla Averill

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona.

Approval of Minutes: *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the minutes of June 22, 2006.*

Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Kathryn Robins abstained.

Approval of Consent List: *John Hunter motioned to approve the September 7, 2006 Consent List. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Kathryn Robins abstained.*

Treasurer's Report:

Current Financials & Budget:

- Gene Heppard, Vice Treasurer, went over the end of year June 30, 2006 financials (See statements). SILC had \$401,917 in revenue and expended \$390,898 during the past fiscal year.
- It was brought to attention that the FY indicated years are off on the report column headings. Staff noted changes and will update with accountant.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the year ending financials from June 30, 2006 with update of fiscal years corrected in the columns. Seconded by John Hunter. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Benefits Check up Presentation:

- Karla Averill gave a presentation on the benefits check up program and website. Benefits Check up's goals is to inform individuals about benefits they may be entitled to or eligible for after they completed a questionnaire or profile. Interested individuals can access the website at www.benefitscheckup.org/link/AZ to conduct a search or call 1-800 432-4040. There is also a short Medicare screening.
- Organizations can also be listed on the website by completing a questionnaire describing their services. Kim March-Force reported she set-up Cochise Ability on the site and it took her less than 15 minutes.
- There was a question related to an aging and disability resources center grant. Karla said that Arizona did receive an aging and disability services grant and that benefits check up will be included among the resources on that website.
- Tony DiRienzi added that SILC is a member of the Steering Committee to design and implement an Aging and Disability Resource Center. The SILC is exploring outreach strategies to work more collaboratively with the aging community.
- A Benefits Check-up DVD training video and a brochure were distributed.

VR Full Federal Match:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported that related to Arizona receiving the full federal match for VR, RSA has hired twenty-nine new VR counselors in addition to other support staff. She said training for new staff is scheduled for Sept. 20th. There was a discussion about what are the requirements to become a certified vocational rehabilitation counselor. Katharine said hiring is always ongoing because of the high turn over rate for staff. She asked if SILC could assist by distributing job notices for open counselor positions.
- Katharine reported that there is a new office in Tucson and that Avondale will soon have a full office. It was requested to have an updated directory of Regional offices be sent to SILC.
- RSA letter sent out a letter reporting that the order of selection is no longer in effect. Katharine requested help to get the word out to clients. It was requested that she send written information to SILC to disseminate through its IL network.
- There was a discussion on how SILC and the disability community could help with future advocacy efforts to ensure federal matching funds continue. Tony reported that SILC WAS collaborating with AZDAC and other disability organizations to develop strategies for the next budget year.

Executive Committee Report:

SILC Congress 2007 & 2008:

- Donna Powers reported the 2007 SILC Congress will be in New Orleans in January. Dates are January 12- 15, 2007. The theme of the Congress is "rebuilding". There will be two main tracks; one focusing on emergency preparedness and the other on RSA rebuilding.

- It was noted that the Congress is requesting support to help underwrite accommodations of alternative formats.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to support the 2007 SILC Congress with \$1K for accommodations.

Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

- Donna reported that the National SILC planning committee is soliciting proposals to host the 2008 to be presented at 2007 Congress. A discussion followed about if the Arizona SILC wanted to host the Congress in 2008.
- The council discussed the pros and cons of hosting the event. Such things as staff time, financial resources, location logistics, AZ SILC national recognition, influencing the event agenda, etc. were reviewed
- It was decided to table a decision about Arizona hosting the '08 Congress until the next quarterly meeting in December.
- It was suggested to find out what events or activities might be happening in '08 that might be interfering with the Congress, (e.g., light rail construction, the Super Bowl in '08 among other considerations were mentioned as possible conflict issues).
- Tony DiRienzi stated there is limited funds for Council Member Support to attend this year however, if any Council members are interested they need to contact the Executive Committee or the SILC staff.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Position:

- Donna Powers reported that there is a “Get Out The Vote” project with the goal of encouraging people with disabilities to register to vote, to be active in the electoral process and most importantly, to vote. A disability vote coalition has been formed. (Website is www.azdisabilityvote.org)
- The coalition wants to hire a full time position. SILC has been requested to house the position in their office. SILC is statewide, has a cross disability perspective and is politically neutral. Office space and supervision would be main role of SILC housing the position.
- The coalition will provide the funding. SILC would serve as the fiscal agent, receiving, dispersing and administering the funds.
- Donna stated the Executive Committee has discussed the GOTV goal and position and have concluded it does fit into the mission, goals and objectives of SILC. The Executive Committee recommended to the full Council to support the GOTV project. There was a lengthy discussion about the project and SILC’s involvement.
- No objection was made to the Executive Committee’s recommendation as presented in the consent list for SILC to house and oversee the GOTV position.

Notice of Claim update:

- Donna Powers requested a motion to go into Executive Session to get an update on the notice of claim against SILC.

Ed Myers motioned to go in to Executive Session. Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Meeting was closed to the public during the session. The session started at 11:25 AM and ended at 11:35 AM
- There was a break from 11:35 to 11:50 AM
- Quarterly meeting began again at 11:55 AM

REPORTS:

RSA Report:

- (NOTE: RSA report was given earlier in meeting by Katharine Levandowsky).

ILRS Report:

- Paul Wilson was unable to attend meeting. No report.

121 Report:

- Lavern Lizer reported she came back to work about a month ago.
- The Navaho tribe VR program received funding again.
- There was an Early Intervention Conference last week in Window Rock that was successful.

CIL Report (Centers for Independent Living):

- Kathryn Robins had to leave the meeting due to illness. No report.

SRC Report:

- Ken Jacuzzi reported that the Public Policy Project team recently met to review legislative issues and full VR funding among other issues.
- There was a Council of State Administrators of VR national meeting in August. to begin discussions on what the VR program might look like in the future. There will be another meeting the end of September. Ken said some of the issues of discussion include: how the VR system can be changed to help consumers secure employment quickly and effectively, if VR can/should provide cash and/or vouchers or debit cards to consumers, Order of Selection uniformity from state to state, if a national definition of severely disabled is needed and how partnerships can be improved and expanded. Ken noted results that include: internal monitoring protocol should be ready soon, one-third of agencies will be reviewed, RSA plans to reorganize estate plan and efforts of increasing community rehab partners.
- Ken said that currently there are discussions taking place with the US Postal Service regarding a focused increase of recruitment and hiring of PWD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Collaboration Committee:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the PAS toolkit (Personal Assistant Services) has been produced and distribution of the manuals will begin soon. A hard copy of the manual was presented and a CD of the manual was given to each Council member.
- Tony noted that distribution will focus on unserved and underserved populations.
- There will be a link on the AZSILC website to the www.pascenter.org .website for an electronic version of the PAS toolkit.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Kathryn Robins left the meeting ill. No report.

Nominating & Membership Committee

- Ed Myers reported two new members have been approved. Kathryn Robins and Ken Edwards were welcomed to the Council. Ed said that Bryan Barten in Tucson was appointed but recently had to resign due to a new job appointment.
- Ed and Tony DiRienzi are to meet with the Governor's office on Boards and Commissions to see about other appointments including why one requested appointment has not yet been approved.
- There was a discussion of several possible candidates.

Outreach Committee.

- John Hunter reported that the Committee has not met since the last Quarterly meeting. They are however meeting today and will be planning an agenda for the upcoming FY.
- John welcomed Lavern Lizer back as she has been out on medical leave.
- The Committee is working on a booklet for distribution at outreach events.

Youth Leadership:

- Naomi Ortiz gave a Youth Leadership reported she is working with the Outreach Committee on a project for a future Arizona Youth Leadership Forum. Naomi attended an YLF in Kansas City where she gathered information and met with people. Naomi also attended the NCIL conference in Washing DC where she met a day earlier with people to discuss YL.

Public Policy Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

- Ez Bachand reported that SILC had a table last week at a Governor's Katrina Volunteer recognition event.
- Ez said the EP (Emergency Preparedness) Sub Committee has been working on putting together an EP Summit. The summit may be at the DEMA headquarters. The agenda will include a facilitated discussion of EP issues regarding PWD. There may also be a decontamination drill and demonstrations on AT (Assistive Technologies).
- Tony DiRienzi added that SILC has prepared a handout stating that AT EP equipment presentations are available. (See handout). The purpose of the presentations is to show first responders and the disability community on AT equipment that they should budget for.
- Fernando Cruz requested a presentation for the ABIL 24th street office.
- Darryl Long reported he is on a committee in Yuma addressing EP issues for PWD. The committee has identified shelters for PWD and set up protocols for shelter managers apart from the Red Cross. They plan to work with the Emergency Operations Center, they have also developed a kit for first responders among other activities.
- It was mentioned that the Red Cross seems not responsive to PWD. More effort with the Red Cross is needed to help facilitate changes especially in their shelter accommodations.

Executive Director Report:

An Executive Director report was emailed to all Council members prior to meeting which listed the past months activities and meetings that Tony DiRienzi has been working on (See report).

RSA Financial Review:

- Tony DiRienzi reported much of staff time has been focusing on the RSA financial review. Tony noted there has been a substantial time delay in reimbursement of expenses and response of answers to inquiries and questions.
- New forms have been generated and a sample of each form was distributed to Council members (see forms).

Contracts:

- Contract negotiations for the new SILC contract with RSA needs to begin soon.

Grants:

- Tony stated the ACF (Az Community Foundation) grant will be used for acquiring AT equipment.
- Tony is beginning to explore additional grants for SILC.

Office Updates:

- New antivirus protection has been installed on all computers.
- Laptop computer has been upgraded to have wireless connection.
- Office building restrooms have been locked with coded touch pad for security.

Airline Video:

- Tony reported he and Council member Randy Collins were part of a training video for US Airways regarding airline employee’s interactions with PWD.
- The 15 minute video was played.

PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Ed Myers announced that he will be taking a new beginning September 25 as the Director of Litigation at the Arizona Center for Disability Law.
- Mike Bradshaw is the new Executive Director at New Horizons CIL. Mike said it has been a very busy first month. He thanked SILC for inviting him to the meeting and said he learned a lot at today’s meeting.
- Naomi Ortiz reported that she will be writing a letter to the editor of the daily star in Tucson. She will be sharing the letter later.

ADJOURNMENT: *Ed Myers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Donna Powers _____SILC Chair
(Secretary position temporarily vacant)