

Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council – Quarterly meeting
Minutes of September 17, 2009

Council Members Present

Edward L. Myers, III, Chair
Randy Collins, Vice Chair
Gene Heppard, Treasurer
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels, V. Treasurer
Fernando Cruz
Ted Garland
Katharine Levandowsky, Ex-Officio
Suzanne Malson

Georgia McLaughlin
Bob Michaels
Sonya Perduta-Fulginiti
Alan Strauss
Jami Snyder
Jenn-Yun Tein
Joe Lee Yazzie
Alfred Zulli Jr.

Council Members Absent

Rudy Buchanan
Sherri Collins
Wendy Dewey

Ken Edwards
Ashleigh Turner
Gail Wilt

Staff

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

Guests

Linda Jane Austen, Chris Deere, Daniella Yaloz, Shannon Franklin and Mary Garland.

Welcome/ Introductions:

- Edward Myers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM at the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) Conference room, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034. Following introductions, Jami Snyder and Sonya Perduta-Fulginiti were welcomed as new council members and it was announced that Linda Jane Austen would be joining the SILC staff on October 1, 2009.

Approval of Minutes: *Bob Michaels motioned to approve the minutes of June 18, 2009. Seconded by Georgia McLaughlin. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Approval of Consent List: *Bob Michaels motioned to approve the Consent List for September 17, 2009. Seconded by Al Zulli. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's Report:

The monthly balance sheet, the monthly financial statement of activities and a comprehensive YTD statement for the month ending August 31, 2009 were distributed prior to the meeting and subsequently reviewed by Gene Heppard. It was noted that the SILC office maintains a binder containing all financial details for review by council members as requested. Tony DiRienzi pointed out that fiscal year ending carry over amounts (previously listed as footnotes at the end of the financial statements) have been removed at the suggestion of the auditor.

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

Audit: A third party independent audit is scheduled for the last week of October after which the auditor will be available to present his report to the Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

ARRA Funds:

- Ed Myers reported that the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) must be amended prior to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds coming into Arizona. Tony DiRienzi is currently in the process of working with AZ Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to make the necessary changes.
- Tony commented that the ARRA process has been complicated along with miscommunication regarding 2-year versus 5-year budgets. Ultimately, however, the monies will be split amongst the five Arizona CILs and the September 2010 IL Summit.

Legislative Issues:

- The state budget for Arizona has not been finalized.
- Edward Myers reported that the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities was dissolved effective July 1, 2009, but that the Governor has recently formed a Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC). The first meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009 and Ed has been asked to participate as a member.

- Tony DiRienzi reported that SILC hosts the monthly meetings of the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition (AZDAC), a diverse group of disability organizations dedicated to discussing legislative issues. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month and SILC members are welcome to bring legislative issues to the table at this time. New SILC member Jami Snyder was one of the initial founders of AZDAC.
- Tony reported that Durable Medical Equipment (DME) efforts are currently on hold due to state budget issues.
- Ed Myers announced that Ken Jacuzzi's term ended June 30, 2009. An award was presented to Ken in acknowledgement and gratitude for his ongoing dedication and service to SILC.

DISABILITY VOTE COALITION REPORT:

- Daniella Yaloz, Community Organizer for the Just Vote Arizona Disability Coalition (JVADC), was introduced and reported on the progress of the newly revamped JVADC.
- The main goal of the coalition is to establish and sustain a statewide network of grassroots disability related organizations and interested individuals that will promote and support voter participation activities across Arizona. Daniella stated that recent disability voting statistics indicate Arizona is second in the nation for voter turnout for people with disabilities; she will e-mail this study and statistics to the Council.
- Additionally, the website is being reconstructed as part of this effort and will include new items such as coalition members and advocacy links.
- Tony DiRienzi further commented that Arizona may host the National Disability Vote Alliance Summit in the near future.

AURORA FOUNDATION PRESENTATION:

- Shannon Franklin with the Aurora Foundation in Tucson gave a Power Point presentation on Aurora and how Arizona SILC and Aurora might be able to collaborate. (See Power Point Presentation)
- Aurora is requesting AZ SILC's assistance in having a Phoenix presence for program expansion of their Leaders for a Lifetime Program.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE:

- Bob Michaels reported that a new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) needs to be completed in 2010 and that he and Jenn-Yun Tein are gathering information for the re-write.

- To date, data has been collected from the community colleges with the following interesting information: a) disability resource centers now deal primarily with mental disabilities rather than physical disabilities; b) although interpreting services can still be a barrier, Glendale, Mesa and Phoenix campuses attract more people with hearing impairments; and, c) disabled veterans represent an emerging area.

Break (A break was held from 11:05 – 11:20)

Following the break the Council presented a going away gift to Sharon Engelhardt and announced that Linda Jane Austen has been hired as the new SILC Executive Assistant.

Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZ RSA) REPORT:

- Katharine Levandowsky reported the state budget remains uncertain. Cuts have been made within the Department of Economic Security which will impact the 3,100 people on the waiting list and the 1,800 listed in priority 1; matching monies for programs and services might not be available.
- It was requested that the Executive Director and SILC Chairman draft a letter directed to appropriate government officials for immediate Executive Committee approval. Suggestions for the letter(s) included requesting waivers, soliciting national support through the National Council on Independent Living, and funding concerns for both Title I and Part B monies.

ILRS (Independent Living Rehabilitation Services) REPORT:

- Chris Deere reported that despite budget cuts ILRS continues to serve clients. They are working on streamlining the service process and drafting administrative code.

SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) REPORT:

- Suzanne Malson reported that although she attended the last meeting of the SRC by video conference, she has not received her official appointment through the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office. Quarterly meetings for the 121 project directors are on hold due to the budget's travel freeze.
- She also reported that the Council plans to target outreach to the Native American population in their strategic planning.

121 PROJECT REPORT:

- Suzanne Malson briefly explained Arizona's five 121 Projects (tribal vocational rehabilitation programs) and stated she had made two project presentations to the Community Outreach Integration Network (COIN) from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in May and August.
- Suzanne also stated that budget concerns are restricting travel, employment and purchases.
- Fort Mohave recently held their Honoring Disabilities Day and although the outreach committee discussed being at the event, they have decided to host a separate disability outreach activity instead.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Al Zulli reported that the Assistive Technology (AT) documentary project is on hold due to budgeting factors.
- The committee has contracted a feasibility marketing study for a Disabilities Chamber of Commerce.
- Al announced the "Articulating Disability" event to take place on October 14, 2009, featuring a movie entitled "*King Gimp*" followed by a panel discussion, questions and answers. (See flyer)
- Tony DiRienzi reported good traffic on the AZ Disability Post website with 36,000 visitors January through May. Banner ad space is now available on the site to generate monies for the site to become self sustaining.
- Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter were discussed as useful tools to increase awareness. Tony stated that Just Vote Arizona is considering adding both Facebook and Twitter networking which will be a good test for adding to other SILC websites.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Donna Powers reported that the recent outreach event held at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was a success and generated a report by the local paper and a full page article on people with disabilities. Fernando Cruz was the keynote speaker.
- Arizona Center for Disability Law had a session on Individual Education Planning at the end of the SILC outreach event.
- Donna added that following a presentation on the Tribal 121 projects, the Community Outreach Integration Network (COIN) is considering starting a new project.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Tony DiRienzi reported that the Committee has not convened recently but plans to schedule a meeting soon.
- The Public Policy Committee and the Community Collaboration Committee are partnering on the Disability Chamber of Commerce project; advocacy is part of the chamber function.
- Bob Michaels publicly thanked E. Mari Herrera-Daniels for her efforts on the Community Choice Act on healthcare.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- Donna Powers reported she has taken part in several online courses and seminars including Medicaid, transportation, SILC logic model and convening community forums. She has also conducted her own webinar session for transportation training for reaching out to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Donna has developed a curriculum entitled Passenger Assistance Sensitivity and Safety (PASS) which is being presented through an agreement with Veolia Transportation in Tempe, AZ throughout the coming year. Anyone interested in participating on the consumer panel should contact Donna. Tony DiRienzi added that SILC hopes to expand the training beyond Tempe transit and commended Donna for her hard work.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

- The earlier presentation by Aurora was discussed and it was decided that further information on their Independent Living philosophy, board composition and program curriculum was needed before moving toward a more formal relationship.
- Tony DiRienzi reported that all reappointments, as well as two new members, to the SILC membership have been officially approved.
- Tony announced that he will attend the FEMA conference on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities in October.
- The SILC office now has wifi available for wireless internet access for guests. For security purposes, this access is independent of SILC's documents and files.
- Both SILC and its accountant will download the newest version of Peachtree software soon.
- Tony reported that SILC is jointly working with the Arizona Technical Assistance Program on a symposium. Linda Jane Austen was hired on a 3-month consultancy to build the initial framework of the symposium which is on deconstructing disability by diagnosis or design.

- SILC has purchased a table top spinning prize wheel for use at outreach events. The wheel, with different disability symbols and accompanying card (see card), will be used to attract and educate visitors. Tony also noted that SILC purchased a popcorn machine with unrestricted funds to also draw attention to the SILC booth at events.
- SILC is supporting Southwest Medical & Rehabilitation in a durable medical equipment battery clinic they are holding at the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) next month.
- Tony distributed a flyer announcing a going away party for Sharon and Ken to be held October 23, 2009 at the DEC. (See flyer)

PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENTS

- Tony DiRienzi stated that there is an online class available called “Smooth as SILC” for any Council members interested in participating.
- Fernando Cruz announced the date for the next Native Americans Disabilities Summit for March 17, 2010. The event will be in Tempe.

MAY CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT: *Bob Michaels motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Georgia McLaughlin. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.*

Prepared by: Sharon Engelhardt _____ SILC Staff

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