

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council – Quarterly meeting
Minutes of December 18, 2008

Council Members Present

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair*
Randy Collins, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer*
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels, V. Treasurer
Rudy Buchanan, Secretary*
Sherri Collins
Fernando Cruz
Wendy Dewey*
Ted Garland*
Suzanne Malson*
Georgia McLaughlin*
Jenn-Yun Tein
Gail Wilt
Joe Lee Yazzie*
(* teleconference)

Council Members Absent

Ken Edwards
Ken Jacuzzi
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio
Ashleigh Turner
Alan Strauss
Alfred Zulli Jr.

Staff

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

Guests

Chris Deere, Bob Michaels and April Reed

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Edward Myers III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM at the SILC office, 2400 North Central Ave. Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Council members outside the Phoenix metropolitan area participated via teleconference.

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

Approval of Consent List: *Gail Wilt motioned to approve the Consent List for December 18, 2008. Seconded by Jenn-Yun Tein. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's Report:

Financials

- Gene Heppard reviewed the financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2008. The statements were distributed by email prior to the meeting. (See financial statements). The statements presented included; 1) the monthly balance sheet, 2) the monthly financial statement of activities, and 3) a comprehensive YTD statement. Gene explained that revisions to the statements were implemented to present not only an overview of all income and expenses, but also to indicate activity relative to specific SILC fund resources and accounts. Detailed individual reports for specific fund accounts, (i.e., RSA-VR, RSA-Part B, Just Vote Arizona, Special Projects and Unrestricted) can be generated at any time. There is a binder with hard copies of monthly statements for each fund account always available in the SILC office for any one review.
- It was also noted that the financial statements have been reformatted to indicate the prior fiscal year carryover amounts as a notation at the bottom of the statements. They were previously listed inappropriately. Tony noted that there are no carryover funds associated with the RSA funding streams.
- Tony also commented that the SILC accountant and auditor advised us; 1) on implementing accounting procedures to indicate fund allocations and 2) how to reformat the statements. Their advice was based on the findings in the OSERS/RSA site review report. The budget was revised accordingly.

Sherri Collins motioned to approve the financial report for month ending November 30, 2008 as presented. Seconded by Suzanne Malson. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Audit

- Tony DiRienzi reported the SILC auditor will soon be completing the SILC audit report. When it is finished the audit report will be distributed to council members for their review. The auditor is available to make a presentation to the Council at the March quarterly meeting if requested. No requests were forthcoming from council members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Board Retreat Follow-up Vision, Mission & Core Values:

- Edward Myers reviewed the various versions of the SILC vision, mission and core values statements as drafted at our retreat in September. (See handout). The Council reviewed and discussed the options. Some language revisions were suggested for the final version.

Gail Wilt motioned to approve the Vision, Mission and Core Values as amended with the word “differences” changed to “diversity” and with the forth bullet point about families under core values changed to say “we believe: Along with individuals with disabilities, families can be effective advocates for adults and children with disabilities”.

Seconded by Rudy Buchanan. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

704 Report:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that RSA and SILC are jointly responsible for completing and signing the Annual 704 Report. It is document that presents to OSERS/RSA 1) an overview of IL activities and programs, 2) how federal IL funds were expended, and 3) if the IL activities and programs are in compliance with the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The sections of the report that SILC drafted were reviewed by AZRSA. Copies of those sections were distributed the Council members prior to the meeting for their consideration and comment. (See 704 report) Chris Deere, staff at AZRSA stated that AZRSA had some minor grammatical edits after reviewing the SILC draft. The 704 report is due at OSERS by end of December.

SILC Vice Treasurer:

- Ed reported that E. Mari Herrera-Daniels has agreed to accept the vacant position of SILC Vice Treasurer.

Sherrri Collins motioned to approve E. Mari Herrera-Daniels as the SILC Vice Treasurer. Seconded by Gail Wilt. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

SILC Membership:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that he and Sharon Engelhardt recently met with staff at the Governor’s Boards and Commissions office to compare and review our respective council members’ list, with particular attention to term expirations. If nominations for candidates to recommend to the Boards and Commissions office are needed that should be an agenda item for our next quarterly meeting in March.

- It was noted that staff changes may soon be occurring at the AZ Boards and commission office with the imminent departure of Governor Napolitano and the succession of Jan Brewer as Governor.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

- Tony DiRienzi reported that in May the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) conducted a site review of Arizona Rehabilitation Services (AZRSA) and SILC. In the site review report there were two findings related to SILC. They were;
 - 1) In the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) contracts with CochiseAbility and CyberCIL involving Part B money should be administered through AZRSA and not SILC. That has been addressed and we are in compliance.
 - 2) SILC needs to revise their accounting system to attribute and allocate expenses and income to specific fund accounts. We have revised our system accordingly to comply.
- SILC responded in writing to those findings and submitted a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to AZRSA for them to incorporate into their response that will subsequently be submitted to OSERS.

AZRSA (Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration) REPORT & ILRS (Independent Living Rehabilitation Services) REPORT:

- Chris Deere said AZRSA has been working diligently to implement a new Case Management Systems in order to provide better services for clients.
- The AZRSA contracts for CochiseAbility and CyberCIL are currently being drafted and should be completed soon.
- AZRSA is addressing budget cuts related to the current economic crisis. No budget cuts for SILC are expected.
- The VR assessment survey (SNAP) was distributed.
- The proposed revisions to the AZRSA IL policy manual should be completed by February.

SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) Report:

- Tony DiRienzi introduced April Reed of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) to the council. She is the Vice Chair of the SRC and the Chair of its Nominating and Membership Committee.
- April presented an overview of the SRC. She also discussed its mission to advise, evaluate and partner with the public vocational

rehabilitation program in support of improving access to employment and promoting a diverse workforce statewide.

- SILC is statutorily required to have a representative on the SRC.
- April presented a solicitation for a SILC volunteer to serve as a SILC liaison on the SRC.

121 PROJECT REPORT:

- Suzanne Malson submitted a written 121 report that was distributed prior to the meeting (See 121 Project Report). A highlight of the report was the appointment of Norberta Carroll as the program coordinator for the White Mountain Apache Nation.
- SILC coordinated a panel to present an overview of Independent Living (IL) philosophy and services at the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) conference. The conference presentation was on November 18th in Phoenix.
- Suzanne attended a meeting as a representative of SILC of the California SILC on Dec. 2nd to discuss possibly reviving a tri-state alliance of Arizona, California, and Nevada. The focus of the alliance will be to explore how to effectively deliver IL programs and services to the disability community in the Colorado River basin.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE:

- In the absence of Al Zulli the committee chair Tony reported for the committee. Of particular note associated with the committee's goal of establishing business partnerships goal, ten people with disabilities who own and/or operate successful enterprises met recently to explore establishing a disability chamber of commerce. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2009.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

- Rudy Buchanan reported that the Community Outreach Information and Network (COIN) met at the SILC office and want to schedule a date for SILC to do another outreach presentation on the Salt River Indian Community.
- The SILC Outreach Committee would also like to conduct a presentation in Fort Mohave.
- Jenn-Yun Tein reported that outreach efforts to the Asian Community are in progress. SILC will have a table at the Chinese Cultural Festival on February 6, 7 & 8, 2009

- Donna Powers reported that a woman's forum outreach event is planned. Tentative dates being considered are in May or June 2009.
- Donna also added that SILC is exploring how its outreach presentations can be taken on the road around Arizona.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE:

- Gail reported that at the Committee's last meeting they voted to approve hiring a consultant to research the various federal funding sources coming into Arizona related to providing disability programs and services.
- The Committee is also exploring conducting a survey of medical facilities to evaluate accessibility.
- Members expressed concerns about the state funding for the Freedom To Work program. They requested staff to draft a letter of support for continued program support to pertinent policy makers.
- Tony DiRienzi added that the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Task Force report is being disseminated and is available on the Arizona Disability Post website. (www.azdisabilitypost.org)

PROGRAM COORDINATORS REPORT:

- Donna Powers stated she is available to conduct presentations about the Arizona Disability Post website. Disability Post promotional items were distributed.
- Donna assisted Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) on the drafting and submission of a contract proposal to the City of Phoenix. The focus of the proposal is to monitor the Para transit dial-a-ride program. ABIL was awarded the contract.
- Donna reported that the Tempe transit department contacted her and wants to collaborate with SILC on their disability awareness training.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

National Council on Disabilities (NCD):

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the National Council on Disability will be meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona on January, 12, 13 and 14, 2009. SILC and ABIL are providing local logistical support. Tony along with Randy Collins will be part of a panel discussion on emerging trends in the southwest. There will be opportunity for public comment on all three days of the NCD meeting and Council members were encouraged to attend.

Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) events:

- The SILC office is scheduled to move to the DEC on December 30, 2008.

SILC Congress:

- Tony will be representing Arizona at the National SILC Congress January 3-7, 2009.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- No Comments.

ADJOURNMENT: *Sherri Collins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gene Heppard. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC Staff

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