

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

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer
Randy Collins, Secretary
Sherri Collins
Ken Edwards
Ted Garland
John Hunter
Lavern Lizer
Ken Jacuzzi
Kathryn Robins
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio

Council Members Absent

Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Marquita Beene
Fernando Cruz
Naomi Ortiz

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt

Guests

Paul Wilson, Mike Blatchford, Phil Pangrazio, Laura Duval and Jill S. Pleasant

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona.

Approval of Minutes: *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the minutes of September 7, 2006. Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Consent List: *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the December 7, 2006 Consent List. Seconded by John Hunter. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's Report:

Current Financials & Budget:

- Gene Heppard, Treasurer, went over the month ending October 31, 2006 financial statements (See statements).
- It was noted that SILC had some problems with receiving reimbursements from RSA in a timely manner earlier this year, but to date those problems seem to be resolved.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the month ending October 31, 2006 financials. Seconded by Sherri Collins. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

AZTAP Presentation:

- Jill S Pleasant gave a presentation on the Arizona Technology Access Program (AZTAP). Two handouts were distributed explaining the mission, focus, services and activities. Included in her handouts was contact information for AT resource centers across the state (See handouts).
- Jill noted that the program is statewide and that it recently changed their activities to increase its focus more on direct service. She also stated that their program is intended for adults and not children.
- Jill reviewed several activities of their program activity. They included:
 - 1) Equipment demonstrations
 - 2) Short-term equipment loans
 - 3) Equipment reutilization
 - 4) Alternative financing
 - 5) Public awareness
 - 6) Training and technical assisting including transition services
 - 7) Interagency coordination/collaboration.
- AZTAP holds an AT Conference each summer. The next conference will be June 24-26 at the Wigwam resort. The Exhibit hall will be open to the public.
- Jill mentioned that NAU has online AT certification and that AZTAP gives AT training for information and referral. Jill welcomed to be contacted if anyone needed more information.
Jill.Pleasant@nau.edu

Executive Committee Report:

SILC Congress 2008:

- Donna Powers reported that the SILC Congress will be in New Orleans in January. Randy Collins will represent Arizona SILC at the event.
- There was a discussion to determine if AZ SILC would be interested in hosting the Congress in 2008. Tony DiRienzi reported that he has had conversations with the California SILC executive director. It has been suggested to host the Congress in Region 9. AZ & CA SILCs will explore presenting a joint proposal to coordinate the Congress in Nevada.

Sherri Collins motioned to authorize Tony DiRienzi to move forward to bring the Congress to Region Nine if California accepts a joint coordination venture as co-host in 2008 in Nevada. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

Quarterly meeting restructure:

- Donna Powers reported that it was proposed and discussed in the Executive Committee to restructure the quarterly meetings. The intent is to allow more time for presentation and discussions at meetings. Written reports from Committees will be requested and then distributed to council members out prior to the quarterly meetings. Reports will be given in writing versus taking the time to verbally present.
- A Committee Report form will be developed. Kathryn Robins noted she has samples from the California SILC meeting she just attended.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve restructure of the quarterly meetings of written committee reports. Seconded by Gene Heppard. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved.

704 Report:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported that RSA is working on their portion of the 704 report. They have a few questions to be answered by the Feds. A copy will be sent to SILC when it is completed.
- Tony DiRienzi added that the SILC sections of the report are completed. (SILC distributed a floppy disc of their portion of the 704 at the meeting for review by the members).

RSA Report:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported that RSA is in the process of hosting focus groups to get community feedback. Next meeting is Dec. 15th at the Fiesta Inn.
- RSA is holding manager team meetings.
- They are still recruiting for staff and there is a 15 % vacancy.
- RSA has been restructured into 6 districts.
- Katharine announced that Darryl Long is now a program manager with RSA in the Western area. It was noted that Darryl will no longer be able to serve on SILC due to a conflict of interest.

Contract:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported she requested a six month contract extension for SILC.
- Tony DiRienzi said the plan is for SILC is to get a performance based contract in July with measurable outcomes as related to the SPIL. It was also noted to align the term of the contract with the 3 year term of the SPIL.

Break 11:15 – 11:35

Executive Director Report:

An Executive Director report was emailed to all Council members prior to meeting which listed Tony DiRienzi's activities and meetings (See report).

RSA Financial Review:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that SILC submitted a CAP (Corrective Action Plan) to RSA in October. SILC staff feels it is in compliance with any findings and suggestions from the review. There is a copy in the SILC office.

Contracts:

- (Previously discussed in with the RSA report).

Grants:

- Tony noted that he will slot some time and effort in the New Year towards grant writing.

Office Updates:

- Tony reported that SILC is part of a Just Vote Coordinator project. SILC has received several applications for the Organizer position. Interviews will be scheduled sometime in early January, after the holiday season. SILC will house the position initially. Long range

plans include developing the program into a free standing non profit corporation. There is a coalition supporting the funding of the position. The primary sources are ABIL and SILC.

- Tony DiRienzi announced that our computer back up files and important archival documents are stored in a safe deposit box at the local bank.
- It was also announced that the SILC office building now has punch code locks on the restroom doors.

Other Updates:

- Tony reported he will be attending a meeting with the President of U of A to be part of a Disabilities Advisory Committee. During that trip he will also be meeting with Sue Kroeger of the University's Disability Resource Center to discuss a disability studies curriculum. Sue Kroeger will be a presenter at the next SILC meeting.
- Tony reported he recently gave a presentation in Flagstaff along with Phil Pangrazio, executive director of ABIL, to ILRS Counselors. The focus of the presentation was IL philosophy and history. There also distributed to the counselors an ILRU DVD on the subject. Tony noted the DVD will be incorporated into Council member training. (A copy of the DVD was distributed to the Council).

704 Report:

- As reported earlier, SILC completed their sections of the 704 and distributed a floppy disc to members. The SILC sections are in a narrative format. Tony noted there is a section of SILC membership composition. He stated that the SILC and RSA sections will be incorporated into one document and sent to the federal RSA offices at the end of December as required.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

- There will be a SILC/RSA SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) planning retreat on January 26, 2007. The retreat is to begin the process of drafting the next 3 year SPIL. Representatives from SILC, RSA, ILRS and the CILs were invited.
- It was suggested to explore restructuring of Committees to correlate with the SPIL. It was also noted that the committees be ad hoc. They will be formed and disband as needed to realize the objectives of the SPIL.

REPORTS:

RSA Report:

- Katharine Levandowsky gave report earlier in meeting.

ILRS Report:

- Paul Wilson reported there was an ILRS annual training meeting for 3 days in Flagstaff last week. Tony DiRienzi and Phil Pangrazio gave a presentation on IL at the training. There were other presentations/training as with Americorps, State Rehab Council, person center training, funding among other topics.
- They are in the process of updating the Policy Manual.
- An important aspect to the meeting is for the counselors to have face to face contact to learn from and share with one another.

- In March there will be a video teleconference meeting of the IL Counselors. They will meet again in August then in December.

121 Report:

- Lavern Lizer reported the 121 program managers are traveling or on leave so she has no report from them.

CIL Report (Centers for Independent Living):

Kathryn Robins gave a verbal report from each CIL highlighting their activities. She also stated she will send out a written report after the meeting.

ABIL:

- ABIL has been progressing on the Disability Campus project.
- Planning is underway for the upcoming IL Summit.

ASSIST!:

- ASSIST! received two grants. One was from the Christopher Reeves foundation used for a cultural assembly to talk about issues. The other was from the Wallace Foundation used to produce a DVD to increase public awareness.
- The board of directors is in the process of bylaw revision. Expanding office facility and establishing a presence in Window Rock is on their capacity building wish list.

DIRECT & CochiseAbility:

- DIRECT is pleased with the progress attained from an Az Department of Housing grant for emergency repair.
- Recent Disability Celebration event was a success.
- New person is to be hired for a retiring Peer Counselor after 15 years of service.
- Outreach Coordinator will be moving to the Cochise Ability office.

NEW HORIZONS:

- 13 site surveys on vote polling sites were recently done.
- Outreach services continue.
- Training with staff has begun with the “Living Well” program.
- AZ Department of Development Disability awarded a contract to provide transportation services in Yavapai County.
- Funding continues to be sought for branch offices in Kingman, Flagstaff, Cottonwood and Sedona.

SMILE:

- Through outreach efforts, the first ever consumers from La Paz were enrolled in Living Well
- REBA grant was received for the Living Well program to help underwrite it. Part of the grant to be used for youth.
- The Living Well program in Yuma is the first in the country to be offered in Spanish.
- SMILE is working on a corporate image make over including a new logo. A Grant for \$5K was awarded through St. Luke’s TAP program to help with that.
- Collaboration in the working with DES on a system reform initiative.
- A consumer satisfaction phone survey is in the working by an independent evaluator.

SRC Report:

- SRC report was sent to all prior to Quarterly meeting (see handout).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Collaboration Committee:

- Gene Heppard reported the Committee has finished up some projects and is beginning a new project on a disability events calendar. The project currently in the beginning stages and more information will be shared at that next meeting.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Kathryn Robins reported they met last month to discuss capacity building and serving unserved areas.
- Work is happening regarding a proposition to go to the legislature to support an IL initiative.
- The Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

Nominating & Membership Committee

- There are several vacancies to fill.
- Revisions to the Executive Order have been made and will be submitted to the Governor's office when they meet to go over new members requests.

Outreach Committee.

- John Hunter reported that the Committee has met and set up a plan for outreach workshops to have this Fiscal Year. They are looking to have workshops in Kingman, Parker and the South Phoenix area.
- The Committee has participated in a sports expo and the VRATE conference. They will be at the Legislative Awareness Day and the Disability Expo. John noted that materials distributed at events are being reviewed to make them more accessible to as many reading levels as possible.
- John announced that due to personal reasons he will be leaving the Council. He still hopes to be part of SILC actions in some way. John will be missed and was thanked for his time and efforts with SILC.

Public Policy Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee:

- Sherri Collins reported the Committee approved allocating \$10K to the Just Vote project and \$10K for the legislative training day on January 31, 2007. Money was also allocated for the IL Summit to be in August. The Committee also voted to support a visitability policy legislation.
- Regarding Emergency Preparedness it was noted that there has been continued effort towards having a possible position created with the state specifically related EP for People with Disabilities. An EP job description was created by SILC and SILC advocated for the position to be at the Division of Emergency Management. It was recently announced that DEMA assigned an existing staff person the responsibility of coordinating special needs considerations. The council is impressed that it is not a full time position but just an addition of the duties to the staff person's current workload. It was suggested to have a presentation to SILC by the Coordinator so SILC can learn more about the position. Tony DiRienzi added that there will be an EP specific track at the IL Summit and suggested that

perhaps an exchange at the Summit with the Coordinator and the disability community so all can understand expectations and realities.

- Sherri stated her office will be introducing a bill that involves education on the t-coil benefits. She also mentioned there is a lawsuit in place against AMC theaters, that quality of captioning is a concern and that fraud with the relay service is also a concern.
- Sherri thanked the Council for their support sent during her recent surgery for cochlear implants.

PUBLIC ANNOUCMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Thanks were acknowledged again to John Hunter and to Darryl Long for their efforts serving on SILC.
- Randy Collins noted that that Senior Center in Cottonwood is an excellent facility.

ADJOURNMENT: *Gene Heppard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by John Hunter. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Randy Collins _____SILC Secretary