

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council – Quarterly meeting
Minutes of September 19, 2008

Council Members Present

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer
Rudy Buchanan, Secretary
Fernando Cruz
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio
Suzanne Malson
Georgia McLaughlin
Jenn-Yun Tein
Gail Wilt
Joe Lee Yazzie
Alfred Zulli Jr.

Council Members Absent

Sherri Collins
Randy Collins, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels
Ken Jacuzzi
Ashleigh Turner

Staff

Tony DiRienzi, Executive Director
Sharon Engelhardt, Executive Assistant
Donna Powers, Program Coordinator.

Guests

Alan Strauss, Wendy Dewey and Phil Pangrazio.

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Edward Myers III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort, 10438 N. Fort McDowell Rd, Scottsdale, Arizona. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: *Ken Edwards motioned to approve the minutes of June 19, 2008. Seconded by Jenn-Yun Tein. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Consent List: *Jenn-Yun Tein motioned to approve the Consent List for September 19, 2008. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's Report:

Financials

- Tony DiRienzi reviewed the financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2008. They were distributed by email prior to the meeting. (See financial statements).

- Tony reported that the financial statements present a comprehensive overview of all income and expenses for SILC. He stated that individual reports can be generated for specific fund accounts, i.e., RSA-VR, RSA-Part B, Just Vote Arizona, Special Projects and Unrestricted. Tony distributed an abbreviated spreadsheet listing the 5 specific accounts with budgets. (See handout)
- Tony reported that SILC is on par with spending for the first months of the new Fiscal Year.

Al Zulli motioned to approve the financials for month ending August 31, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Jenn-Yun Tein. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Tony asked the Council if anyone would like to have the SILC Accountant at the next meeting to answer any questions they may have about the SILC financials. No request was forthcoming.
- Tony announced that there will be independent third party audit conducted in October.
- Tony also announced that SILC recently received the final draft of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services/Rehabilitation Services Administration (OSERS/RSA) audit report. It will shortly be sent to all Council members.
- In the report, Tony referenced 2 OSERS recommendations for AZ SILC. 1) The contracts to support CyberCIL and CochiseAbility should be administered through RSA and not AZ SILC, and 2) Part B funds cannot be used to support the Just Vote Arizona coalition project. Tony noted that SILC does not use Part B funds for the Just Vote Arizona project.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Disability Empowerment Center (DEC):

- Edward Myers requested Phil Pangrazio to present a report on the current status of the DEC.
- Phil Pangrazio reported that construction is near completion. He stated a Certificate of Occupancy is pending and is expected soon.
- Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) is scheduled to move into the building on October 3rd. Other tenants are scheduled shortly thereafter.
- A series of open house events are planned for November and SILC members are encouraged to attend.

NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) Conference:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that he attended the NCIL conference in mid July. He attended many workshop sessions. A primary focus of the conference was visits to legislators on Capitol Hill. Tony met with the staff of several legislators and face-to-face with three of Arizona's Representatives. He discussed various disability related policy issues and in particular, he thanked them for their support of the ADA Amendments Act.

- During the NCIL conference Tony reported he also met with other collaborative partners. They included; Jim Dickson, the Government Liaison of American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and Betty Siegel, the accessibility coordinator for the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts.

SILC Congress:

- Tony announced that the annual SILC Congress is scheduled for January 3-6, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tony asked if any council members were interested in attending. Suzanne Malson stated she wants to attend. Her interest is related to 121 projects and underserved populations along the Colorado Basin (Tri-State – Arizona, California, and Nevada).

SILC Quarterly meetings:

- Tony reported that he would like to schedule the next SILC quarterly meeting on December 18, 2008 meeting at the DEC. Tony stated that SILC staff will be researching hotels located close to the DEC for Council member stay and to have meetings if needed.
- SILC staff is assessing the feasibility of relocating to the DEC late in December. He noted that the current location lease is through April but Tony is exploring what options SILC may have to end the lease early.

SPIL (STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING) REPORT:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that OSERS seemed very impressed with the AZ SPIL and expressed an interest in presenting it as a national model. OSERS found that our assignment of goals to specific committees and allocating budgets to them particularly noteworthy.
- Tony was requested to present at an IL NET National SPIL Workshop in Alexandria, Virginia. However, due to scheduling conflicts he declined the invitation.

AZRSA (Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration) REPORT:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported RSA is encouraging consumer voter registration. They are training staff and will report on the number of voter registrations they complete.
- Currently RSA is in the planning strategies for their required 3 year statewide needs assessment. In addition to employment issues, they will include Independent Living issues as well. Katharine requested that any council member forward to her office any suggestions for names of groups/organizations that they think RSA should survey and also what questions might be useful for the assessment.
- Data on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping will be part of the assessment. The assessment/survey will be conducted October through December.
- RSA is also distributing vendor solicitations for adaptive devices and Durable Medical Equipment.

ILRS (Independent Living Rehabilitation Services) REPORT:

- Katharine Levandowsky gave the ILRS report. She stated that Counselors were surveyed to assess the cost for providing services to current clients and for those on the waiting list. It is estimated that the cost to serve clients is \$1.2 million and the cost for those on the waiting list would be \$1.3 million. These figures will be used in requesting additional funding money.
- The IL policy manual is nearing completion and will be ready for review soon.

SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) Report:

- Ken Jacuzzi was unable to attend today's meeting due to health issues. Well wishes were acknowledged and extended to Ken.
- It was noted that SRC wants to collaborate more with other councils. They also want to rotate the representatives that the SILC, RSA, and Tribal VR serve on their council. A new SILC representative to SRC will need to be selected.
- Alan Strauss and Wendy Dewey mentioned that SRC has been working to redefine their mission, vision, and committees. It was suggested that SILC member visit the SRC website for more information.

121 PROJECT REPORT:

- Suzanne Malson reported good news: 22 of the 23 121 projects throughout the United States that were up for refunding have been awarded a new grant. The Tohono O'Odham Nation and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona were both re-funded. There were two tribes in Arizona, The Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Camino De Oeste that applied for a new grant and they were not awarded.
- The federal government will not be providing no-cost extensions and any carryover dollars that a tribe may have at the end of the grant cycle will go back to the federal government. The new FY starts Oct 1st. Grants will have until December 31st to close out the past five year grant.
- The Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) is scheduled for November 17-19, 2008, in Phoenix Arizona. An invitation will be extended for SILC to attend.
- It was noted that coordinating quarterly meetings of 121 project directors with SRC and SILC has merit and should be explored.
- Suzanne reported that on September 17th the Honoring Abilities Day was held at the Avi Resort and Casino, and that the event was very successful.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE:

- Al Zulli reported the Committee did not have a quorum at their recent teleconference meeting and he noted there was no quorum at the meeting before that as well. He said he sent an email to members to encourage attendance at the next meeting. Having some new members will be explored.

- The Committee is focusing on a business partnership project, a universal disability icon, an AT (Assistive Technology) Documentary Fashion Show and the Disability events calendar.
- Tony DiRienzi mentioned that with dates and scheduling of meetings, conferences and events that the Arizona Disability Post would be a good place for checking out events. A promotion card with the website was distributed.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

- Rudy Buchanan reported that the Committee recently had an outreach presentation on September 12th to the Latino Community. The event was held in West Phoenix and was well attended and received. The presentations were in Spanish with English translations. There were 2 breakout sessions and a town hall with local policy representatives.
- It was reported that Joe Lee Yazzie participated earlier this month in the Special Needs Day on the Hopi reservation. It was also reported that Fernando Cruz was the keynote speaker at the 4th annual Salt River Housing Conference last week. Fernando reported he had a very good response from those in attendance.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE:

- Gail Wilt reported that at the Committee's last meeting they discussed focusing on two areas this year of transportation and health. She noted that last year the focus was on emergency preparedness and DME (Durable Medical Equipment).
- Regarding the DME Project, Tony DiRienzi reported that the DME report has been finalized and he will send out a copy to the council. There were 37 recommendations in the report and 5 work group areas which include: Information & Education, Prior Authorization, Delivery Standards, Consumer Choice, Loaner Equipment and Seating Evaluation. The work groups are now meeting and will set priority recommendations.
- Gail also reported that the Committee is evaluating hiring a consultant to research the various federal funding sources coming into Arizona related to providing disability programs and services. A similar report was conducted 10 years ago and should be updated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

SILC Office updates:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that next week he will be participating on an OSERS audit panel to review ABIL.
- Tony mentioned the Arizona Disability Post promotion cards were distributed early and he encourage all to use the site and post events on it. (www.azdisabilitypost.org)
- Tony is meeting with the Arizona Association of Program Providers to explore collaborative efforts.
- There are unresolved Emergency Preparedness issues at ASU. Donna Powers reported she was recently on Channel 5 TV interviewed along with a master's

student from ASU regarding EP protocols at the University. The student was in a fire drill at ASU was not able to get out of the building. SILC is working to address the issues. In particular to request that ASU included people with disabilities in the planning process and include all disabilities.

Board Retreat:

- The SILC board retreat will begin tomorrow morning at 8:30. Council members are asked to focus and assist with assessing and possibly redefining SILC's mission, vision and values. In the afternoon there will be a session on board member's strengths and capacity building.

PUBLIC ANNOUCMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Alan Strauss reported that U of A has been approved to host the National Society of Disabilities Studies in Tucson on June, 17, 18 & 19, 2009. He would like to collaborate with SILC on the event. Alan is on staff at U of A. He has been working with others including SILC on a disabilities studies curriculum at the University.
- Tony DiRienzi announced that Alan Strauss and Wendy Dewey have recently been appointed to the Council. Their appointment is unofficial because official documentation related to their appointment is not yet complete.
- Kim March-Force announced that she will be resigning from the Council soon. She is moving out of state. Thanks were given to Kim for her service on SILC and well wishes on her move.
- Fernando Cruz announced that the American Indian Disabilities Summit will be March 18, 2009 and will be at the Dodge Theater in Phoenix.

ADJOURNMENT: *Ken Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kim March Force. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Rudy Buchanan/Tony DiRienzi _____ SILC Secretary/SILC ED