

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
Executive Committee Meeting
March 17, 2023
Zoom Meeting/Convened at 1:05 PM

Members present: Mark Koterwski, Eric Weiss, and Tasha Jones. Others present: Mark Sternhagen, Patty Kuglitsch and Colette Wagoner (SILC staff). Julie Paluch was the interpreter. Meeting convened at 1:05 pm.

Disability Awareness Day: Colette reminded members of the email disseminated to the committee in January asking whether the SILC would provide support to the 2023 Disability Awareness Day event. Disability Awareness Day was held February 22nd at the Capitol during session. This day is utilized by disability related organizations to share information regarding disability related services/programs available in the state; and to thank them for their support of these programs and services. **There was consensus from the Executive Committee to provide \$100 in financial support to the 2023 Disability Awareness Day.**

The SILC bylaws explain that any action taken by the committee would need to be ratified by the SILC at the next meeting. Staff stated it would be included in the Executing Committee meeting minutes, which are reviewed and considered by the full SILC.

Review of Draft Agenda: Colette was asked to review the proposed meeting agenda. Mark S concurred that it will be good to present the State Plan for Independent Living amendment during the April meeting for approval. Approval will be sought from the SPIL signatories as well. This will allow the process to move forward offering the ability to submit the SPIL amendment along with the necessary signatures prior to the June 30th due date.

A question was asked about the election of officers in terms of process and timelines with the upcoming election of officers June meeting agenda item. Several members expressed frustration and disappointment with the lack of response regarding appointments. There was agreement that if the SILC receives appointments prior to the end of June, a proposed slate of officers will be presented for consideration, with the ability to take other nominations from the floor for each position (Chair, Vice Chairperson, and 2 Members-At-Large). If no appointments are made, a proposed slate will be presented and it will consist of only eligible members' names for consideration for each position, which limits choice to the six remaining members.

Members inquired about their ability to write a letter to the Governor or a letter to the editor, to express their frustration. Eric noted he understands their frustration and that individuals have the right to write letters, etc. He reassured members that the Division has been working

on this and will continue to work on the SILC's behalf to obtain appointments. Questions were asked about terms, date of appointments, and whether some of those being reappointed will reflect a break in service. In responding to questions, members were reminded that once an appointment or reappointment is made, a letter is sent to each appointee and the letter outlines the appointment date, and length of appointment.

Other Business: Mark S inquired about the financial savings of the SILC with holding its meetings virtually and the possibility of redirecting monies towards purchasing equipment (i.e., a Chrome laptop) for a member(s) who would need this in order to participate in meetings. He also inquired about the ability to provide a stipend to members for their time spent conducting SILC business, i.e., attending the almost full day quarterly meetings. Eric agreed to look into these items and identify what other boards/councils might be doing. He noted the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation is recognized in state statute and there is the ability to provide compensation for forfeited wages. Members talked about the quarterly meetings, i.e., in person, hosted utilizing Zoom. They agreed that if a meeting is conducted in person that it also offers the option to participate via Zoom or other means. Patty agreed that she likes utilizing Zoom to host meetings, and not have to utilize two days to participate in one quarterly meeting (one day for travel, one day for the meeting). It was agreed that the Executive Committee will continue discussion on these items.

There was no other business. The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:43 pm.