

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
MINUTES
March 21, 2017
AmericInn – Ft. Pierre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clarke Christianson, Gillian Plenty Chief, David Scherer, Craig Eschenbaum, Catherine Greseth, Sarah Rush, Alan Adel, Marla Bull Bear, Steve Stewart, Chuck Quinn, Bernie Grimme, Sandy Neyhart, Tasha Jones and Tammy Kabris. **BY TELEPHONE:** Monte Tschetter. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Isabel Trobaugh and Dave Miller. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Rich Eschenbaum, interested observer; Gaye Mattke, Director of Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired; Jennifer Geuther, IL Program Specialist for Division of Rehabilitation Services; Eric Weiss, Director of Division of Rehabilitation Services; Matt Cain, Director of Independent Living Choices; David Thomson and Amber Braithwaite – ASL Interpreters; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

OPENING ACTIONS: Craig called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Craig welcomed everyone to Ft. Pierre and to the meeting. He then invited all to introduce themselves. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Craig asked if there were any changes to the agenda as mailed. Bernie asked that “ACL Letter” be added under the SILC Staff Report. Hearing no other call for changes – **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** Craig then asked if there were any edits needed for the draft December minutes mailed out to SILC members. Hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2016 MINUTES – MSC.** Then Craig asked for any changes to the draft February Executive Committee minutes. Hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Craig invited any public comments to be brought forward at this time. Hearing none, he moved on with the next agenda item.

DRS REPORT: After asking Eric if he had any comments he wished to make, Bernie proceeded to provide this report. He began by referencing the quarterly CIL reports that had been sent out earlier. He encouraged members to review these reports, as they contain valuable information on the services being provided by the CILs. Bernie moved on by referencing his memo of March 8th, which

provided a summary of DRS reports, and he reviewed highlights of each report. Some dialogue took place in relation to information contained on graphs relating to 704 Report Data e.g., variance between CILs in use of ILPs vs waivers and % of IL participants identified as deaf. CIL REVIEWS – Bernie shared that DRS is presently completing case file and program reviews of the CILs in relation to the funds in the State contract including Part B funding. They completed WRIL’s review on March 2nd and 3rd and ILC’s review on March 14th and 15th. They are scheduled to do NAAP’s review on April 3rd. Reports are being worked on for WRIL and ILC. This year the reviews are incorporating “home visits” with a few participants. They continue to look at items such as contract compliance and federal regulation compliance. DRS SUMMER INITIATIVES – Bernie addressed two areas of summer initiatives the division carried out last year – one related to pre-employment/transition services for students with disabilities and the other related to employer work experience. Various providers participated in these initiatives, including a CIL, and DRS is presently awaiting proposals for another round of funding for similar activities. TRIBAL & STATE VR MEETINGS – Bernie reported that the division continues to facilitate these meetings. The last one took place on December 13th, and he passed around a group picture from that event. Marla and Catherine also participated in this meeting. These meetings are an opportunity to network and share training.

DSBVI REPORT: Sandy provided this report, explaining for new members that it typically focuses on Board of SBVI activities and the Older Blind IL program activities. BOARD OF SBVI – They are scheduled to meet this Friday at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Pierre. They are presently seeking nominations for vacancies due to some members terming off the board. She explained that the board has some very specific composition requirements that must be considered when appointments are being made. The Board has scheduled two public meetings. The first is going to be a part of the NFB of SD Annual Convention and will be held on Friday, May 5th, from 4pm to 6pm in Rapid City at the Rushmore Hotel and Suites (previously the Eco Odooba). The NFB of SD Annual Convention will continue following the public meeting and conclude on May 6th. The second is a collaborative effort with South Dakota Advocacy Services. It will be held June 2nd in Kyle, and it will be a cookout/listening session. Roberta Ecoffey, 121 Project Director and Board of SBVI member, recommended to the Board of SBVI that we make arrangements with South Dakota Advocacy Services for this public event because it has been so successful over the years. OLDER BLIND IL PROGRAM –

Sandy recently participated in a leadership conference in Washington D.C. and much of the conversation focused on possible budget changes. South Dakota is a minimally funded state. RSA's representative indicated that if the total budget remains stable, the state funding will also; if the national budget is reduced to lower than \$13,000,000 then the state funding will move to a competitive grant process. Advocacy groups were encouraged to voice their concerns to decision makers. The Electronic Video Magnification Program added 10 units, and at this time all units – leased and loaned – are out and there is no waiting list. Finally, Sandy addressed the ATAP – a training program for people who have their own technology and need training to effectively use it. Participants do not have to be SBVI consumers, but they must be a person with blindness or visual impairment. They have identified funds to relaunch this program, which initially provides five hours of training in the recipient's home. Training is provided by DakotaLink staff. During the previous two years of the program, it served 73 individuals.

SILC STAFF REPORT: SILC CONGRESS – Shelly invited Craig to start this report, since he also participated in the congress. Craig spoke to sessions he participated in that were specifically designed for SILC Chairpersons and members. They focused on topics such as running effective meetings, ways to handle difficult situations within meetings and ways to recruit members. Then Shelly spoke to the general message shared by leadership of NCIL and APRIL – we're in a time of massive change and a time when the voice of the disability community must be the voice of education, information and advocacy. She shared that Bob Williams, ACL, was present for only a major portion of the first day due to needing to return to Washington D.C.. He described current times in Washington as "like having cerebral palsy – the right hand and the left foot don't know what the other is going to do next..." He addressed the work ACL/ILA is finishing up in relation to the 704 reporting system, SILC indicators and developing guidance on ensuring consumer control and appointment of qualified people with disabilities on SILCs. Shelly spoke to sessions on the final IL regulations, financial responsibilities of SILCs and use of infographics to promote IL. She also shared that she learned that IL is not only the "best kept secret" in South Dakota but nationwide – something many are struggling to understand and change. REGIONAL SILC CALLS – Shelly reported that the last call was primarily focused on the status of various states efforts to complete their 704 reports. She also shared that Colorado has established an Office of Independent Living within its DVR. This office has its own budget and is presently getting up and running.

CIL STAFF TRAINING – The dates of the training are May 1 – 3, and it will be held at the AmericInn of Ft. Pierre. Agenda topics that have been identified are: Center for Disabilities – What can They do for CILs; Dialogue on Peer Support; ASA HCBS Waiver and Caregiver Program; Q and A on SSI/SSDI Processes; Changes to the ADLS Waiver; ABLE Accounts – What are you hearing? There may also be some time related to completion of ADA assessments. SILC members are invited, and the SILC agreed that it was important to once again extend an invitation to Older Blind IL Program, 121 Project, ASA and SD Housing Development Authority staffs to participate. Once an agenda is more finalized, it will be circulated to all of these parties.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FUNDING REQUEST – The request for funding in support of the 2017 Youth Leadership Forum had been mailed out earlier. Staff handed out a SILC Budget Report (see attached) showing the SILC has adequate funds remaining in their strategic planning line item to cover the request, if they choose to fund it. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2017 YLF FUNDING REQUEST FOR \$2,000 – MSC.** ACL LETTER – Bernie questioned if and how the SILC might want to follow up on a letter they sent to Director Bob Williams back in October 2016, since there has yet to be any type of response or recognition of receipt. Shelly indicated that she had spoken with our State contact – Kimball Gray – yesterday, and he suggested the Chairperson email the original letter to Bob with a “friendly” inquiry and request for response. Consensus of the SILC was this should be the SILC’s approach at this time. Craig will work with staff to carry this action out in the very near future.

At this time, Craig called for a 20 minute break.

DIALOGUE WITH DHS SECRETARY GLORIA PEARSON: Craig welcomed Secretary Pearson, and he asked everyone to again introduce themselves since she did not know everyone participating in today’s meeting. The main topic of this dialogue was the transfer of ASA from DSS to DHS and the formation of a Division of Long Term Service and Supports. Secretary Pearson shared that the transfer will take place in April. She referenced recent studies that show nationally and in our state the growing number of “older” individuals” and the growing workforce crisis. She also addressed how the majority of individuals wish to remain at home as long as possible. These factors, coupled with the fact that presently there are three Medicaid waivers within DHS and one within DSS, have led to the transfer of ASA to DHS. With the completion of the transfer, there is an expectation that South Dakota will have a more integrated approach to the delivery of waiver

services and the provision of long term services and supports no matter the age of the recipient. At some time the Division of ASA will be changed to Long Term Services and Supports. Secretary Pearson will be forming a workgroup to meet quarterly for about a year to assist in working through various aspects of the transfer completion. The workgroup will include self-advocates, providers, disability organization representatives and other key stakeholders. Five critical focuses of the new division will be to (a) identify current nursing facility residents who do not want to be there and see if and how they might be supported in returning to a more integrated setting; (b) increase efforts to divert people at risk of entering nursing facilities to remaining in more independent settings with appropriate supports; (c) improve case management provided to individuals served through this agency; (d) improve access to long term services and supports; and (e) provide increased support to caregivers. Secretary Pearson shared that this restructuring is not new. It has been done at the national level, and approximately 40 other states have completed it. After her comments, there was a time of questions and answers. Following that time, Secretary Pearson thanked the SILC for the opportunity to visit with them. Craig thanked her for coming and spending time with the SILC.

WORKGROUP UPDATES: CONSUMER SERVICES – Bernie provided this report. The group met recently via conference call. They reviewed their “Focus Areas” and made revisions (see attachment). This attachment not only identifies focus areas, but it also denotes priority levels for each and makes some comments. Bernie also reported that the Workgroup looked at a revised CIL Quarterly Report form based on the 2017-2019 State Plan for Independent Living (see attached). There were some changes, but nothing significant. It is expected that this document will become a part of the new service contracts with CILs for the coming funding cycle. PUBLIC AWARENESS & OUTREACH – Sandy shared this update. This group also met recently via conference call. They reviewed two “draft” brochures, which continue to be worked on; as well as an example of an “infographic” that was developed in Alaska and brought back from SILC Congress as a model of a type of outreach material. The Workgroup is exploring the feasibility and practicality of using this type of tool to tell the IL story. Sandy also reported that the solicitation for nominations for the 2017 Champions of IL Awards has gone out to the CILs. Finally, she invited Catherine to talk about some thoughts she has on outreach. Catherine spoke to outreach being more than brochures and handouts e.g., actual meetings with other professionals e.g.,

discharge planners to exchange information on the work CILs do and how they may be a resource to people leaving rehabilitation and hospital settings.

Craig called for the meeting to break for lunch at this time. He asked that all be back and ready to reconvene at 1 PM.

CAREGIVER PROGRAM PRESENTATION & ASA WAIVER PRESENTATION:

Tammy introduced Misty Black Bear from ASA, and she presented on the home and community based services waiver presently under ASA within the Department of Social Services (see attachment). The waiver was first established in the 1980s and has changed over the years. The most recent revision was implemented in October of 2016. Consumers 65 and older, and consumers 18 and older with a qualifying disability, who meet (a) nursing facility level of care and (b) financial and other eligibility, are eligible for this waiver. In FY15 approximately 1,600 people were served, of which 1,000 were living in assisted living settings. Misty addressed the types of services available. There was a flow of dialogue throughout the presentation focusing on how persons with disabilities might most effectively and efficiently utilize waiver and CIL services. Next, Tammy introduced Beth Dokken, Assistant Director of ASA, and Beth presented on the Caregiver Program (see attached). There is no financial eligibility for this program. There are portions of the program and its services where ASA will seek a donation, if the recipient is able to provide one; and in one category, income and resources are considered and a donation is required of the recipient. Beth spoke to the types of services available, the rationale behind providing the services and the situations when services would be appropriate – sharing a couple of case situations. Again, throughout the presentation there was a flow of dialogue as people sought to understand when this resource might be utilized and how to best complete referrals to it. Craig thanked Misty and Beth for their time and their presentations.

Craig called for a fifteen minute break at this time.

WORKGROUP UPDATES CONTINUED: WORKGROUP DIALOGUE – Shelly shared the most recent list of workgroup membership she has and made requested changes. Marla was added to the Interagency/Collaboration Workgroup. Shelly then asked about that and the AT/HMAD Workgroups since a “leader” had not been identified for either, and they had not met recently. Dave volunteered to lead the AT/HMAD Workgroup, and he will work with Shelly to

schedule a call for that group. After the presentations this afternoon, they feel they definitely have some things to talk about and possibly work on. No action was taken on the remaining workgroup.

OTHER BUSINESS: Craig asked if there was any other business. Shelly shared that the next meeting will be the final meeting for some members. Historically, the SILC has given outgoing members a token of gratitude for their service. Consensus was that Shelly, as staff, will identify and acquire a “tasteful” gift for the outgoing members spending around \$50/each.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Craig asked if there were any agenda items to be identified at this time. Bernie asked about having a presentation by River Cities Transit. Since the SILC is concerned with statewide services and needs, it was suggested that instead of River Cities it might be better to invite someone from the Department of Transportation who can speak to all rural transit providers in the state, especially since they all operate a bit differently and cover different territories. Clarke then suggested inviting someone from the Office of Emergency Management to the next meeting to talk about how they work to address the needs of people with disabilities when responding to disasters which occur. Consensus was to invite both to come to the next meeting, once a date and location have been selected. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – June was identified as the month for the next meeting. Staff will send out a Doodle Poll seeking which dates during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of June work best for members to participate in the next meeting. Consensus was to hold the next meeting in Pierre/Ft. Pierre. ADJOURNMENT – Craig thanked everyone for their participation and asked for a motion to adjourn. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MSC.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.