

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council
-Quarterly meeting-
Minutes of December 1, 2005

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Sherri Collins
Fernando Cruz
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
John Hunter
Ken Jacuzzi
Darryl Long
Kim March-Force
Naomi Ortiz
Craig Warren, Ex-Officio

Council Members Absent

Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Al Villaverde, Treasurer
Gene Heppard, Vice Treasurer
Robin Hungerford, Vice Treasurer
Marquita Beene
Randy Collins
Lavern Lizer
Glen Reiner
Joyce Weber

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt

Guests

Allison Kern, Alan Schaffer, Gina Flores, Doug Northrup, Ez Bachand, Nikki Webb, Paul Wilson, Kathryn Robins and Annette Castillo

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona.
- The chair extended a welcome to all council members and each made an introduction that included identifying their location in the state.

Approval of Minutes: *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the minutes of September 1, 2005. John Hunter seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approve.*

Approval of Consent List:

- Donna referred Council members to the Consent List that includes action items of the Executive Committee since the September 1st quarterly meeting.

Kim March-Force motioned to approve the December 1, 2005 Consent List. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report was held in abeyance pending the arrival of the treasurer.

Open Meeting Law Presentation:

- Allison Kern of the Attorney General's office was introduced and gave a PowerPoint presentation on open meeting laws. (See handout).

- There was a question and answer session following the presentation. One question regarding sub committee public posting needed to be researched. Ms. Kern said she would contact the Council via email after she researched the question. (Staff note: Ms Kern verified that sub committee meetings need to be posted but the meeting minutes do not have to be recorded).
- Ms Kern suggested visiting the Attorney General's office website at www.azag.gov for any additional information.

Medicare Prescription D Presentation:

- Alan Schaffer and Gina Flores conducted a presentation that focused on; 1) Introducing Medicare Part D and Limited Income Subsidy and 2). The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). They distributed materials related to those subjects. (See handouts)
- There was a question and answer session. The presenters suggested visiting the AHCCCS website at www.azahcccs.gov/Services/MMA for more information. (AHCCCS-Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)
- A council member suggested that SILC have a link to the AHCCCS website for frequently asked questions to help consumers get information which is http://azahcccs.gov/Services/MMA_members.asp

~BREAK~

Executive Committee Report:

Notice of Claim, Budget Reserve:

- Donna Powers reported there has been a notice of claim against SILC and requested a motion to go into executive session with the SILC Attorney Doug Northrup.

Sherri Collins motioned for SILC to go into executive session to discuss the notice of claim. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

- Meeting was closed to public during the session from 10:35 AM to 11:12 AM (Donna Powers continued on with the Executive Committee report).

SILC Congress:

- Donna stated that the SILC Congress 2006 will be in Florida in January. Because of the travel and other related expenses to send council members and staff to Florida and also that there are three national conferences in this fiscal year, the SILC budget cannot support all the council members who want to attend. The Executive Committee has decided to send four Arizona representatives: three Executive Committee members and the Executive Director.
- Tony DiRienzi reported that the executive director of the California SILC is seeking to locate the 2007 SILC Congress in Region IX. He proposed Arizona or Nevada as a possible host. Council members discussed the benefits and costs associated with hosting the Congress in 2007. After reviewing our current level of activities, commitments, and responsibilities with particular attention to the administrative resources needed for planning, logistics, and coordination of the Congress, the Council decided not to host the event in

2007, but would consider hosting in the future. It was agreed that AZ SILC will help support Nevada as the best state in Region IX to host the Congress in 2007.

Sherri Collins motioned to not have Arizona pursue being considered a host site for the 2007 SILC Congress. Seconded by Kim March-Force. A vote was taken and the motion approved. John Hunter, Fernando Cruz, Ken Edwards and Ken Jacuzzi all abstained.

Naomi Ortiz motioned for AZ to support having the Congress in Nevada. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

Committee's update:

- Donna reported the she and Tony DiRienzi met with the SILC Committee Chairs and developed an organizational chart. The chart identified the prospective audience and the focus/mission of each Committee. (See chart).
- The Committee membership roster was reviewed. (See handout).

Legislative agenda:

- Donna stated that starting in January legislative items will be on the agenda.
- Tony DiRienzi said the Public Policy report later in the meeting will include legislative items.

EMPLOYEE EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

- Sherri Collins suggested modifying the current procedure for the employee evaluation of the Executive Director to include a mechanism and opportunity for the full council to provide input and oversight. She recommended establishing a Personnel Committee. That committee would conduct the evaluation and present their recommendations to the full council for its approval.

REPORTS:

RSA Report:

- Craig Warren began by introducing Paul Wilson the new assistant manager of the program support section. Paul will oversee the Independent Living Rehabilitation Services (ILRS) program.
- Craig recently attended the Council of the State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation in California. Craig said they discussed the restructuring of the federal RSA. There was a presentation of a new monitoring system. There was also a presentation regarding the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act to build 1-stop infrastructures.
- An audit by the department of labor was recently conducted on the navigation grant program. Good grades were given and it was noted that the Gilbert 1-stop in Arizona is the best they have seen in the country. Craig did note that Gilbert is an exception. Performance measures need to be developed beyond just employment outcomes.
- Regarding Federal RSA restructuring, Craig reported that they have 81 employee positions for monitoring two major divisions: Program Monitoring & Training and Transition & Employment. 12 positions are still to be filled. The Federal RSA wants monitoring to be on-going and comprehensive. They want to build a data base of successes and to share that information. They want VR programs to be more involved with other entities and bring VR state agencies closer to the federal VR.

- Craig noted that it was reported by the Social Security Administration that less than 2 tenths of one percent of all recipients of SS disability benefits leave other than by death.

ILRS Report:

- Paul Wilson distributed an update list of the RSA ILRS staff which includes two new ILRS Counselors. (See handout). Also on the list are the Rehabilitation Technician and the RSA Supervisors.
- Paul is currently working of the Federal 704 report which will be filed by the end of the month.

121 Report: No Report

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

ASSIST!:

- No report

DIRECT:

- No report

CochiseAbility:

- Kim March-Force noted a copy of the CochiseAbility newsletter was with today's agenda (see newsletter).
- The CIL office is open and has two part time staff. Grants and support from DIRECT help pay the costs.
- The grand opening of CochiseAbility was successful and had state legislators, the county clerk and city officials attend.
- A disability awareness campaign is being developed.

ABIL:

- Ken Edwards reported that ABIL purchased a new facility that is being renovated and they hope to be in the building in 2007
- ABIL received a city bond approval of 5.3 million for a 25K square feet Adaptive Recreation and Wellness center. There is a good article in the December ABIL newsletter reporting on the new building and bond issue.

NEW HORIZONS:

- Ken reported that NH is 33% larger with the new building space they have acquired. They have completed the remodel including a new phone system.
- Ken reported their transportation program earlier this year was costing NH 400% more than the revenues it generated. With some creative contracts it is now operating on its own with its cost and income level with one another.
- NH has an ADA consultant's contract with Prescott Valley. PV is supporting quarterly ADA summits.

SMILE:

- Kathryn Robins reported that SMILE has been involved in a formal strategic planning process with a professional facilitator. Growth opportunities have been reviewed. SMILE has grown 10 % financially but consumers are up 34%. SMILE has a free phone

distribution program for people who have a hearing disability that has contributed to the growth.. SMILE also has an expanded home modification program. Kathryn did note that finding contractors for home modifications has been a challenge due to the home construction boom in the area.

- SMILE continues to expand outreach into the South Yuma County.
- SMILE continues to work with Ken Edwards and Mike Blatchford to expand the tri-CIL technology alliance.
- Finding a data base for tracking consumers to simplify the 704 report process and to address the effort to output measures is being pursued.

SRC Report:

- Ken Jacuzzi will have a written report distributed via email to all council members after the meeting is over. (Staff note: report sent out to Council)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Collaboration Committee.

- Fernando Cruz reported the Committee recently met. They have a new member, Shelley Norris.
- Work continues with the PCA toolkit. Currently copyright licensing is being discussed. Tony DiRienzi stated he will report more on copyright negotiations during his ED report.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Ken Edwards reported that now with the new committee members he will be calling for a meeting soon.

Nominating Committee

- Donna Powers stated that there are six positions opening up in June 2006. The Committee recently met to discuss possible new candidates. They are looking to fill gaps on the SILC in the areas of disability, ethnicity, geography and age. The Committee discussed diversifying the composition of the Council by including representation from the multiple chemical sensitivity community, from the mental health community, a young person and someone from a university disability resources center.
- Tony DiRienzi reported that Olan Williams sent a letter of resignation recently and is no longer on the Council.

Outreach Committee.

- No report.

Public Policy Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

- Sherri Collins reported the Committee is looking forward to working with the new Committee members of Naomi Ortiz and Kim March-Force.
- Legislative items are being discussed by the Committee and include; audio prescriptions, parking permits, PCA bowel and bladder issues, VR full match support of federal funds and a project in Tucson called Looping Arizona.
- There is a need for funding for a new position dedicated as an Emergency Program Coordinator. (See handout on the position description). The Committee recommended

approval for moving forward to seek funding for the position. Ken Jacuzzi noted a correction on a type-o given to staff on the document.

Ken Edwards moved to accept the recommendation to move forward on seeking funding for an Emergency Program Coordinator position. Seconded by John Hunter. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

- Sherri reported the first IL Task Force meeting will be February 24, 2006. An invitation will be going out soon to the disability organizations invited to be part of the Task Force. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Frank Turk. Tony DiRienzi added the location will be at the Barton Barr Library in Central Phoenix.
- Sherri requested everyone look into the 211 website and make sure their organization is listed on the site.
- The Committee is going to create a position paper for builders/buildings listing accessibility considerations for all types of disabilities accommodations not just ramps and wide doors.
- There will be a survey conducted to seek information from the disability community on voter demographics.
- Ken Edwards commented that the parking permit legislative issue is important and he would like to be involved with that item.

Executive Director Report:

Conference/Activities/Event Report:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that two days ago he sat in on a planning committee for the emergency preparedness design team for drills. SILC is very involved in emergency preparedness. Tony did a presentation in Pinal County recently on EP and on IL. The SILC office is receiving a considerable requests from various agencies for presentations related to emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, disability awareness & etiquette, and IL philosophy.
- SILC is identified in the state emergency plan with various responsibilities. SILC does not currently have the staff capacity commensurate to those responsibilities. As previously discussed in the meeting the need for an Emergency Coordinator at SILC is critical. A thanks was given to Randy Collins and Ez Bachand for their extra efforts regarding EP.

Contract Updates:

- Tony DiRienzi reported the new performance based contract with RSA seems to be working well.
- Tony said he is negotiating for copyright license with the Personal Assistance Service Center located in California. They own the copyright for materials that are ideal for PCA tool kit that Community Collaboration Committee is endeavoring to develop and distribute. A contract is being pursued for the copyright permission.

Office updates:

- Tony DiRienzi reported the office now has a new storage rack and SILC recently updated all the computers with Norton antivirus.
- Tony reported that just yesterday the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 audit report was received in the office. It was noted that the management letter from the auditor is clean and that the ratio of administrative and operating to programs expenses is improving. (Copies of the report were distributed and will be discussed at the next Quarterly meeting).

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Ken Edwards commented about the state 211 website and stated the information on the site is very good. He suggested scheduling a review and/or presentation of the site at the next meeting.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT: *Ken Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kim March-Force. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____

SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Robin Hungerford _____

SILC Secretary