

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

September 18, 2018

Watertown Event Center

Members Present: Craig Eschenbaum, Mark Kowterski, Sarah Rush, Clarke Christianson, Alan Adel, Eric Weiss, Jennifer Red Bear, Tasha Jones, Ronda Williams, Syndee Jundt and Jacki Juhala. **Members Absent:** Catherine Greseth, David Scherer, Tim Reinbold and Lori Nelson. **Others Present:** Mary Auske; Rich Eschenbaum; Matt Cain – Independent Living Choices; Brigett Wookey, Watertown Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities; Jennifer Geuther, DRS IL Program Specialist; Kasey Entwistle and Julie Paluch, Interpreters; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

New Member Orientation: Craig welcome members participating in this portion of the meeting – Jennifer, Ronda, Syndee, Eric, Sarah, Mark, Clarke, Tasha, Alan. He invited Jennifer (G) and Shelly to proceed with this portion of the meeting. The major topics covered during this orientation were: History of Independent Living (IL), Consumer Control Principles in IL; History of CILs in South Dakota; History of the Rehabilitation Act; Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) e.g., establishment, bylaws, meeting protocol; Authorized Uses of Funds; SILC Member Expense Documents; and additional documents. They referenced various portions of the New Member Manual, which had been mailed to new members earlier, and handed out a few additional items relating to the major topic area. Craig thanked them for the presentation, and this concluded at approximately 9:45 am.

Opening Actions: Craig called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He welcomed all and asked them to introduce themselves and share a bit about themselves. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Craig asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Eric asked to add “HMAD Allowance” to the agenda. Craig asked to add “Renewal of Coalition Membership” to the agenda. Both items were added under “Other Business.” **Motion to approve as amended - Made (M), Seconded (S) and Carried (C).** APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Craig asked if there were any changes needed to the June meeting minutes. Hearing none; **Motion to approve the June Minutes - MSC.** Craig moved to approval of the August Executive Committee minutes. Hearing no call for changes; **Motion to approve the August Executive Committee Minutes - MSC.**

Public Comment Period: Craig asked for any public comments. No public comments were brought forth at this time.

Executive Session: Craig asked if there was any need to go into Executive Session at this time. Hearing no call for this action, Craig moved to the next agenda item.

DRS Report: Jennifer Geuther, DRS IL Program Specialist, provided this report. She referenced the DRS Summary of Reports and individual reports that had been mailed to members prior to the meeting. Jennifer handed out a revised "Status of CIL Contracts as of 3 months of Services" since this data arrived after the mailing and prior to the meeting. It reflects one quarter of the funding cycle, rather than the earlier report which contained data for only two months. The revised report shows with one-quarter of the year past, both CILs have provided over 25% of expected service units for that timeframe. Thus, it is anticipated that they will fully earn their contracted amounts in this funding cycle. A question was asked about the source of the "SSA Funds" identified on this report. Jennifer explained they are the result of the Ticket to Work program, and a suggestion was to add "TTW" to the title for these funds to provide clearer definition of their source. In terms of Unserved/Underserved populations that have recently been taken over by the two CILs, Jennifer reported that in December – March there were a total of eight individuals served on the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux Nations. In June through yesterday, there are a total of 50 individuals being served on these Nations. She then reported that during those same timeframes, on the Oglala Lakota and Rosebud Nations, in December through March seven individuals were served. In June through yesterday, there are 29 individuals being served with IL services. SILC members expressed appreciation for this turn-around in getting IL services to people in these identified underserved areas. Dialogue followed on the Native American reservations in the Eastern part of the state and whether or not they are underserved by the IL system. Historical information was shared about to how these areas have been covered in the past and are currently served. Some in attendance remembered the SILC receiving information that had been prepared by Bernie Grimme, former SILC member and DRS Assistant Director, specifically relating to underserved areas of the state. Staff will research this information and make it available for members to consider as they further explore IL service

needs within the state, as they relate to the State Plan for Independent Living. Finally, Jennifer explained about the Administration for Community Living's request for proposal process, which followed NAAP giving up its subpart C funds and no longer functioning as a CIL. ILC submitted a proposal. No one has received any official word on the outcome of this process or the ILC proposal. Matt also provided comment on this matter. Craig thanked Jennifer for her report, and he moved to the next item.

BVR REPORT: Eric Weiss, DRS Director and BVR member, provided the report. The BVR met last week – September 12 & 13 – at the AmericInn of Ft. Pierre. They also held “New Member Orientation”. Their agenda also included: DRS Director's report; VR Initiatives Update; SILC Update, which Eric gave with assistance from Bernie Grimme (former SILC member), since Eric was not on the SILC at the time of the last meeting; Division of Developmental Disabilities Update on Employment Services; Presentation on Changes to the SD High School Graduation Requirements; Post-Secondary Supports for Youth and Students with Disabilities; Business Specialist Report; and Staff Report. Eric highlighted a few items such as “customized employment,” the VR summer initiatives and the Ability for Hire campaign. The BVR is planning on holding their December meeting via video-conference, which they have done for the past couple of years in an effort to avoid any travel problems that might arise due to winter weather. Craig thanked Eric for his report and moved on to the next item.

DSBVI REPORT: Ronda Williams, DSBVI Assistant Director, provided this report. Ronda shared that they recently held their all staff annual training in Chamberlain. Dr. Thomas Porter provided training on low vision issues and solutions for those issues; Dr. Allan Davis from SDSU provided information on counseling techniques for working with people with vision loss; and a representative from Eschenbach was present and demonstrated various magnification devices that are available to assist individuals with vision loss. Ronda also shared that the Division has developed and awards a “Going Above and Beyond” Award to one of their staff each year. They have a traveling trophy, which is a quilted wall hanging, and this year's recipient was Nancy Kelsey who is a rehabilitation teacher out of the Aberdeen office. Ronda then moved into reporting on the IL Older Blind Program, sharing the relationship the Division has entered into with Mississippi State University's Older Blind Technical Assistance Center. The TA Center will be providing the Division with assistance in (1)

developing a metrics system to highlight the Division's accomplishments, and (2) addressing any areas of performance that could be improved along with identifying any efficiencies to promote the delivery of these IL services. The work of Mississippi will take 12 – 18 months to complete. Ronda also provided a brief update on the Assistive Technology Access Project Electronic Video Magnification (CCTV) Lease/Loan Program.

BSBVI REPORT: Ronda provided this report. She handed out the agenda for their meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, September 21st, in Ft. Pierre. A few items highlighted from the agenda were: Prior Approval Requirements from RSA; Public Forum held at the SD Association of the Blind Annual Convention recently held in Sioux Falls; White Cane Day and other activities the BSBVI routinely supports and participates in each year. Craig thanked Ronda for her reports, and moved on to introduce Brigett Wookey.

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Brigett Wookey, member of the Watertown Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities presented this report in response to an invitation from the SILC. The Committee was formed in 2003 with a purpose of developing a favorable public climate that will foster acceptance and meaningful integration of people with physical and mental disabilities within the community. Members include people with disabilities, parents and others who have an interest in the challenges faced by people with disabilities, and presently the Committee is approaching about 30 members. They meet monthly, the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at a different restaurant each month. Meetings are open to the public, and notices are posted on the City's website in advance of the meetings. The Committee hosts three annual events – Disability Awareness Day – meeting with all 5th graders in Watertown to help students understand how different disabilities impact people and expand their ideas of how to create inclusive and accessible opportunities in the community; an ADA Event – honoring the Americans with Disabilities Act becoming the law of the land; this year it was incorporated with the Watertown National Night Out; and an NDEAM Event – held in October to uplift the employment needs of and contributions made by individuals with all types of disabilities. In terms of other events, the Committee has participated in the Parade of Lights, activities hosted at Joy Ranch – a barrier-free camp outside of Watertown, and in collaboration with the Society of Human Resource Managers supported bringing in a speaker who was able to speak to living with a disability,

working with a disability, worksite safety and more. Craig thanked Brigett for her presentation. A short break was taken and then all moved to the next room for the Champion of IL Awards Luncheon.

The SILC hosted a buffet luncheon in order to be able to recognize the 2018 recipient of the Champion of Independent Living Award. This award is given to an individual or organization in recognition of their contributions to the support and advancement of South Dakotans with significant disabilities living independently in their homes and communities. Following a brief explanation of the award's purpose, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, nominator of the recipient, spoke briefly about the reasons their agency felt Kelly was deserving of this award. Her closing comment was that Kelly "is a real go-getter with boundless energy and enthusiasm, always striving to provide resources and information for people with disabilities." At this point, Craig presented the award to Kelly Chandler. Kelly thanked the SILC and commented that she is only able to do what she has done because of the collaboration with staff from Independent Living Choices.

The meeting reconvened at approximately 12:35 pm.

Craig asked for feedback on the luncheon. Generally, comments were positive – important to go where the recipient lives; host it as a SILC event rather than in past years being held as part of a CIL event; enjoyed the opportunity to meet some new people and have time to visit with them; meal was good; next time alert press to the event. Consensus was to continue with this approach and have the Public Awareness/Outreach Committee review the entire process and have conversation with the full SILC about how this process might be made even better from soliciting nominations to the actual event. Staff will work on a brief press release, and share it with the DRS Director before sending it with a picture to the Watertown Public Opinion. Tasha also offered to have it included in the newsletter published by SDHDA.

CIL REPORTS: INDEPENDENT LIVING CHOICES – Matt Cain, Executive Director, provided the report. ILC is presently involved in strategic planning. They are exploring expanding staff in some of their satellite offices. They have heard nothing on their grant proposal to ACL to serve eligible individuals on the nine Native American nations. Their Board of Directors are becoming frustrated with the lack of response on this proposal. Matt also reported that ILC changed

to a different case service computer system. It is much more user friendly and they have provided the DRS IL Program Specialist a login ID and password so she is able to access their data. The name of the new system is "CILs First." WESTERN RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING – Jennifer Red Bear, Executive Director, provided the report. WRIL has again received a grant from SD Housing Development Authority which enables them to provide people with and without disabilities with financial help in paying rental security deposits. Some questions were asked about this program, and Tasha invited members to go to the SDHDA website to learn more about it. She explained that various organization have been awarded funds from this program. Tasha also mentioned the availability of a program that may be able to assist people with a poor credit history or a bad landlord reference, and again the website is a source of information on this program. Jennifer shared that WRIL is providing services through the Assistive Daily Living Services (ADLS) program, and this is going very well for them. She reported that they have about 60 individuals on a waiting list for home modifications/assistive devices services. The ADLS and HOPE waivers may be a way to meet some of those needs. Craig thanked Matt and Jennifer for their reports.

JOY RANCH PRESENTATION: Paul Hanson, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoors (LO) of South Dakota, came to provide this information. He began by giving an overview of the camps LO runs in South Dakota – Outlaw Ranch outside of Custer, Klein Ranch outside of Isabel, Nesodak – near Waubay and Joy Ranch near Florence – outside of Watertown. Joy Nelson, Watertown area real estate developer, had land with some facilities that she offered to LO with the desire to see it developed into a barrier-free camp experience with a western frontier atmosphere. It started out as a \$5.5 million project – ended up being a \$13 million project. It is designed as an 1880 style town, and it has bunkhouse housing as well as retreat center housing, lunch room, health area, conference room space, a canteen area and more. She wished to have the facility be a place where people with and without disabilities, of all ages, and coming with varied life experiences e.g., domestic violence, veterans, sexual violence, child abuse could have a positive 3-4 day long camping experience, including horses, hiking, water recreation and ore. Types of camps that have been hosted are Sanford Health's Bring It On Camp for children with cancer, Spirit Camp for youth with spina bifida, Grandparent Camp, Middle School Camp, Family Camp, LifeScape Camp Bravo – a camp where participants come and learn a musical so when they

return home, they are ready to perform it for family, friends and the community. The facilities are also used for family reunions, therapeutic riding opportunities and more. Paul explained that it is very busy, including weekends, during the summer months. During the months of September through March there is more availability – weekends still tend to be fairly busy. He shared a brochure with members, and invited the SILC and any groups they are connected with to come out and enjoy Joy Ranch. Craig thanked Paul for his presentation.

SILC STAFF REPORT: Shelly provided the report. **BUDGET REPORT –** This report had been mailed out. She briefly drew attention to the Strategic Planning funds line item, as the SILC would be asked to consider actions that would involve spending funds from this category shortly. **SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S AWARDS –** Shelly explained that the SILC has traditionally been noted as a co-sponsor of this annual event. They have obligated funds in support of the event. Some years the funds have been expended; other years they have not. The event will be held next week in Pierre and Ft. Pierre. SILC members had received an invitation to participate. The cost of this event runs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and the BVR and BSBVI also contribute to it. **MOTION TO PROVIDE UP TO \$1,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION – MSC.** **COMMITTEES –** A handout was provided showing the current SILC committees, a brief description of the types of activities carried out by them and members presently listed for each committee. This was done so new SILC members might take time to decide which committee they might wish to serve on. A lengthy conversation followed on the functioning of committees – at times being very active, at other times not meeting at all; how current committees fit into the picture of the SILC carrying out its duty of monitoring and reviewing the State Plan for Independent Living; the inclusion of Committee reports on SILC meeting agendas; and more. **MOTION THAT SILC COMMITTEES MEET BETWEEN SILC MEETINGS, AS NEEDED, AND THAT COMMITTEE REPORTS BE A STANDING ITEM ON SILC MEETING AGENDAS – MS.** Further discussion continued, flowing into the next agenda item – **STATE PLAN (SPIL) REVIEW PROCESS.** The conversation considered whether an existing committee would take the lead on the SPIL monitoring and review or a new committee should be established to do this work. **MOTION TO TABLE THE EXSITING MOTION ON THE FLOOR – MSC.** Further dialogue followed and a **MOTION TO ESTABLISH A SPIL REVIEW COMMITTEE – MSC.** Craig asked for volunteers for the SPIL Review Committee – Alan, Eric,

Jennifer (RB), Sarah and Craig all volunteered to serve. When asked who would be the committee chair – Sarah pointed to Eric, and Eric accepted. SUPPORT OF NDEAM EVENTS – Shelly had forgotten to include this item, but Eric had mentioned it earlier in the meeting and it was brought forward at this time. This again is an activity that the SILC has been noted as a co-sponsor of for many years. They have obligated funds in support of the event. Some years the funds have been expended; other years they have not. Shelly provided an overview of the total funds needed, as well as the amount the SILC pledged towards these events last year. **MOTION TO PROVIDE UP TO \$3,000 IN SUPPORT OF 2018 NDEAM EVENTS – MSC.** Shelly will email flyers on NDEAM events to SILC members, and they were encouraged to participate in upcoming events in their communities. Shelly also indicated that she will report to on any Governor's Awards and NDEAM expenditures made on behalf of the SILC. These expenditures will come out of Strategic Planning funds within the SILC budget. This concluded the report.

MEMBER UPDATES: Mark shared that CSD in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City will be offering classes in American Sign Language. If any SILC members are interested in these classes, he invited them to contact him.

OTHER BUSINESS: Craig asked Eric to address the item he added to the agenda – HMAD ALLOWANCE. Eric turned to Jennifer (G) to provide a review of what DRS is proposing. Jennifer explained that in the past, the CILs submitted a budget to RSA for approval. ILC had included a portion of their Part C funds be obligated for HMAD funding. This amount was then deducted from their available funds when calculating expected service units. The CILs are no longer required to submit their budgets for approval, since they now do an indirect rate agreement. In order to be consistent and set some parameters for the use of funds in support of HMAD services, DRS proposed that CILs be allowed to obligate up to 15% of their total combined award from their Subpart C funds for HMAD services. This will allow more HMAD services to be provided, and CILs will begin to access their Part B and state contract funds sooner. The CILs will need to communicate with DRS what their intended HMAD budget will be and HMAD expenditures will be evaluated during the CILs' annual review process. If approved by the SILC, DRS will amend the current year contracts to reflect this change and the amount the CILs have obligated for HMAD services. Some discussion followed, then **MOTION TO APPROVE THIS CHANGE PROPOSED**

BY DRS – MSC. Consensus was that this change will enable more services to be provided to eligible individuals statewide. Craig brought forward the item he added to the agenda – RENEWAL OF COALITION MEMBERSHIP. Shelly was asked if the SILC has been a member for a while. Shelly indicated that they have been for several years. **MOTION TO RENEW THE SILC MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SD COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES – MSC.** Hearing no other business, Craig moved to Closing Actions.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The SPIL Review process, committees and 2019 SILC Congress were identified as agenda topics for the next meeting. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – Consensus was that the December meeting be held via video-conference. It will be held for four hours in the afternoon on a day in the week of December 10th or December 17th. Staff will send out a Doodle Poll to members seeking what dates will work best for them. ADJOURNMENT – Craig thanked all for their participation. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MS.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35 pm.