

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

April 6, 2023

Meeting Held Via Zoom

&

DHS Hillview Plaza/Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Koterwski, Matt Cain, CJ Moit, Ryan Groeneweg, Eric Weiss, Ronda Williams, Ben Wolf Necklace, Syndee Jundt, and Tasha Jones.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Bowie. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Sternhagen, Patty Kuglitsch, Jennifer Lewis, Ben Tiensvold, Wayne Weston, Codi Erickson, Tarra Bame and Colette Wagoner. Interpreters were Julie Paluch and Whitney Gard.

OPENING ACTIONS: Welcome & Introductory Comments: Mark Koterwski, SILC Chairperson, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. A quorum was present. Moving on, Mark K asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda, there were none. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS DISTRIBUTED, MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** YEAS – Matt Cain, CJ Moit, Syndee Jundt, and Ryan Groeneweg. NAYS - None. Mark K asked if there were changes or additions to the December 15th meeting minutes, none were noted, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2022, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Syndee, and Ryan. NAYS - None. The Executive Committee minutes were disseminated from March 17th. The minutes outline committee action to provide financial support of the 2023 Disability Awareness Day event. Mark asked for a motion to approve; **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 17TH AND THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION OF PROVIDING \$100.00 IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE 2023 DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY EVENT, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Syndee, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mark invited public comments. Eric was recognized and spoke about the loss of Steve Stewart. Steve was a fellow SILC member, longtime advocate for individuals with disabilities and a really good friend. Steve worked for the Division as a rehabilitation engineer for over 30 years. Mark K added that he worked with Steve in various capacities over the years, and that he will be greatly missed by the SILC and others. Mark Sternhagen asked to be recognized and spoke about the lack of appointments received to date, noting it was shameful that the SILC has not received appointments. He noted that the SILC is down in size by 4 members since last summer. Mark S stated this should be a priority and wants appointments to be made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mark asked if there was a need to hold an executive session. He explained this is a standing agenda item. The agenda includes a note that if there is a need for closed discussion to address any matter(s) that is sensitive/private or

confidential the agenda provides time to do so. Hearing no need, he moved the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mark K spoke to pending changes for CSD (formerly known as Communication Services for the Deaf). On June 1st, the agency will become a new 501(c)3 entity. The agency name will become SD Deaf Resources & Outreach Programs (SD DROP). All services will remain the same. Patty reported that the SD Association of the Deaf will host its biannual conference in Pierre on June 23 and 24 at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center. CJ announced that Partners in Policymaking will host its graduation session in Sioux Falls on April 22. If anyone is interested in attending, there is still time to RSVP.

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT: Jennifer spoke to the Consumer Satisfaction Survey Summary results for both Western Resources for Independent Living (WRIL) and Independent Living Choices (ILC). The results identified a 22.7% response rate, which was fairly consistent with the previous quarter's results; however, WRIL's response rate is extremely low. Jennifer and Codi have been discussing ways to try to increase the response rate, i.e., add a QR code to the survey to allow individuals to use their phone, scan the code and then be taken directly to the survey link. The use of technology should be a good fit with serving more youth. Patty agreed with the use of the QR code as it is very easy to use, and it eliminates paperwork. Jennifer stated the survey comments were mostly positive. Comments under what was most helpful reflected the need of devices and accessibility features in the home, i.e., updated phone, lifeline, platform/lift chair, remodeled bathroom, ramp, shower bars, along with positive comments about staff being helpful and informative. A common theme reflected in responses indicate a need for more staff for both CILs. Responses identified under what was least helpful included: none, happy with all services, wait time, time needed to obtain a contractor, part time help, change of people, asked about obtaining other equipment, and not being able to help.

Status of CIL Contracts: The CILs are nine months into their agreements with the Division for Part B funds. This means 75% of the contract year has been completed. The report reflects that ILC has provided the majority of their service units (reaching 95% of their expected goal). WRIL has completed 77% of their contract. Both CILs are on track to expend all of their state contract funds. This is a huge change for WRIL when comparing the contract status to the same time period last year. Contracts for the new fiscal year will begin July 1. Positive comments were made about WRIL, and the provision of services reflected in the report. A question was asked whether the Division can provide mentoring, support services or training to improve WRIL's service delivery. Jennifer spoke to the frequency of conversations with Codi and other WRIL staff, in addition to sharing resources or referring Codi to speak with ILC staff regarding questions. The CIL review process identified areas for both CILs to improve upon and

training considerations are being discussed and further discussions with the CIL directors will be undertaken.

Western Resources for Independent Living 2nd Quarterly Report: Jennifer noted that positive changes have been made in the area of nursing home deterrence with services being provided in this category. This was most likely due to coding errors and the need for staff training. Work is being done to target services in the areas of peer counseling and nursing home transition/deterrence for the remaining quarter. The provision of Home Modifications and Assistive Devices has improved over the year regarding this area. WRIL staff are conducting outreach and looking for available sites to host peer support group meetings. This quarter's report reflected 5 staff attending the Fall Conference. WRIL staff are visiting schools in their territory and providing information about services. WRIL was fully staffed during this time period.

Independent Living Choices (ILC) 2nd Quarterly Report: ILC is providing services in all core services categories. ILC has provided over 4000 hours of services since June 1st serving over 1400 clients. Activities conducted in line with SPIL goals and objectives included outreach, participation in job/health fairs, met with clinics, hospitals, IHS, Housing, Tribal agencies, VA, and school staff to talk about IL services and share IL related information. Outreach included the dissemination of an introductory letter to various doctors which included IL information and ADLS program information. Participants learned of services largely from medical personnel and family member/friends; two of the most popular categories since June 1st. ILC was fully staffed during this reporting time. Matt noted that ILC has had a few staff changes since this report, with filling vacancies in the Watertown office and still recruiting for the Martin office.

IL Funding Sources: This handout outlines all the funds supporting IL services and programs, i.e., ACL (federal funds) and state funds (Part B funds, HMAD and ramp funds, Social Security Administration Reimbursement funds, and state match). There were no questions regarding the funding sources.

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORTS/UPDATES: Independent Living Choices (ILC South, ILC North, and Native American ILC): Matt spoke to the review conducted by Division staff and noted it was appreciated. The feedback received so far was well received, i.e., looking at areas of eligibility criteria, and receiving clear direction and consistency. He looks forward to the possible training that may come as a result of the review. The Harley Davidson motorcycle raffle started early in March with the need to sell a total of 2,000 tickets. The motorcycle is on display at a truck stop in Watertown and 500 tickets have already been sold. The raffle will conclude the end of July. Summer transition camps will be held with all nine offices, hopefully this will include the Martin office and hiring staff. Matt noted he is a strong supporter of providing all core services which includes transition services. He acknowledged his

appreciation of the Division's support and financial backing to support these summer youth classes/camps which have grown over the years. Again, ILC is looking to fill the Martin office position, seeking the right fit. ILC applied for and received approval from ACL for additional federal funds, under a grant entitled MyCIL. These funds will be directed to new services to conduct outreach and engagement with youth with disabilities (ages 14 to 24) from racial/ethnic minority backgrounds. This is a great fit for ILC with serving the nine Tribal Nations in the state. ILC is in its second year of work on the Repair Affair event, partnering with the Home Builders Association and the city of Sioux Falls. Funding targets the elderly and persons with disabilities and can be utilized to complete home projects. The Home Builders Association provides all the labor, which directs all the monies towards funding projects, i.e., ramps, installation of grab bars, steps. This project assists with promotion of the ILC as well.

Western Resource for Independent Living: Codi noted that they have been extremely busy. WRIL's main office in Rapid City recently moved. The new office has all offices on the mail level, and no need for an elevator. The office has signage making it more visible in the community. They lost one staff member in November and another in February. WRIL is currently hiring for the position for the Spearfish location and interviewing for the second position to be located in Rapid City. WRIL is serving more consumers as compared to last year and staff are meeting goals. WRIL is still struggling with identifying contractors to work on projects. The bids being obtained are projecting work to start in 5 or more months. They recently identified one contractor in Rapid City and another one in Pierre to bid and work on projects. WRIL is conducting staff training on a monthly basis. WRIL is working with the Douglas School District to host a youth summer transition program and working with other entities to identify locations to host peer support groups. WRIL has also held three fundraising events working with Monument where staff/volunteers work the concession stand. WRIL earns 10% of the nightly sales and any tips. Patty commented on the progress made and complimented WRIL on all these efforts to improve service delivery.

DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (DSBVI): Ronda spoke to staff shortages within the Division to include VR counselor positions and rehabilitation teachers. This has impacted case load sizes since the onset of COVID. A rehabilitation counselor position was filled in Sioux Falls and the new hire will start the end of May. The vacancy in Rapid City remains open and interviews are lined up. The Division is hopeful to fill all vacancies and provide staff training which should result in an increase in applications for both the IL and VR programs. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind was recently remodeled and will host an open house on April 27th, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. A transition specialist was recently hired and the person will start soon. The National Federation of the Blind will host a meeting in Rapid City April 21/22nd which will include a public forum to solicit feedback on services. The state blind associations worked together on a release form to be utilized to reach out to individuals served in order to solicit feedback regarding the need for any additional supports,

advocacy, or other services. NFB and South Dakota Association of the Blind members have been invited to present/speak during the all-staff training scheduled in July.

BREAK

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COLLABORATIVE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: Colette introduced Ben Tiensvold, Community Outreach Coordinator, for the Community Health Worker Collaborative Program in South Dakota. Colette received information from CJ regarding this program and she suggested it as an informational topic for the SILC.

Ben spoke to the collaborative and explained that a community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker, trusted community member who has a close understanding of the community served. The worker serves as a link between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality of cultural competence of service delivery. CHWs in South Dakota have different titles. A certified CHW has completed an approved CHW training program and received CHW certification. A Community Health Representative (CHR) is an individual who has completed an approved CHR training program through Indian Health Services.

Mark K inquired about persons who are deaf or those that have other communication barriers and how a CHW might work with individuals who need other supports, i.e., interpreters. Ben ensured that the CHW are trained to ensure that communication and understanding are key to developing a relationship with the individual and this may involve interpreters or other language interpreters. Part of the CHW training includes equitable access and health equity. Mark K encouraged referrals to CSD and noted the upcoming name change for the agency, i.e., SD DROP.

CHW services are a reimbursable Medicaid service in South Dakota. Many organizations offer the service at no cost to those who are not Medicaid eligible but would benefit from the services. Regardless of the payer source, the patient is not billed directly. Qualifying conditions include asthma, cancer, diabetes, mental health conditions, high risk pregnancy, tobacco use, use of multiple medications (6 or more classes of drugs). Qualifying barriers include geographic distance from health services, lack of phone, and cultural/language communication barriers. The Scope of Work for CHW includes health system navigation and resource coordination; health promotion and coaching; and health education to teach or promote methods that have proven effective in avoiding illness and/or lessening its effects.

Ben reviewed the reimbursement rates for CHW services. He described different service types and the unit rate for each and noted a few limitations. He spoke to the SD Medicaid Reimbursement requirements. CHWs must be provider ordered (MD/DO,

PA, NP, CNM, or Dentist). Individual CHWs must be employed and supervised by an enrolled CHW agency. As of January 1, 2023, all CHWs must be certified CHSs. Services must take place in the home or community setting, unless attending a medical appointment with a patient (exception of up to 5 units). And he noted that transportation is not a reimbursable service under Medicaid, but it could be a covered expense by the entity who has hired the CHWs.

Ben reviewed the current CHW programming and locations in the state. As of April 1, 2023, there are 115 practicing CHW's or in training; 85 practicing CHWs; and 40 CHW positions forecasted for Spring/Summer. The goal is to have 300 CHWs and CHRs by June 1, 2024. Ben provided more detail of the position summary, training and prerequisites required of a CHW in comparison with other related professions. He shared success stories of the CHW program in South Dakota. He also announced the 2nd annual CHW conference, May 15-16, in Sioux Falls at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Ben invited questions and shared his email for any follow up questions or comments (ben@chwsd.org) and more information can be found at <https://chwsd.org/>

Codi spoke to working with the Community Health Workers and making referrals. Matt talked about IL staff making referrals to the CHWs and now ILC is obtaining a number of referrals from CHWs as the health workers have learned more about IL services, i.e., need for advocacy, locating housing, and more. ILC has had CHWs program staff come and present to their staff, which has helped to build relationships. CHWs are able to assist with coordinating and providing transportation to clients who need to attend various appointments (medical and other services).

BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED: Ronda spoke to the March 10th meeting that was held using DDN sites with the option to connect virtually. A committee of the B/SBVI is working the Division to identify the goals and strategies for the upcoming State Plan, similar to what the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation is doing with DRS. The Board was involved with the 2023 Disability Awareness Day event held in February. The Board of SBVI had a representative serve on the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Review Committee which met in February. The B/SBVI elected to provide up to \$5,000 in support of the 2023 NDEAM events based on action during the March meeting. The B/SBVI is also waiting for appointments and reappointments. The next meeting will be held June 2nd via DDN and virtual connections.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UPDATE: Eric noted this as a standing agenda item, and the BVR and SILC work collaboratively on multiple activities. He explained the BVR is an advisory board to the agency and provides recommendations in terms of agency performance, state plan, policies, and consumer satisfaction survey. The BVR's last meeting was held on March 2nd via Zoom. Division staff presented on the performance measures and other VR program initiatives. Dr. Faye LaDuke Pelster

(Black Hills State University) and Beth Schiltz presented on the DOE/Office of Special Education's Indicator 14/Post Secondary Survey Outcomes (outcomes of students with disabilities one year out of high school). Kim Ludwig and Vicki Stewart provided a WINDMILLS presentation. They are both trained utilizing this curriculum which was designed to be utilized to provide education and awareness to businesses and employers regarding the hiring of individuals with disabilities. He talked about Project SEARCH, a collaborative with VR, an employer and school district in providing student with disabilities work experiences. They will lose the Aberdeen site this next year, however a new site will be gained in Yankton (projected to start next Fall). The Division is utilizing Sarah Digital Assistant, a computer software program which connects with the case service management system. It is designed to connect with consumers to better facilitate communication which hopefully will improve success rates. The BVR will meet again on June 14th. More information about the SILC or BVR can be located on the Boards/Commissions portal, located at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/>.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING – FY2024 SPIL GUIDANCE FROM ACL – SPIL AMENDMENT. Eric asked Colette to start this item. Colette reminded members of the guidance received from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Office of Independent Living Programs (OILP). The guidance noted the SPIL instrument and instructions were not finalized, and the SPIL portal was not available yet. States were directed to choose between two options of submitting the FY2024 SPIL (amending the current 2020-2023 SPIL): 1) make substantial and material changes to the FY2021-2023 SPIL (current SPIL); or 2) make technical amendments to extend the FY2021-2023 SPIL through FY 2024. Members were reminded that during the December meeting there was consensus to submit a technical amendment (minor changes) for consideration. The suggestion was made to bring forth the amended SPIL for review and approval during the SILC's March/April meeting. The draft SPIL was disseminated to all members for review on March 21st.

The proposed SPIL amendment consists of updating the SILC chairperson (Alan Adel to Mark Koterwski), and CIL director Codi Erickson's name replaced Jen Red Bear's name. The other changes include extending the date throughout the SPIL through September 30, 2024. Staff explained that once approved, plans will proceed to submit the approvable SPIL amendment with the necessary signatures to the OILP program officer following this meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2024 SPIL AS DISSEMINATED AND PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION TO ACL/OILP, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Syndee, Ben, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

SPIL COMMITTEE REPORT – CONTINUE WORK ON THE 2025-2027 STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL): Eric reported that the next 3-year FY 2025-2027 SPIL is due June 30, 2024; with an effective date of October 1, 2024. States are waiting to receive finalized SPIL instructions from ACL sometime this month (April). The SPIL portal is expected to be finalized soon for states to upload the SPIL, similar

to the PPR portal. As a reminder, the SILC started work on the 2025 2027 SPIL related efforts, but work was put on hold for a few months after learning about the delay for submittal. Last May, a community survey was disseminated to gather information regarding the needs of individuals with disabilities residing in the state. The SILC's Consumer Services Committee gathered and reviewed various information to help determine and identify unmet needs or barriers. Moving forward the following action steps need to be accomplished in the suggested timelines:

- SPIL committee will meet to work on the goals/objectives;
- provide draft language to the full SILC for review at the December meeting;
- issue notice of public meeting by end of January;
- post draft SPIL to DRS website;
- host public forum in early March;
- incorporate needed edits, present final draft to SILC;
- Early June - final approval from SILC;
- Mid June obtain SILC Chair, CIL directors DSE signature; and
- submit to ACL prior to end of June.

Eric made a comment about drafting the goals and objectives of the next SPIL and keeping things manageable, keeping the focus on activities that can be accomplished. A question was asked about SILC members and attending training or meetings and reporting these activities to staff. This is work that is documented in terms of work completed/accomplished in terms of meeting goals/objectives of the SPIL, i.e., broadening SILC members' knowledge of IL needs of persons with disabilities residing in the state. The SPIL Committee currently includes Eric, Patty, Mark S. Matt, Ryan, and Codi with Jennifer and Colette providing technical assistance.

LUNCH BREAK:

While waiting for the next presenter to join the meeting, Patty spoke about the ASL Anywhere application, an on-demand sign language interpreting service available on a mobile device. More information can be found at <https://aslanywhere.com/>. An individual who is deaf or hard of hearing can apply online for free interpreting services.

SILC STAFF UPDATE: SILC Program Performance Report (PPR): The SILC is waiting for approval from ACL on the most recent PPR report submitted on January 27. The PPR is the year-end report for the time period of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. BVR/SILC Solicitation: Solicitation for nominations for both the BVR and SILC was conducted early in the year and the nominations were due in February. Staff compiled information for both the board and council, routed it to the Division and Department, and then it was forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Update: The NDEAM Review Committee met in February to review 12 funding requests from communities

across the state. The total request for funds was \$45,450.00. After reviewing the funding requests, the committee recommended the approval of \$44,450 to support the events as planned. The proposal from Rapid City requested a total of \$8,100 and the committee recommended approval for \$7,100, thinking there could be cost savings within their budgeted line items. Information was shared with the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (B/SBVI) in terms of the committee's funding recommendations and whether the B/SBVI would contribute financial assistance. The BVR/SILC heard from Gaye Mattke (DSBVI), and the B/SBVI will contribute \$5,000 to support the 2023 events. Both the B/SBVI and SILC have provided financial support in the past along with financial support from the BVR. During the Review Committee meeting, Bernie Grimme with the Division, indicated that the Division would provide financial support, if it is needed. A question for the SILC – is whether to contribute financial support to the 2023 NDEAM events, and if so, how much. **MOTION MADE TO APPROVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 2023 NDEAM EVENTS IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$5,000.00, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Ben, Syndee, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

CULTURAL AWARENESS/SENSITIVITY PRESENTATION: Wayne Weston was introduced by Ben Wolf Necklace. Mark K asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Wayne is the Director, Oyate' Center, Center for Disabilities, which is an educational outreach effort focused on Native Americans with disabilities. Wayne works with all nine nations, travels extensively, and also works with other state agencies. Oyate Center has held Alpha Camps, transition camps for Native American students with disabilities and will conduct more this summer. Work calls for outreach with tribal colleges/universities and other tribal agencies. He recently participated in a Catch the Wave event held in Todd County. The Oyate Center was recently recognized for leadership in diversity and outreach efforts.

Wayne provided a brief overview of his personal belief in disability and his background. He is from the Pine Ridge reservation, and his grandparents were from the Flandreau, Santee Sioux Tribe (Oglala Lakota). He spoke about family history/clan members. Oun'iyekiyapi means "Finding My Place in the World", as there is no word in Lakota for "disability". Lakota life is about balance, each individual seeks their purpose in life to create a delicate balance. Wayne explained this is the best for explaining disability in Lakota culture. Lakota thought and philosophy is unique, it is a "collective consciousness' the honor of one is the honor of all. He explained that you are part of a greater society and what you contribute to it is your goal. Oyate' Center works with the Tribal VR program staff and others in increasing awareness and how to best work with Native Americans utilizing their spiritual belief. The Creator put each one of us on a path to teach the future generations that we are resilient and adaptable in strength. The Sacred Hoop is an internal struggle for each individual in finding their place, "Calling Back Your Spirit", working with individuals who experienced an accident or other trauma, hurt, depression, behavioral health, suicide, (i.e., domestic violence), a

form of dissociation. The Oyate' Circle developed information outlining tools to empower individuals of cultural appropriate means through the use of tools (ceremonies, sweat lodges, prayer, meditation) to mend the spirit. He described the Sacred Hoop, being of multi-circles or hoops (layers), representing levels of society, with the individual or child(ren) in the center, surrounded by elders, surrounded by women and the outer layer being men or warriors. He described breaks in the circle or challenges, areas of the circle impacted by suicide, bullying, racism, violence, self-hate, human trafficking, genocide, abuse, etc. Mending these areas would heal the Sacred Hoop. The Oyate Circle is working with youth and others with recognizing what is going on in a community and facing these types of issues. He explained it's about preparing future generations and mending the Sacred Hoop. On an individual level, it requires discovering balance, figuring out what your role is, identifying your strengths and weaknesses, setting an action plan to build on your strengths and weaknesses, preparing yourself physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally, making your commitment to yourself, people, and Creator, never lose sight of your vision and complete your commitment. One must know your people and your history to prepare for future generations and the need to see individuals who have been successful. He ended with the term 'Mitakuyi Oyasin', meaning we are all related. The purpose of Oyate Circle, a partnership that encourages us to work together, to collectively address different issues. Wayne thanked everyone for inviting him to share this information and added that he hopes this creates more opportunities for future dialogue. Mark K thanked Wayne for sharing information and the visual presentation.

SILC STAFF UPDATE – CONTINUED: Governor's Awards Solicitation: The solicitation for the Governor's Awards was disseminated on March 13th. The solicitation packet included a cover memo, nomination forms for the 5 award categories and a copy of previous recipient list for the last ten years. The award categories are: Outstanding Individual with a Disability, Outstanding Employee with a Disability; Outstanding Employer of the Year (3 categories), Outstanding Transition Services and Distinguished Service. Nominations are due May 5th. Members are encouraged to make nominations. If a nomination was submitted in the past and not selected, please consider resubmitting the nomination.

Nomination packets were disseminated electronically and by mail, and information is also located on the Division's website including access to the nomination forms in WORD or fillable PDF format. <https://dhs.sd.gov/rehabservices/govawards.aspx>

Champion of Independent Living Services Award: The Public Awareness/Outreach/Advocacy/Collaboration Committee works on the Champion of IL Services award activities to include the solicitation of nominations. The solicitation will be disseminated the middle of May with a due date later in June. The committee will review the nominations and recommend 1 recipient; and then plans will progress with a

presentation of the award event – and hopefully the presentation can be coordinated with the SILC's September meeting.

Fall Conference: Staff reminded members of the Fall Conference, which will be held October 23-25 in Pierre. If a member is interested in attending the conference, please let staff know so the necessary arrangements can be made. A "Save the Date" email was sent late last week to board/council members, please share this with others. Members were reminded that the budget contains a travel line item which covers expenses related to attending training such as this i.e., registration fees, lodging, mileage, and meals.

Budget: Members received copies of two budgets. The first budget is from the contract year of January 1, 2022, through the end of December 2022. This budget reflects all expenditures made last year. The pages attached to the budget show expenses by line item. The expenditures are tracked separately for each the BVR and SILC. The second budget is for the current contract year, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. This budget reflects expenditures for January and February. There were no line item expenses in February. There were no questions about either budget.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

CLOSING ACTIONS: Future Agenda Items. Election of Officers will be an agenda item. In years past, the Executive Committee has brought forth a proposed slate of officers for consideration; this includes taking nominations from the floor. Current officers are Mark Koterwski as Chairperson; Mark Sternhagen/Vice Chairperson; and Tasha Jones and Patty Kuglitsch serve as Members at Large. Susan Ray-Degges, Professor with North Dakota State University (Fargo), has agreed to speak at the next meeting. She presented at the 2022 Fall Conference during a breakout session with the title of "What is Aging in Place" what one can do to support and prepare environments suitable for older adults to successfully age in place. She has agreed to touch on design remodels, universal design, designing for the future that supports independent living, and practical solutions (low cost/low tech/high tech) to incorporate accessibility in older homes. Patty stated she enjoyed learning about the Native American Culture in today's presentation, and that she would like to learn about other cultures in the future. Next Meeting: A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 29th. Adjournment: Mark asked if there was anything else or any final business. He asked if there were any objections to adjourning, hearing none, he ended the meeting at 2:40 pm.