

**Statewide Independent Living Council
Full Council - Special SPIL Meeting
SILC Offices
5025 E Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034**

Minutes of Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Present:

Suzanne Malson
Jenn-Yun Tein
Edward Myers
Bob Michaels
Sherri Collins
Randy Collins
Fernando Cruz
Rudy Buchanan

Teleconferencing:

Ted Garland
Gail Wilt
Wendy Dewey
Alan Strauss
Gene Heppard
Liz Toone
Ken Edwards
E. Mari Herrera-Daniels
Mary Bradley
Joe Lee Yazzie

Guests:

Kathy Levandowsky
Chris Deere
Ez Bachand

Staff:

Tony DiRienzi
Donna Powers
Linda Jane Austen

Edward Myers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35am and announced that a quorum was present.

Executive Committee Report: Ed Myers confirmed that there is no draft SPIL. Tony DiRienzi responded that SILC staff and AZRSA continue discussing goals and objectives, that SILC and AZRSA have both prepared narrative with the exception of that relating to evaluation, but that a signed document is due to OSERS on or before June 30, 2010. Following discussion on protocol for the public forum process, the general consensus was that the SPIL must be available for review with a 30 day notice to the public prior to the actual forum taking place. If that protocol is followed, both federal and state guidelines should be accommodated.

When questioned whether requesting an extension for submitting the SPIL may be an option, Kathy Levandowsky replied that it is a possibility, but that the federal government will not guarantee its ability to review and approve the SPIL in time for funding at the start of the fiscal year in October. Additionally, she reminded the Council that SPIL partners (AZRSA, SILC, CILs) will not receive their Chapter I funding without an approved SPIL in place. There was further discussion regarding the potential impact to the CILs FY 11 and/or FY 12 budgets.

Kathy and Chris Deere reiterated that AZRSA is committed to completing the plan but there are divergent opinions regarding whether SILC's budget and the SPIL Goals and Objectives are two separate things. Tony responded that from SILC's perspective they are inextricably connected because the IL resource plan is included in the SPIL to which Kathy countered that specific SILC Goals and Objectives are only a small part of the plan.

In regard to Goals and Objectives, Tony advised the Council that SILC initiated the process of identifying Goals and Objectives in late March and that work has been back and forth between SILC and AZRSA since that time. Tony expressed concern that the latest revisions from AZRSA indicate many tasks are to be completed in house and that costs related to executing these Goals and Objectives have been eliminated to which Chris replied that these are tasks which represent manpower hours as requisite resources. However, although manpower may represent a majority of expenses, other costs such as travel and teleconferencing for convening meetings, monitoring the SPIL and evaluation need to be considered and that it is imperative to sit down and mutually agree to these costs.

Lively discussion ensued regarding SILC's status as a sole source provider. Although each state is mandated to have a SILC with required functions to perform (for example, SILC calls and convenes meetings as a sole source), but, other services must be go out for competitive bid due to the fact there is no evidence that SILC is the only organization capable of providing these additional services. SILC is encouraged to apply for inclusion on the State's Vendor List at which point it, too, can be a competitive bidder on activities related to the SPIL Goals and Objectives and if awarded would receive a separate contract specific only to the cited activity. Kathy advised the Council that there has been some confusion regarding the sole source and bidding process due to the fact that for the past several years, AZRSA and SILC have not been following proper procedures. This error has now been recognized and moving forward SILC is expected to strictly adhere to state and federal policy.

Chris advised the Council therefore, that AZRSA is requiring SILC to itemize its projected expenditures down to a granular level in order to justify filtering monies from the state to SILC. This baseline budget will determine what AZRSA can award SILC without going out for competitive bid. Toward this end, the state/AZRSA will be reviewing SILC's accounting and financial methodology the week of May 24, 2010. Discussion ensued as to whether this was an actual audit or a financial review.

Bob Michaels then asked if a temporary contract could be executed to maintain SILC activities until September. Chris replied that the state is prepared to put a contract in place with a bare bones budget, while the SPIL continues in process; however, this would be a contract extension and would be binding for the next twelve months. The extension would include an amendment involving the deliverables and outreach activities would certainly be affected.

At this juncture, Ed Myers reminded the Council that lacking a signed SPIL on June 30, 2010, the legal entity for SILC would still exist, but SILC would technically disappear on July 1. He additionally counseled that as Chair, he must abide by the wishes of the Council and seek their approval prior to signing off on the SPIL once it is completed.

A meeting was subsequently scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 9:30am at the AZRSA offices. Those in attendance will represent AZRSA (Kathy Levandowsky and Chris Deere), SILC (Tony DiRienzi, Bob Michaels) and the state CILs (Wendy Dewey).

RSA Report: Kathy Levandowsky commented that passage of the tax increase on the May 18 ballot provides some temporary relief in that DES is not expected to ask AZRSA for additional cuts at this time. Unfortunately, outcome of the November elections could represent \$40 million in more cuts, so AZRSA is not out of the woods yet. Kathy also reported that 3000 clients remain on the waiting list and there is significant concern regarding funding in 2012.

Membership and Nominations: Randy Collins, Vice-Chair, announced that six Council members whose terms are expiring have agreed to remain on the Council and that those names will be recommended for reappointment by the Governor. Four additional Council seats will become vacant and suggestions for nominations are welcome. In addition, three positions on the Executive Committee will need to be filled. By-laws stipulate that the same individual cannot serve more than two consecutive terms in a specific position on the Executive Committee, but if interested, s/he can run for another Executive Committee position. Tony will forward relevant sections of the By-laws along with Nominating forms for the Executive Committee and recommendations to the Governor electronically. He will also determine if the six reappointments must submit new applications and resumes and advise accordingly. Individuals are welcome to self-nominate for the former, but asked to confirm with others that they are willing and able to serve. Elections for Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer will take place at the Quarterly meeting scheduled for June 17, 2010.

In the event response from the Governor's office is delayed, existing Council members will remain on the Council until replaced. Whether or not they will remain as voting members is in question; more research will be done as the September Quarterly meeting approaches and it becomes an issue.

Announcements: There were none.

Adjournment: Bob Michaels moved to adjourn the meeting; Alan Strauss seconded, motion carried unanimously and meeting ended at 10:47am.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Jane Austen