

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

Council Members Present

Donna Powers, Chairperson
Edward L. Myers, III, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
Kim March-Force, Vice Treasurer
Randy Collins, Secretary
Sherri Collins
Fernando Cruz
Ted Garland
Ken Edwards
Ken Jacuzzi
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio
Kathryn Robins
Suzanne Malson
Georgia McLaughlin
Jenn-Yun Tein
Ashleigh Turner
Gail Wilt
Joe Lee Yazzie
Al Zulli Jr.

Council Members Absent

Staff

Tony DiRienzi
Sharon Engelhardt

Guests

Chris Deere, David Carey, Mike Blatchford, Bert Rios, Matt Bramble and Jeff Christensen

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Donna Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM at the Wingate Hotel 2520 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: *Edward Myers III motioned to approve the minutes of September 20, 2007. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Consent List:

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the Consent List for December 20, 2007. Seconded by Al Zulli. 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, 2007 (see financial statements).
- Gene noted the program budget seems under spent, but he said that the situation is typical in the SILC budget cycle. Much of the program budget is usually expended in the second half of the fiscal year.
- Gene also noted the financial statements have been revised - the prior year column on the Statement of Activity has been reinserted. The council decided at the last quarterly meeting that the prior year column is helpful.
- Additionally, the term prior year liability on the balance sheet was changed to SUDS future payment for clarification. Tony explained the history of the liability. He stated that SILC had a short lived now defunct for profit subsidiary named SUDS (Statewide Universal Design Systems). Attorney fees related to establishing that endeavor were outstanding when he started at SILC. Tony conferred with the attorneys and they agreed to reduce the balance outstanding from approximately \$10,000 to \$2,150, and hold that amount in abeyance until such time that the subsidiary of SILC is reactive and generating revenues.

Audit

- An independent audit of SILC for FY 2006-2007 was conducted earlier this month. The final draft of the audit report will be presented at the next Quarterly meeting in March 2008.

Ken Jacuzzi motioned to approve the financials as presented. Seconded by Jenn-Yun Tein. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Kathryn Robins abstained.

OSERS/RSA SITE REVIEW: OSERS/RSA (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration)

- Sean Barrett with OSERS/RSA in Washington DC joined the meeting by teleconference.
- OSERS will be conducting a site visit in Arizona to review AZRSA and SILC. Mr. Barrett explained the review process. He stated that the audit team will focus on 3 main areas related to the Rehab Act; 1) What AZ is doing that is not in compliance, 2) What AZ needs to be better, and 3) What AZ is doing well and may serve as a best practice model for other states.
- Mr. Barrett asked council members to suggest topics areas that they think OSERS should focus on when they visit. Council members suggested; culturally competent programming needs, lack of services on reservations, the need for a tri state collaboration (Arizona, California, and Nevada) to allow consumers to access federally funded programs across state lines, CIL expansion to establish branch/satellite offices in unserved/ underserved areas, CIL technical assistance , CIL funding and IL community collaboration for universal housing.
- Mr. Barrett said he could be directly contacted at Sean.Barret@ed.gov, if anyone had any additional comments after the meeting.

Executive Committee Report:

704 Report:

- Donna Powers reported that SILC finished the sections of 704 Report it is responsible to complete. The report was submitted in early November to AZ RSA. RSA is responsible to complete some sections of the report as well. SILC reviews and comments on the sections as RSA completes them. The report is due at OSERS by December 31, 2007

SILC Congress (January 2008):

- The SILC Congress will be in January in New Orleans. Ken Edwards will be representing Arizona SILC.

Committees:

- Donna Powers reviewed for new members that SILC has two standing committees – the Executive and the Membership and Nominating Committees. All other committees are ad hoc. They are Public Policy, Community Collaboration and Outreach. SILC may also convene advisory panels for specific projects and issues.
- Donna contacted all the council members individually to discuss with them where they might best serve on a committee.
- The Outreach committee will meet today after the Quarterly meeting. All other Committees have scheduled meetings soon.

AZRSA REPORT:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported that AZ RSA is preparing for the OSERS/RSA site review visit in March.
- Katharine also reported that because of the State budget crisis DES is projected to have a deficit. RSA is looking at ways to cut back. She noted that RSA is considering implementing an order of selection for services. With an order of selection the 3 priority categories are: 1) most significantly disabled 2) significantly disabled and 3) less disabled.
- If RSA is projected to have its state funding reduced SILC could help with letting policy makers know how cutting services will impact the disability community.
- It was requested that SILC draft a RSA funding fact sheet for advocacy efforts. SILC staff will distribute the fact sheet to policy makers.
- RSA is also working on a legislative proposal that would exempt the Arizona Industry for the Blind from state procurement protocols for purchasing good and services. The current protocols are difficult for AIB. The protocols make AIB unable to competitively apply for contracts.

Break

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) ISSUES:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the DME (Durable Medical Equipment) Summit was held on October 31st. Sixty-seven people attended. A follow-up meetings with

Manage Care providers DME vendors, consumers, and other stakeholders will be scheduled.

- The goal of these meetings is to create a Task Force that will include representatives from each of the various stakeholder groups. The goal of the Task Force will be to draft a written document with recommendations to policy makers for implementing some systemic changes.
- Jeff Christenson and Matt Brumble from Southwest Medical & Rehab gave a power point presentation (See PPP) on Durable Medical Equipment Delivery Systems which included a glossary of terms, reimbursement schedules for DME, common practices that referenced healthcare costs, consumer choice: service delivery, and consumer complaints and grievances. They also provided some suggestions for change.

121 Report:

- Suzanne Malson gave the 121 report. She distributed 2 handouts. (See handouts).
- The first handout highlighted a recent meeting with the California SILC and the VR 121 Project Directors that was held on Dec. 7, 2007.
- The second handout listed the (a) findings and (b) outreach to minorities for traditionally underserved populations with respect to the programs authorized in the Rehab Act.
- Suzanne also suggested reconvening a Tri-State Summit (Arizona, California, and Nevada) and that a life-skills training to assist tribal communities be explored.

SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) Report:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the SPIL goals and objectives correspond with the tasks and responsibilities of the various committees.
- Currently the Public Policy Committee is working on the DME issue. The Community Collaboration Committee will be focusing on business partnerships. The Outreach Committee will conduct at least three outreach presentations to unserved and underserved populations. Their focus this year will be the African American, Native American, and Spanish speaking communities.

Other reports:

SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) Report:

- Ken Jacuzzi prepared a SRC report highlighting the SRC 11-15-07 meeting (see report). The report was distributed for review.

CIL Networking & Resources Committee:

- Kathryn Robins prepared a CIL report of activity from DIRECT, SMILE and New Horizons (See report). Highlights included, Ann Meyer has accepted a job with Pima superior court and resigned as the executive director and SMILE has had an unusual high staff turnover, with 4 positions currently vacant.
- The CIL Executive Directors will have their quarterly meeting tomorrow (Dec. 21) at the SILC office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

- Tony DiRienzi stated that on the agenda for the CIL ED meeting tomorrow they will be reviewing and exploring changes in the boundaries of the respective service area for each CIL.
- Tony reported that the independent auditor finished his on site examination last week and is currently working on the audit report for FY 2006- 2007.
- The SILC Program Coordinator position was distributed and applications are currently being accepted.
- New membership orientations have occurred for the recent additions to SILC membership.
- The work related to the DME (Durable Medical Equipment) has been the main focus of late for SILC staff.
- The Just Vote Arizona (JVA) Project is working on coordinating the National Disability Vote Alliance Summit scheduled in April. JVA is the host for the annual national event.
- SILC is set up with Wells Fargo Bank to accept credit card payments as a vendor and is also completing the documentation to receive a credit card to purchase goods and services.

PUBLIC ANNOUCMENTS/ MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Randy Collins commented that perhaps honorariums for presentations that some of the council members are offered but cannot receive might be redirected as donations to SILC. It was noted that council members must be careful to avoid a conflict of interest especially if they are a state employee.
- Fernando Cruz distributed a save the date postcard for the 4th Annual Urban American Indians Disability Summit to be on March 19, 2008 (See handout).

ADJOURNMENT: *Edward Myers III motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ken Jacuzzi. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC Staff

Reviewed by: Tony DiRienzi _____ SILC ED