

Statewide Independent Living Council  
Full Council – Quarterly meeting  
Minutes of June 18, 2009

**Council Members Present**

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair	Ken Jacuzzi
Randy Collins, Vice Chair	Suzanne Malson
Gene Heppard, Treasurer	Georgia McLaughlin
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels, V. Treasurer	Bob Michaels
Rudy Buchanan, Secretary	Jenn-Yun Tein
Fernando Cruz	Gail Wilt
Sherri Collins	Joe Lee Yazzie
Ken Edwards	Alfred Zulli Jr.
Ted Garland	Ed House (for Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio)

**Council Members Absent**

Wendy Dewey	Ashleigh Turner
Alan Strauss	

**Staff**

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

**Guests**

Chris Deere, Sarah Cedarface, Peri Jude Radecic, Helen McLaughlin and Mary Garland.

**Welcome/ Introductions:**

- Edward Myers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM at the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) Conference room, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034.

**Approval of Minutes: Gene Heppard motioned to approve the minutes of March 19, 2009. Seconded by Ken Edwards. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**Approval of Consent List: Gene Heppard motioned to approve the Consent List for June 18, 2009. Seconded by Suzanne Malson. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.**

## **Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) Video:**

- A video showcasing the DEC was shown.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

The financial statements for the meeting 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, 3) a comprehensive YTD statement, 4) a recommended budget to balance the June ending SILC budget, and 5) a draft budget for the FY2010.

## **FY Budget 2009-2010**

- Tony DiRienzi announced AZ RSA recently told him that due to the current state economic crisis SILC should expect a budget cut of 4.9% for FY 2010. The proposed FY2010 budget he drafted reflects that cut. Tony noted that the FY 2010 projections for contributions (\$15,000) and grants (0) are also related to the economic crisis. The total budget for FY 2010 is \$327,331. That figure includes in-kind and using some net assets.

***Alfred Zulli motioned to approve the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. Seconded by Jenn-Yun Tein. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

## **Financials**

- Gene Heppard reviewed the financial statements for the month ending May 31, 2009.
- Tony DiRienzi stated some program costs will be expensed in June and that we are on target with State Plan for Independent Living objectives.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds have been allocated to Arizona designated for IL programming. SILC is collaborating with the Center's and AZ RSA to coordinate efforts to draw down those funds.

***Jenn-Yun Tein motioned to approve the financial report for month ending May 31, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Alfred Zulli. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

### **ADA Conference Report:**

- There will be an ADA conference at the Disability Empowerment Center on October 1, 2009. The agenda includes presentations by the American Association for People with Disabilities and the Department of Justice.

- The Arizona ADA office will be closed indefinitely as of July 1, 2009. It was suggested that the SILC Executive Committee address the issue and present to the Governor a formal position about the office closing.

RSA Contract FY09-10:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that SILC has one more year on the current contract. The annual contract amendment was signed and accepted.

Proposed Meeting schedule FY 09-10:

- A proposed meeting schedule listing the next FY quarterly meeting dates was distributed prior to the meeting. (See handout). The 3rd Thursday of the 3rd month of each quarter are the proposed meeting dates; Sept. 17, 2009, Dec. 17, 2009, March 18, 2010 and June 17, 2010.
- The Executive Committee decided that SILC committee reports be presented every other quarterly meeting, in order to schedule more time for disability issue oriented presentations and discussions.

Membership:

- Edward Myers reported that 8 council members have agreed to be nominated for reappointment and there are 2 recommendations of candidates for new appointments. The recommendations are ready to present to the Governor's office. The candidates for reappointments are; Randy Collins, Ken Edwards, Theodore Garland, Gene Heppard, Edward Myers, Wendy Dewey, Sherri Collins and Fernando Cruz, and the 2 new appointment candidates are Jami Snyder and Sonya Perduta-Fulginiti.

***Bob Michaels motioned to approve to present the SILC recommendations for reappointment and new appointment. Seconded by Gail Wilt. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

- Edward Myers announced that Ken Jacuzzi's term will end at the end of June. An award was presented to Ken in acknowledgement and gratitude for his dedication and service to SILC.

Election of Officers:

- Rudy Buchanan, Secretary, conducted the election for the Chair and Vice Chair. An election ballot was distributed. (See ballot handout).
- Rudy Buchanan stated that Edward Myers has agreed to serve again as Chair and Randy Collins has agreed to serve again as Vice Chair. Rudy opened up the floor for nominations for both positions. There were no other nominations.

***Ken Jacuzzi motioned that in the absence of other nominees to elect, Edward Myers and Randy Collins, be elected respectively as Chair and Vice Chair, by acclamation. Seconded by Gail Wilt. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

### SILC Staff Performance Evaluations:

- Edward Myers requested a motion to go into Executive Session to review and consider the executive director's performance evaluation.

***Gail Wilt motioned to go into executive session to review and consider the staff performance evaluation. Seconded by Ted Garland. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.***

- (The council was in executive session from 10:02 to 10:17 AM)

### STATE BUDGET CRISIS:

- Peri Jude Radecic, Director of the Arizona Center for Disability Law, conducted a presentation and facilitated a discussion about the state budget crisis. She focused on budget items that adversely impact disability related programs and services.
- Peri suggested paying attention not only on the proposed appropriations in the budget but, also to proposed statutes or amendments to statutes. She pointed out that funding for programs and services can be affected by either appropriations and/or statutes. She encouraged council members to be strong advocates and recommended that SILC continue to be involved with the Arizona Budget Coalition.

### AZ AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) IL FUNDS:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that ARRA Part B and Part C funds have been allocated to Arizona to enhance Independent Living services.
- There is \$281,463.00 available for Part B. Tony said he is in discussions with AZ RSA about how those funds might be used. He proposed using the funds to enhance and expand advocacy efforts. Some of his suggestions include; a statewide youth leadership development and training, establishing an Arizona Disability Chamber of Commerce, the IL Summit, among other considerations.
- There are also approximately 1.8 million dollars in ARRA Part C funds available to the Centers for Independent Living (CILs). SILC and AZ RSA are charged with creating a formula for how the funds will be dispersed among the CILs and to oversee that the proposed use of those funds is in compliance with the current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).
- It was also reported that there are ARRA funds allocated for Arizona to enhance VR, and aging and blind services.

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING (NCIL) REPORT:**

- Donna Powers conducted a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the 2009 National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) annual conference held in Washington D.C. (See presentation). She and Bob Michaels attended the conference as SILC representatives. They distributed list of national legislative and advocacy priorities. (See handout).

### **NEEDS ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE:**

- Bob Michaels conducted a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the SILC Needs Assessment Task Force (See presentation). Bob recognized and thanked Jenn-Yun Tein for her help on the task force. The presentation included topics such as; why do a needs assessment, targets for assessments, problems with data comparisons, data associated with the CILs, and the importance of consumer satisfaction.

### **DISABILITY VOTE COALITION:**

- Tony DiRienzi reported that E. Mari Herrera-Daniels has worked with him on reactivating the Just Vote Arizona (JVA) Disability Coalition.
- E. Mari told council members that for the JVA to succeed they will need to participate. She asked them to be ready to help with registering people with disabilities and others to vote and on getting voters out to the polls on Election Day.
- Tony will soon be distributing a job announcement in search of someone to hire as the JVA Community Organizer. The Arizona Center for Disability Law is very active in supporting that position.
- Tony mentioned that for the next IL Summit there will be a track dedicated to voter registration and “Get out the Vote” strategies.

### **Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZ RSA) REPORT:**

- Ed House attended as a representative for Katharine Levandowsky who was unable to be at the meeting. He reported that AZ RSA is currently developing a strategic plan. He noted that staff and community stakeholders are exploring and identifying various issues related to IL.
- He also reported that AZ RSA has made no final decisions about how they want the ARRA Part B funds to be used.
- Tony added that he has participated in the strategic planning meetings.
- Tony also said he hopes AZ RSA will consider that the SILC proposals for the use of ARRA Part B funds have merit and that they will support those proposals.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

- Tony DiRienzi reported that Partners in Policymaking is currently accepting applications for their leadership training program. A handout about the training was distributed. (See handout). Tony endorsed the program and noted that it is an excellent training.
- Tony applauded Donna Powers, SILC Program Coordinator, for her outstanding efforts on coordinating the first SILC Women’s Forum. There were over 70 participants.
- He also noted that Donna was instrumental in developing and negotiating a contract with Veiola Transportation Company to provide transit operators with disability awareness and etiquette trainings.
- Tony will be leaving for Tucson directly after the meeting today to attend the Annual Society for Disabilities Studies Conference.
- Tony announced that Sharon Engelhardt, the SILC Executive Assistant, will be resigning from SILC. She is scheduled to leave at the end of October. The transition plan includes hiring someone for that position prior to Sharon’s departure and providing them with a brief period to shadow Sharon.

**PUBLIC ANNOUCMENTS**

- Alfred Zulli announced that Wendy Dewey will be returning to work today at DIRECT, Center for Independent Living and that the Center staff and board of directors are happy to have her back.
- Edward Myers announced that the Arizona Center for Disability Law will be conducting public forums to present their priorities for public comment. Information will be distributed to council members and others listing the dates, times and locations of the forums.

**MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Ken Jacuzzi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sherri Collins. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.*

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

Reviewed by: Rudy Buchanan / Tony DiRienzi \_\_\_\_\_ SILC Secretary / SILC ED