

Statewide Independent Living Council  
Full Council -Quarterly meeting  
Minutes of September 20, 2007

**Council Members Present**

Donna Powers, Chairperson  
Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair  
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer  
Randy Collins, Secretary  
Fernando Cruz  
Ken Edwards  
Ted Garland  
Ken Jacuzzi  
Kathryn Robins  
Suzanne Malson  
Jenn-Yun Tein  
Gail Wilt  
Joe Lee Yazzie  
Al Zulli Jr.

**Council Members Absent**

Sherri Collins  
Gene Heppard, Treasurer  
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio  
Georgia McLaughlin  
Ashleigh Turner

**Staff**

Tony DiRienzi  
Sharon Engelhardt  
Ramon Garcia

**Guests**

Mike Blatchford and Liz Toone

**Welcome/ Introductions:**

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Current members and new members each introduced themselves and provided the group with a brief bio. New members were welcomed.
- Suzanne Malson was noted as the new 121 Representative, her official documentation for appointment is expected shortly.

**Approval of Minutes: *Edward Myers III motioned to approve the minutes of June 21, 2007. Seconded by Fernando Cruz. There were two corrections: 1) to add Kathryn Robins as absent with regrets from the meeting and 2) to change the location of the CANAR conference in the 121 Report to indicate Savannah, GA not in Utah. A vote was taken to approve the motion with the corrections. Motion was approved. Kathryn Robins, Gail Wilt, Al Zulli and Jenn-Yun Tein abstained.***

**Approval of Consent List:**

- Donna Powers made a correction to the consent list. The motion of July 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the SILC meeting schedule read "The Quarterly meetings will be on the

third Thursday of the first month of each quarter month – September, December, March and June.” It was corrected to read as “The Quarterly meetings will be on the third Thursday of the last month of each calendar quarter – September, December, March and June”.

***Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the June 21, 2007 Consent List with the meeting schedule correction. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

#### **FY 2006-2007**

- Tony DiRienzi reported that SILC received an additional \$500K from RSA in the FY 2007. \$80K was allocated to the IL Summit, \$20K to SILC and \$400K to the CILs for IL expansion and enhancement.
- Tony noted that of the 20K for SILC most of it was expended on assistive technology to enhance our accessibility and computer equipment that included a new server and 2 laptops.
- CIL’s used funds allocated to them in a variety of ways:  
ABIL- new software.  
ASSIST! – accessible van and home modifications.  
DIRECT – peer mentoring session, training materials and building construction.  
New Horizons – building construction, new ramps, and brochures.  
SMILE – software, computers, AT, public relations and temporary staff.

#### **Current Financials**

- The month ending 8-31-07 financial statements were reviewed. (See statements).
- Tony mentioned that staff and the executive committee will explore how to change the statements to reflect our new contract status with RSA. SILC now has a performance based contract. References for “reimbursements” are no longer appropriate.
- To date SILC has received \$133K from RSA. The payment schedule in the contract has the SILC funding contingent upon deliverables that SILC presents to RSA. Those deliverables include the SPIL, 704 Report and completion of the goals and objectives in the SPIL.
- Tony explained our budget is \$333,190 annually for the next three years. \$233,190 are Title I (VR) funds and \$100,100 are Title VII (Part B) funds.

***Edward Myers III motioned to approve the financials as presented. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Gail Wilt abstained.***

#### **Audit:**

- Requests for Quotes have been distributed to appropriate accounting firms as a solicitation to conduct an audit of the SILC financial records, a written audit report, a presentation post audit to the council, as well as, preparation and submission of the SILC tax returns.

#### **Revised Budget FY 2007-08**

- Tony reported that the budget has to be revised to indicate \$40K less in programs. OSERS/RSA in their review of the SPIL wants SILC to discontinue our contracts with CyberCil and Cochise Ability. OSERS/RSA wants the SPIL to be revised to indicate that AZ RSA will contract with CyberCIL and Cochise Ability and provide them with 20K each for FY 2008. (See budget)

***Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the revised budget. Seconded by Edward Myers III. A vote was taken and the motion approved. Gail Wilt abstained.***

### **Executive Committee Report:**

#### **Advisory Panels:**

- Donna Powers reported that the Executive Committee has discussed establishing Advisory Panels to provide advice with respect to some of SPIL goals and objectives. The panels would be ad hoc and address specific goals.
- It was mentioned that advisory panels will adhere to AZ Open Meeting Law Protocols.
- A concern was expressed of the possible impact on staff time with increased meetings schedule.

#### **Cost Allocation Plan:**

- In the Corrective Action Plan related to the DES audit conducted earlier in the year SILC was required to establish an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan.
- Tony drafted a plan that was adopted by the executive committee and accepted by AZ RSA and DES. The plan stipulates that SILC will attribute an indirect cost of \$98 per hour in budgets that are incorporated into grants, contracts, fiscal agency agreements, and fee for service charges. Tony provided an example with the Arizona Disability Vote Project. SILC is providing 100 hours service to the project. The SILC allocation is \$9800 – \$98 X 100 hours.

#### **Amicus Brief:**

- Donna Powers stated an Amicus Brief item that was already approved on the Consent List was added to the agenda to provide additional explanation.
- Edward Myers III explained that the request from the Montana Protection and Advocacy Organization for SILC to be a signatory on the brief will indicate that SILC supports their legal position. We will be a friend (Amicus). The litigation is addressing a problem with providing accessible accommodations related to service animals in Montana.

#### **NCIL Conference (July 2007):**

- The NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) Conference was held July 9-12, 2007 in Washington DC. Approximately 800 people attended. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference. Donna Powers, Tony DiRienzi and Sharon Engelhardt attended representing SILC. Edward Myers III attended representing both SILC and ABIL.
- The Arizona delegation spent a day on Capitol Hill to visit with all of Arizona's senators and representatives. The focus of the visits was to discuss particular legislative issues that impact the disability community and advocate accordingly.

Donna noted that NCIL prepared an informative booklet with facts sheets on all of the legislative issues.

#### SILC Congress (January 2008):

- The SILC Congress will be in January in New Orleans. There was an open call for any members interested in attending to contact the SILC office.
- Randy Collins, who went last year, described the conference hotel and the new accessibility features.

#### Break- 11:00 – 11:15

#### JUST VOTE ARIZONA- DISABILITY VOTE COALITION REPORT:

- Ramon Garcia, GOTV Organizer of the Arizona Disability Vote Project (AZDVP) gave a report on the program activities.
- The program's main focus is to increase the voter registration and participation in the disability community.
- AZDVP is a non partisan group made up of 23 coalition members including SILC. ABIL was acknowledged with providing the lead support. ACDL has also given additional support and funding used to help with promotion.
- Work is being done with coalition members on list enhancement.
- Ramon went over the website at [www.azdisabilityvote.org](http://www.azdisabilityvote.org). The site has important dates and information including demographics, stories and reports. There are tabs on the site for the content to be presented in Spanish translation.
- Ramon reported that Arizona will be hosting the national disability vote alliance meeting in April of 2008.

#### IL SUMMIT REPORT:

- The IL Summit was held August 16 & 17, 2007. There were 360 registrations. A preliminary budget report indicates that \$130K in expenses.
- There was a debriefing of the Summit Planning Committee recently and overall the Summit was a success. The committee is exploring restructuring the next event with separate dates for summit sessions and educational workshops.

#### REPORTS:

RSA Report: No report.

ILRS Report:

- Tony reported that Paul Wilson is no longer with RSA.

121 Report:

- Suzanne Malson introduced herself to the council. She is the VR program Administrator/Director of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.
- Suzanne distributed and went over several handouts regarding the Fort Mojave VR and the 121 projects.
- Suzanne presented a report of Consortium of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) proceedings. CANAR President Treva Roanhorse expressed concerns related to IL services on the reservations. The report was

critical of service providers, CILs, and SILC. Three predominant barriers preventing Native Americans with disabilities from accessing IL Services and were cited:

1. Large geographical distance between tribal communities and IL providers.
2. Language and cultural differences.
3. Lack of outreach to rural communities.

- There was a lengthy discussion touching on many issues as access to those in remote and rural areas, isolation, IL services available, statistics attributing to the high rate of PWD, ADA enforcement, Federal funding, high administrative costs relative to program costs, and establishing CILs on reservations.
- It was noted that SILC is concerned with these and they need more attention. SILC will schedule more time on a future agenda to discuss them more in detail.

#### SRC Report:

- Ken Jacuzzi prepared a SRC report highlighting the SRC 8-16-07 meeting which was sent to all council members prior to the Quarterly meeting (see report). The report was reviewed and discussed.
- Highlights focused on the budget approved by the SRC Executive Committee as well as the SRC strategic plan.

#### Community Collaboration Committee:

- Tony reported that the multi organization events calendar was launched at the IL Summit. There is a free standing website at [www.azdisabilitypost.org](http://www.azdisabilitypost.org) for organizations to submit events.

#### CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Kathryn Robins reported the CIL Executive Directors are scheduled to meet the day after the quarterly, so there will be meeting tomorrow.

#### SMILE:

- A new certified benefits planner has been hired as well as a community work incentive coordinator to start in October. Staff development and restructuring is occurring.
- Living well with a disability training was held in Parker.

#### DIRECT:

- DIRECT has a new peer counselor and will be getting a new administrative assistant soon.
- This is my life program has be refunded. Self determination and self advocacy are part of the focus of this program.
- An application for a housing grant related to emergency repairs was submitted. (SMILE too applied for the grant).
- CochiseAbility received a grant to fund their first annual transition fair next spring

#### ABIL:

- Kathryn reported ABIL has a long list of activities sent to her. They highlight New software.

#### New Horizons:

- NH now has a video relay service.
- Recently applied for two Title 5 Workers.

- Were awarded \$19k and \$2K for their transportation program.
- Their brain injury group continues to be active.
- NH continues to focus on outreach.

ASSIST!: – No report.

#### Outreach Committee.

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the Committee will need to be reformed as there have been member changes.
- Tony stated two SILC outreach presentations were recently conducted. One in Tucson to the Multiple Chemical Sensitivity community, in particular to HEAL. The other presentation was on Independent Living to trainees in Partners in Policy Making.

#### Public Policy Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that there will be a Summit meeting on October 31 to focus on DME (Durable Medical Equipment) problems particularly with wheelchair users.
- Tony stated efforts have been made to support government funding for expansion of CILs in Arizona. Funding to support more CIL branches offices around the state is the goal.
- Tony met with the DES Director to discuss the CIL expansion funding. The meeting also included discussing an Emergency Preparedness white paper for a statewide registry to provide first responders to the locations and needs of people with disabilities.

#### Nominating & Membership Committee:

- Welcome and introductions of new members was held at the beginning of the meeting. There are a few candidates that SILC recommended who are being considered for appointment.

#### **704 REPORT:**

- RSA and SILC are jointly responsible for drafting and submitting the document.
- The document reports on how IL funds were expended.
- Council members will be soon be getting by email the training and technical needs chart to identify their priorities. That chart is part of the report.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

- Tony DiRienzi stated that SILC has engaged a facilitator for the DME Summit. He and David Carey of ABIL are promoting and organizing the Summit.
- The SPIL required some revisions to deal with the two contracts for CyberCIL and Cochise Ability.
- SILC will be supporting an AXIS dance performance on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a fundraising event for SILC. SILC will promote the event and will get \$19 of each \$38 ticket sold.

- SILC is working with the inclusion team of Americorp to assist with disability related issues.
- Tony was a presenter at the recent IL Summit.
- Tony will give an IL PowerPoint presentation at a RSA training in November
- His IL PPP will also be part of the new member orientation.
- Tony stated he will update his written ED report and send it out to the council.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kathryn Robins. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 PM.*

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

Reviewed by: Randy Collins \_\_\_\_\_ SILC Secretary