

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**

**December 15, 2022**

**Meeting Held Via Zoom**

**&**

**DHS Hillview Plaza/Conference Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Koterwski, Matt Cain, CJ Moit, Steve Stewart, Ryan Groeneweg, Eric Weiss, Ronda Williams, and Tasha Jones. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ben Wolf Necklace, Roger Bowie, and Syndee Jundt. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Sternhagen, Patty Kuglitsch, Jennifer Lewis, Mike Harsma, and Colette Wagoner. Interpreters were LeAnn Grate 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 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, Steve Stewart, and Ryan Groeneweg. NAYS - None. Mark K spoke to approving two sets of meeting minutes because there wasn't a quorum at the September meeting to act on items. He asked for approval of the meeting minutes. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 14 AND SEPTEMBER 22, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None. Executive Committee minutes were disseminated from the August and November meetings. Mark asked for a motion to approve both sets; **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25 AND NOVEMBER 17, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mark invited public comments, hearing none, he moved on.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mark asked if there was a need to hold an executive session. 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. invited individuals to share announcements. Mark S asked if information could be posted on the SILC's Facebook page about reminders for snow removal, checking in on neighbors, and other issues resulting from this week's storm.

**STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING:** Eric took the lead on this item. He referenced the "Updates and Options for the 2024 SPIL" guidance information received from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Office of Independent Living Programs (OILP). The guidance states that ACL/OILP is in the process of

revising the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) instrument and instructions and developing a SPIL portal to allow states to submit the SPIL online. The online platform is not expected to be completed until April 2023. Therefore, states must choose between two options of submitting the FY2024 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.

Substantial/material changes consist of changes in SPIL goals and objectives; changes in the designation of unserved or underserved areas; changes in the state's priorities for funding new or existing centers; changes in distribution of excess funds; or changes of the DSE. A technical amendment does not constitute a substantial/material change in information or in the operation of the SPIL. Changes may include changing the entity responsible for achieving a SPIL objective; changing the DSE director or SILC chairperson; or changing the implementation dates.

Eric noted that nothing arises to the substantial/material change level. He recommended that we submit a technical amendment, which needs to be submitted prior to June 30, 2023. Colette noted that the SPIL will require changes in the SILC chairperson as Alan Adel is currently identified, and we need to change the implementation dates, extending dates from 2023 to 2024. Mark K asked if this required action today. Colette stated that the IL Network works in partnership in developing and monitoring the SPIL, and to ensure there is consensus among partners. Matt agreed as a signatory of the SPIL as a CIL director, with moving forward as recommended. (Colette will email Codi asking about her response following the meeting since she was unable to attend today.)

Colette stated that in order to proceed, we must submit a written statement to our state program officer requesting a technical amendment to the FY2021-2023 SPIL prior to May 1, 2023. An approvable SPIL amendment with the necessary signatures must be submitted to our program officer by June 30, 2023. The suggestion was made to bring forth the amended SPIL for review and approval during the SILC's March meeting. Following this, we would obtain the necessary signatures and submit it to ACL.

**CURRENT STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) FY 2021-2023:** Eric as the SILC's SPIL Committee Chair spoke to this agenda item. This committee assists with the SILC's work in monitoring the effectiveness of the SPIL and the work towards accomplishing the desired outcomes. The next three-year state plan - FY2025-2027 SPIL, is due June 30, 2024. He suggested that work on developing the goals, objectives and activities be put on hold for a few months.

He spoke to the work assigned to the SILC in terms of monitoring progress/work towards accomplishing goals, to ensure activities align with the SPIL. He clarified that he is not asking members to do more work, he knows that members are participating in

activities/events and attending meetings. He spoke to the tracking report that was developed to obtain information from members about work conducted in the areas of the SPIL's objectives and activities. He asked for feedback regarding the best way to collect information. Members talked about forgetting to submit information, others noted they email information to staff. Staff reminded members that this information is entered into the Program Performance Report (PPR).

Mark S stated he emails information to staff and staff can note it accordingly (which objective or activity it relates to). This discussion is a part of the monitoring progress and checking in with all partners of what works, what doesn't, and what could be improved. The SPIL is a standing agenda item and includes time for members to share information about activities they have been involved with. Members appreciated the reminders which will continue. Eric thanked everyone for the feedback and discussion. The tracking report will be disseminated again, as a reminder.

**SILC PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT (PPR):** The draft PPR was disseminated to members in November. This report provides an overview of the SILC and DSE activities for one year; information is collected from the time period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

The PPR information has been entered by DSE and SILC staff. There are six sections. The first section contains administrative data. Jennifer cleaned up information pertaining to CILs that no longer exist and removed the agency that previously provided staff support. Sections II and III ask about individuals with disabilities served and types of services received. These two sections are left blank, because the CIL's provide this data in their annual PPRs. Section four contains the community activities, and information about coordination and working relationships. Section five is SILC related information. This section needs to be finalized prior to submittal i.e., SILC membership, listing members, voting/non noting and appointment dates. Section six contains the information outlining progress made in achieving the objectives and goals.

Once finalized, signatures from the SILC Chair and DSE director will be obtained and submitted. The report is due January 31<sup>st</sup>. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT AS DRAFTED, NOTING THAT MINOR EDITS WILL BE MADE UNDER THE SILC SECTION PRIOR TO SUBMITTAL, MSC.** YEAS – Matt, CJ, Steve, and Ryan. NAYS - None.

**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT:** Jennifer referred to the information that was disseminated on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting with the Consumer Satisfaction Survey Summary for the first quarter. There was a 22% response rate for both CILs, with WRIL having only a 5% response rate. Jennifer had a conversation with Codi about errors, quality assurance, unsuccessful closures, and the need to reopen files. WRIL completed a review of case files and discovered errors, i.e., not

opening cases correctly, missing documentation. The majority of mistakes fell on one staff member who elected to resign instead of being put on a corrective action plan. WRIL made the decision to close this staff person's cases unsuccessfully and reopen them to ensure all required information was documented. The quality assurance check did not identify all the errors, so WRIL staff reviewed all the case files opened by this staff. A question was asked about preventive measures, so this does not happen again. Jennifer stated that many conversations took place between Codi and Division staff to correct this, conducting quality assurance actions, in addition to the provision of staff training. The time frame was noted, recognizing this was when the previous director left, and Codi was asked to step into the role as director. Several members talked about keeping on top of this (staying aware) and watch for changes and improvements to continue. Jennifer spoke to seeing positive changes along with increased interaction with WRIL staff. Jennifer summarized the survey's written responses to questions of what was the most helpful and what was least helpful. Majority of written comments for both CILs were positive. Responses are telling that WRIL is providing more services, i.e., HMAD, TAD, assistive devices and moving in a positive direction. Jennifer spoke to issues with identifying contractors in the western part of the state which impacts building of ramps, bathroom remodels, etc.

Eric talked about the comments and how they reflect the value of the IL program and services. These are the types of services that make the difference for a person to remain in their own home vs. moving (to another home, nursing home, or assisted living facility). Some of these services are low-cost services, e.g., shower chair, grab bars. Matt responded to a question pertaining to the dissemination of surveys. He explained that when a participant's file is closed, a satisfaction survey is handed to the participant in person, if the IL specialist visits the person in their home. Otherwise, the survey is mailed to them. Conversation continued about the difficulty in obtaining survey responses and the need to keep an eye on the response rate.

Status of CIL Contracts: Jennifer explained that the CILs are five months into the agreements (42% of the contract year completed) and each is on track with the number of units needed to be provided and each is expected to expend all of their state contract funds.

Independent Living Choices (ILC) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report: ILC is providing services in almost all categories, to include nursing home transition and deterrence. Jennifer noted some needed changes in the report. ILC has provided over 2000 hours of services since June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are providing HMAD, assistive devices and housing services. She spoke to the number of applicants served and activities that staff are involved in. How participants learned of services largely comes from medical personnel and family/friends. Public comment was noted from two activities. There were no requests from participants to be referred to other provider. ILC staff worked with several schools and nursing homes to disseminate information. Activities were also conducted in line

with the SPIL goals. The organization chart reflects all positions are filled. Positive comments were made about all the activities conducted in so many areas by ILC staff.

Western Resources for Independent Living 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report: Services are being provided, except for peer counseling, nursing home transition or deterrence. Division staff has had conversations with WRIL staff about providing services in all core service areas. Some errors might be contributed to coding. WRIL staff are providing HMAD, assistive devices and housing services; again, this area is fairly new to staff. WRIL is having a very difficult time with identifying contractors to work on projects or to submit bids. Some bids have come in extremely high. WRIL staff have been conducting outreach activities and a lot of work to rebuild and reestablish relationships. Family/friend and medical personnel are the highest sources of referrals, which is consist across the state. Work is being done to follow up on received public comment about answering phones/follow-up, and consistency of what services can be provided. There were no MOU referrals. Staff are working with schools and providing information. Not many activities are noted under the SPIL goal areas, and this has been a discussion item with WRIL and staff. The organization chart reflects being at full staff. A question was asked if WRIL plans to expand or add staff. Concerns were raised with the territory and limited number of staff. Jennifer explained that staffing is up to WRIL and its board of directors and not a decision of the Division.

Matt made a comment about allowing time for improvement; however, it has been frustrating for ILC and hearing comments from consumers or providers about the lack of services delivered in the western part of the state. He raised concerns regarding the tendency to allow things to continue as is, with no change, which creates a morale problem within ILC. He cautioned the SILC and Division to continue watching for improvement to ensure things progress positively. Others noted concerns with the number of WRIL staff, the territory size, and the need to impact change for those receiving services. A question was asked about the process for obtaining bids for projects, i.e., ramp, bathroom remodel. Matt explained once the person is found eligible for services and if the need includes the work of a contractor, the IL specialist obtains two bids. ILC works with 20-25 contractors, and this has taken years of working and developing relationships. CJ noted her concerns with the staffing level and the ability to provide services for their territory size. A question was asked whether the administration level staff help if needed. Jennifer commented that the administrative staff might provide information and referral but not face to face services, but Codi would have to confirm this.

IL Funding Chart: Jennifer spoke to all 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). Comments continued about the high cost of bids in the western part of the state, and Steve asked a question about whether a vertical porch lift was considered as an option vs. a ramp.

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILs) UPDATES:** Independent Living Choices: Matt provided highlights from ILC's year-end report. This time period (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022) reflects the most services provided in history. A total of 2,555 individuals were served of which 57% were individuals aged 60 years or older; 14% were less than 25 years of age (63% were female, 37% male), 81% were Caucasian, 12% were Native American, and 7% other. The primary disability of those served: 62%/physical disabilities, 15%/cognitive disabilities, 9%/multiple disabilities, and 7%/mental/emotional disabilities. The top five counties served in terms of individuals served were Minnehaha, Codington, Beale, Davison, and Yankton. The number of individuals served on Tribal lands increased from 269 the previous year to 281. Matt commented about the increase of serving those on Tribal lands has taken a lot of time and work of being present and developing relationships.

The top five services were advocacy, information and referral, Telecommunications/adaptive devices, HMAD, and peer counseling. ILC provided \$910,383 for 179 HMAD projects (44 ramps, 82-bathroom remodel projects, and 53 other projects). The number of nursing home transitions was down to 12 and he contributed this lower number to the impact of COVID and not being allowed into facilities. A total of 293 individuals were kept out of a nursing home or institution due to the provision of IL services. ILC offered 20 peer support groups throughout their service area, i.e., youth, young adult, cross disability and TBI peer support groups. Peer support visitors (19) are volunteers who provide one on one peer support. ILC staff conducted 14 ADA assessments for businesses or other public entities. A total of 676 TAD devices were provided. Summer transition camps/classes had 44 youth attend.

ILC received an overall 96% satisfaction rate with services. Activities of Daily Living Services (ADLS) were provided to 34 participants, with an average number of 95 personal attendants employed. In house turnover rate was at 10%. ILC has 9 offices, serving 50 counties and the 9 Tribal nations. All ILC staff serve on various boards/councils/committees (mayor's committee, Habitat for Humanity, housing coalition, transportation). ILC offered a holiday dinner for participants and their families. Thirty participants attended along with ILC staff serving. ILC took over coordinating the Repair Affair Event through the Home Builders Association a community development program providing \$25,000 worth of funding to assist people with repairs (patch a roof, deck), assisted 7 families. ILC developed a partnership with Habitat for Humanity which provides a lot of the home modifications labor free. There has been no staff turnover since February, and he contributes this to providing 7% discretionary increase to all in house staff and increased personal attendant's wages by \$2/hour. ILC also expanded their benefits, i.e., adding vision, orthodontic and increased ILC's match for retirement.

ILC has submitted their 3 Program Performance Reports to ACL. And more recently, all ILC supervisory staff attended an 8-hour training dealing with difficult conversations, supervision, and conflict management. A question was asked about staff involved with the boards/councils/committees and their time. Matt responded that this is paid time for staff, which received positive comments. Comments were made about ILC's support of staff, no turnover, the year end results reflect the hard work and passion of IL and the provision of services. Matt was thanked for his guidance and leadership.

Western Resources for Independent Living (WRIL): Mark K asked if Codi submitted a report. Jennifer reported that she talked with Codi this morning and she had no report to share at this time. She did want to share news that WRIL is moving to a new location by the end of January.

### **DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (DSBVI)**

**UPDATE:** Ronda shared this update. There were 454 individuals served with SBVI's Independent Living Older Blind Program compared to 420 individuals last year. The 80-90 age group is the most common served, along with 5 individuals who are over 100. Macular degeneration is the most common eye disease for individuals served by the rehabilitation teachers. The consumer satisfaction survey reflected a 49% response rate, which included positive comments about staff and services. A recent change was made to the economic and financial need criteria, which now allows applicants to have cash on hand, and not factor in bonds, securities, savings, or other investments. This will allow staff to provide more adaptive aids and/or devices for individuals who need these items. The IL specialist will be attending a conference in March in Savannah, Georgia. April Schulte was hired to replace Dawn Backer, as the manager of the Rehabilitation Center. April is working on certification to become a low vision therapist.

**BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (B/SBVI):** Ronda reported that the Board met on December 2<sup>nd</sup> via DDN with locations in Rapid City, Pierre, and Sioux Falls. The DDN allows for individuals to access the meeting via phone or computer. The B/SBVI is waiting for appointments/reappointments from the Governor. The Board reviewed and approved their annual report at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. This report is submitted to the Governor and RSA Commissioner by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) was a discussion item and the Board's Strategic Planning, and Policy Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the goals/objectives/strategies of the Division's State Plan. Sandy Neyhart provided an update on the iBill Currency Reader, a device that reads currency bills. There is an application which is submitted to staff at the Rehabilitation Center. The majority of applicants have received the device within 5 to 7 days. Sandy was also invited to participate on a panel to assist with updating the best practices in Independent Living, Older Blind Program. Most of the work will be completed virtually with the final meeting taking place in May in California. Board activities included the following B/SBVI members agreeing to serve on the two review committees: Cole

Uecker and Ryan Groeneweg/Governors Awards Review Committee and Nichole Nelson agreed to serve on the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Review Committee. The board will meet again on March 10 via DDN.

Mark S asked about the DDN meeting style vs. Zoom. Ryan spoke to the ability to hear better utilizing the DDN system vs using Zoom and having a number of people gathered in a conference room (multiple people talking at once/shuffling papers, noises). This allows a smaller group of people to gather at each DDN site.

**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (BVR) UPDATE:** Eric stated that the BVR functions very similar to the B/SBVI. Each is an advisory board to the VR agency. He spoke to a few functions of the boards i.e., advise the agency on the performance of the VR program, developing goals and strategies of the State Plan and analyzing the results of the consumer satisfaction survey. The BVR met on December 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom. The CSNA was an agenda item (similar to the B/SBVI), which provides a comprehensive look at the needs of people with disabilities in the state. The CSNA results will be utilized by the BVR and Division to inform the goals of the VR program. VR Program Initiatives was an agenda item that included updates from staff on transition/summer camps, business specialist activities, and adding Sara Digital Assistant software to work with agency's case management system. The use of this software will increase consumer engagement and reduce unsuccessful incidences of loss of contact. The Division is working to add a 6<sup>th</sup> Project SEARCH site in the state. Project SEARCH is a partnership involving a school district, VR agency and a host business site and offers students with disabilities work experiences/internships. This new site will be in Yankton. More information will come once finalized. The next meeting will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The March meeting will host an update and overview of the Division's performance measures and host a WINDMILLS training session provided by Kim Ludwig and possibly Vicki Stewart and Catherine Greseth. Eric added that a SILC update is provided during each BVR meeting. He reminded members of the Boards/Commissions portal which contains information about all the boards/councils falling under state government. The website is <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/>.

**SILC STAFF UPDATE:** National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): Activities were conducted in 11 communities in the state. Events were financially supported by the Boards of Vocational Rehabilitation and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (B/SBVI) and the Statewide Independent Living Council. The events included in person meetings, virtual trainings, use of national speakers in schools, and the Sioux Falls event was held in conjunction with the Fall Conference. Evaluations received from each community showed over 1,563 people attended the events. Total expenditures are at \$17,965 with a few outstanding bills to pay. A debriefing was held last week on December 8<sup>th</sup> with the community planners. Time was utilized to talk about the events, share what went well, what could be improved upon or changed, challenges, how to better engage employers, and what each community feels is the



best medium for hosting an event. The notes from the meeting are available. A comment from a number of the communities was attendance from employers has been down since COVID. This is largely due to being short staff, difficulty with allowing employees to attend.

There is a NDEAM review committee with members from the BVR, SILC and B/SBVI. Volunteers are being sought to serve on the NDEAM Review Committee for 2023. The committee is tasked with reviewing the funding requests and provides funding recommendations to the full board. The committee makeup for 2022 included three board members (Lisa, Joe, and Beth), two B/SBVI members (Nichole Nelson and Chelle Hart) and three SILC members (Patty Kuglitsch, Catherine Greseth, and Mark Sternhagen). Information has been shared with both the B/SBVI and SILC as well as asking for members to serve on the committee. Mark Sternhagen and Patty K agreed to serve on the review committee. If others are interested in serving on the committee, please let staff know. The Request for Funding Proposals to conduct 2023 NDEAM events will be disseminated prior to the end of December with a due date of early February. A comment was made about utilizing a speaker that will have a draw, identify someone that the community can connect with to help increase attendance.

Governors Awards Ceremony: The ceremony was held on October 26 in Pierre at the Capital with the Governor recognizing the seven recipients. A reception was held at the Drifters Event Center following the ceremony. There were approximately 60 attendees at the reception with more who attended the ceremony. Total cost for the Governor's Award Ceremony was \$2,715.11 which included costs for plaques, photographer, photos, and the reception. There is a Governor's Awards Review Committee with representatives from the BVR, SILC and B/SBVI. This committee is tasked with reviewing all the nominations and providing a recommendation for one recipient for each category. The committee's recommendations are forwarded to the Governor for final selection. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee for the 2023 year.

The 2022 Governors Awards Review Committee included: BVR/Jolleen Laverdure and Joe Vetch; B/SBVI/Cole Uecker and Ryan Groeneweg; SILC/CJ Moit, Patty Kuglitsch, Mark Sternhagen and Catherine Greseth. Jolleen Laverdure/BVR member volunteered to serve on the committee. Mark S and CJ Moit agreed to serve on this committee. Members were invited to contact staff about serving on the review committee following the meeting. The solicitation for nominations for 2023 will be disseminated the middle of March with a due date of early May. Nominations are available year-round on the Division's website.

BVR/SILC Nominations/Appointments: The SILC and BVR are waiting word regarding appointments. Members are typically notified before Division or SILC staff know anything.

2022 Fall Conference: The 2022 conference was held in Sioux Falls. Next year the conference will be held on October 23- 25, in Pierre. Two SILC members and SILC staff attended the conference, as well as state agency staff (Eric, Ronda, and Jennifer). SILC members and staff expenses were supported by the staff support agreement. In addition, the budget contains a line item for CIL staff training. This line item supported 24 CIL staff to attend, which included 20 ILC staff and 4 WRIL staff. A planning committee for the 2023 Fall Conference will start meeting early in January. Bernie Grimme contacted SILC staff about serving on the planning committee. SILC staff has reached out to both CILs for input regarding training topics and feedback has been excellent.

Matt asked about the possibility of hosting an IL training in addition to the Fall Conference. He spoke to what was offered in years past of an event specifically for IL staff, which allowed time for networking and learning from one another. He did not want to take away anything from the Fall Conference and stated that ILC staff had nothing but good comments after attending. He didn't know if the budget would support this, but ILC would be willing to send staff to something of this nature. He posed the question of offering something specific to IL staff. Jennifer talked about very preliminary discussions following the 2022 conference and identifying the IL tracks and VR tracks. The 2022 sessions were very good and competed with other sessions, making it hard for attendees to choose which session to attend. Eric noted that money shouldn't be the deciding factor, it would be putting the time in to identify training needs and coordinating it. Matt reinforced the need for IL staff coming together/learning from one another to benefit both CILs. It could involve IL staff presenting on topics/cross training to reinforce consistency in the provision of services (presentation on HMAD, best practices).

Budget Update: A copy of the BVR/SILC budget was sent to members in November. Members were reminded that the staff support agreement is a one-year contract, which runs on a calendar year. The contract is designed with specific budget line items for each the BVR and the SILC (member expenses, meeting expenses, strategic planning).

The budget report reflects expenditures through October. Expenditures were made in the following areas: BVR/SILC staff travel and training; BVR member travel, SILC member travel, CIL staff training, BVR Strategic Planning, SILC meeting expenses and SILC Strategic planning. A few more NDEAM expenses are expected and will be processed. Expenditures for SILC members and staff were from attending the Fall Conference in Sioux Falls. The SILC meeting expense was for interpreters for the September meeting. The SILC Strategic Planning expense was for supplies needed for the Champion of Independent Living Services Award Reception held at WRIL's office. The CIL staff training expenditure supported the registration fees for 24 CIL staff to attend the Fall Conference. Expenses for the CIL staff in terms of lodging, meals and

milage will be reflected on the budget in November. A new contract will start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **LUNCH BREAK – RECESS UNTIL 12:55 PM.**

**SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SDHDA):** Tasha introduced Mike Harsma, SDHDA, Single Family Development Director. Mike provided information on the Governor's House Program. It was started in 1996 for elderly individuals to transition out of decrepit, inaccessible homes. In 1997, the program was moved under SDHDA and the building component was moved to the Mike Durfee Prison in Springfield. It was expanded to include all South Dakotans under income limits. Since then, over 3,050 homes have been sold in the state.

The Governor's House Program provides affordable housing to families at or below 80% state median income, and its objectives are to:

- 1) provide housing that is:
  - energy efficient,
  - very low maintenance, and
  - accessible to the largest extent possible
- 2) provide an opportunity for inmates to learn valuable job skills while providing a community service;
  - Inmates are paid hourly with opportunities for increases and longevity and responsibility
  - Inmate employees apply for their position
  - opportunity to participate in formal apprenticeship training programs in electrical, plumbing and carpenter
  - Apprenticeship programs provide both classroom and hands on training provided by SDHDA employees
- 3) Provide many local community benefits
  - Replace older and decrepit housing stock
  - Create new affordable housing options
  - Increase and sustain property tax base
  - Provide work opportunities for local contractors
  - Increase local sales tax

Governor's House Program/2022 information: house price is \$62,800 for a two-bedroom house and \$75,200 for a three bedroom. Income qualifications are 70% of state median income for household size of two or less (currently \$59,780); and 80% of state median income for household size of three or more (currently \$68,320). Net worth qualifications: \$125,000 under the age of 62 and \$250,000 for age 62 and older. Mike shared pictures of floor plans for the two bedroom and three-bedroom homes.

Next, Mike moved onto the Dakotaplex Program, started in 2019. The program terms include:

- Must be placed with the city limits in communities of 5000 or less in population
- Community must show a documented need for housing via housing study or market needs analysis
- Can be purchased, owned, and managed by a community, a non-profit or a for profit developer
- Cannot be owner occupied but must be offered as an affordable rental

Purchaser can market units to any potential tenant in the community but are limited in the maximum amount of rent they can charge. In 2022 those max rents were 2-bedroom/\$1,345.00 and 3-bedroom/\$1,495.00. It must remain an affordable rental for 10 years from purchaser; terms are enforced via Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants.

The units are designed to be mixed and matched as the community needs and lot requirements dictate. Each unit is priced separately and then combined for a total purchase price. The two-bedroom unit price was \$75,900 and the 3-bedroom price was \$85,900.00. Unit prices include floor covering and appliances. The unit price includes delivery and the location site work required to tie units together but does not include sales or excise tax, or any improvements done. He shared pictures of duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes, and duplexes with garages. A question was asked whether the houses could be built with ramps and the response was yes, and some homes can be built with zero depth entrance.

He shared information about the BuildSpec Loan Program which provides no/low interest rate construction loans to encourage speculative building of affordable homes in SD. This is a partnership between SDHDA and SD Home Builders Association. The program is only available to builder members of the SD Home Builders Association. Terms include: only speculative homes are eligible; maximum sales price for the home cannot exceed \$340,000; and the loan amount is no more than 80% of the value of the home. If anyone has questions of Mike, he can be contacted at [mike@sdhda.org](mailto:mike@sdhda.org) or 605.773.5369. There is information on the website as well <https://www.sdhda.org/>.

Tasha asked to speak to the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. She explained that there are funds for eligible organizations to assist low-income homeowners rehabilitate their homes. Eligible organizations administer the program and provide funds to qualifying homeowners at or below 80% area median income through zero percent interest, conditionally forgivable loans for the primary purpose of rehabilitating the homeowner's residence. Assistance can be used to make essential improvements, bring houses up to physical codes as well as improve energy efficiency and accessibility. Tasha was asked to email information to staff which can be shared with members.

**OVERVIEW OF SILC COMMITTEES/CURRENT MEMBERS:** The SILC has five committees at this time. The Executive Committee consists of the officers (Chair, Vice Chair, two Members at Large) who are elected by the SILC. Representatives from the DSE and SILC staff are non-voting members and provide needed assistance/support to each of the committees. The Executive Committee leads planning efforts of the SILC, solicits nominations for officers of the committee, solicits nominations for the SILC, signs the State Plan for Independent Living, reviews/finalizes the PPR, and represents the SILC in supervising SILC staff. Consumer Services Committee focuses on activities related to the provision of IL services throughout the state, e.g., identifying best practices for service provision, assess community needs, identifying barriers to community living. Public Awareness/Outreach/Advocacy/Collaboration Committee plans/conducts activities to increase awareness of IL services and activities; identifies speakers with expertise with areas related to IL to present at SILC or CIL meetings/share with the Executive Committee for meeting/agenda planning; participate in activities to support NDEAM, Governor's Awards, and Champion of IL Services Award. State Plan for Independent Living Committee: takes the lead on preparing draft SPIL; monitors, reviews and evaluates implementation of the SPIL; progress being made on SPIL related goals, objectives, and activities. Bylaws/Policies/Procedures Committee: reviews bylaws annually, and draft policies/procedures and provides recommendations for the SILC's consideration; only meets when necessary. Staff will forward the committee listing to members for consideration.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**CLOSING ACTIONS:** Future Agenda Items. The FY2024 SPIL will be included for review and possible submission to ACL. Patty asked about having someone speak about Native American Culture and how to best serve the needs of those living on the nine nations. Tasha spoke about information received from DSS and previous training conducted on cultural awareness. Eric suggested contacting Ben about his interest in sharing of information as well as Lyle Cook (former SILC member), as a possible resource. Lyle is Cheyenne Eagle Butte Sioux Tribe VR Program Director. Scheduling the Next Meeting: A doodle poll will be disseminated to identify a date in March to host a Zoom meeting that works for the majority of members. Adjournment: Mark asked if there was anything else, he asked if there were any objections to adjourning, hearing none, he ended the meeting at 1:46 pm.