

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

April 3, 2019

Western Resources for Independent Living
529 Kansas City Street, Suite 203 – Rapid City

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacki Juhala, Clarke Christianson, Dave Scherer, Sarah Rush, Alan Adel, Jen Red Bear, Craig Eschenbaum, Eric Weiss, Ronda Williams, Tasha Jones, Catherine Greseth and Syndee Jundt. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Kowterski, Timothy Reinbold and Ben Wolf Necklace. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Rich Eschenbaum, interested observer; Matt Cain – Independent Living Choices; Jennifer Geuther, DRS IL Program Specialist; Julie _____, driver for Syndee; Julie Paluch and Syndi Fischer, Interpreters; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

OPENING ACTIONS: Craig called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM. He welcomed all and asked them to introduce themselves. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Craig asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C)**. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES – Craig asked for any changes to the draft December minutes; hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE MSC**. APPROVAL OF MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – Craig called for any changes to the draft March minutes from the Executive Committee meeting. Hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE – MSC**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Craig asked if there was any need for the SILC to hold an executive session. Hearing none, he moved the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: At this time, Craig invited public comments. None were brought forward, so he again moved to the next agenda item.

DRS REPORT: Jennifer Geuther provided this report. She began by drawing members' attention to the various reports and cover memo which had been sent out prior to the meeting. She highlighted a few items from those documents and asked for any questions. In response to a question about any trends she was noting, she did say that the response rate to the consumer satisfaction survey was down slightly. Jennifer shared a handout on the PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT (formerly known as the 704 Report) for FFY 2018 (see attached). She reviewed the various contents – total individuals served, # of individuals served

by each CIL, the types of disabilities and ages of those served, and the reason for case closures. Some of this data was provided for multiple years, as well as total numbers and numbers for each CIL. Some dialogue followed on topics such as the use of IL plans vs waivers, the increase in transition age participants and the low representation of people with certain types of disabilities within the totals served. Jennifer concluded her report by sharing that DRS had completed its annual review of ILC last week, and they would be conducting WRIL's this week, following the completion of the SILC meeting. The SILC can expect to receive a report of the review outcomes at an upcoming meeting.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION REPORT: Eric Weiss, DRS Director and BVR member, provided this report. He began by recognizing Steve Stewart's 30 years of service with the State of South Dakota and his role with DRS as a rehabilitation engineer, ADA expert, assistive technology resource and team member who worked on the Social Security reimbursement claims. Steve was hospitalized last summer, and then was unable to return to work. He retired in December. Eric then spoke to the BVR's December format being similar to the SILC's December meeting in that it was held via video-conference. He then shared that the BVR's most recent meeting was in Brookings on March 27th. Four major aspects of the meeting were: (1) a presentation, via phone, by Bob Jahner on the preparations for and implementation of a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, which will involve DRS and DSBVI. This is a required activity, and Bob has assisted the Divisions with this activity in past years; (2) a presentation on Project SEARCH with SDSU, which was presented by Larry Ayres, followed by a visit to sites on the campus where Project SEARCH interns were working and the Project SEARCH office; (3) a presentation from Dr. Alan Davis on the Masters Degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, which is helping to feed new staff into DRS and other providers of employment related services for South Dakotans with disabilities; and (4) the recent development and implementation of pilot customized employment projects in the state; this is a model, which has existed for many years, yet had not been well-defined under the Rehabilitation Act before; Eric provided information on the model, as well as on current targeted efforts to add it to the scope of services available in South Dakota. Eric concluded his report by referencing that both the BVR and SILC as seeking nominations for positions on their board/council, and he encouraged members to nominate interested individuals and share the information with others.

WORKGROUP UPDATE: CONSUMER SERVICES – Ronda Williams provided the report from this group. The group met via conference call on 3/21 and Sarah was not able to participate. The main focus of the meeting was dialogue on ILC’s new coverage of the tribal lands and questions surrounding consumer choice, transferring of cases and making referrals since WRIL had previously served some of these lands. The workgroup wants to be sure it is doing what the SILC is seeking from them. They are seeking an ILS from each CIL to participate on the workgroup. They will examine the authorization of client choice, program guide on statewideness, consumer choice and timeliness of the provision of IL services and the development of an MOU relating to referrals and transferring of cases. The CIL Directors were asked to provide the workgroup with the name and contact information of an ILS to join the workgroup. **PUBLIC AWARENESS/ OUTREACH** – Catie Greseth provided this report. The group met on March 19th via conference call. They discussed the Champion of IL Award process and timeline. They sought input from the SILC on the value of expanding who might make nominations for these awards e.g., SBVI Older Blind Rehabilitation Teachers, other boards and councils, local Mayor’s Committees. Dialogue focused on the initial reason for keeping the nominator pool small; consensus was there is benefit in expanding it to others who understand “independent living” as the Rehabilitation Act defines it. Catie shared information about an upcoming film festival highlighting films featuring the stories of South Dakotans living with disabilities and reaching their life goals. A suggestion was that this might be an activity that other communities could host. Catie said the workgroup is in need of more members, as it presently is comprised of only Clarke and her, and Clarke’s term ends in June.

A fifteen minutes break was taken at this time.

ADVOCACY/INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION – Tasha provided this report. The group is comprised of Syndee, Mark, Sarah and Tasha. They’ve decided they would like to focus on transportation issues. They had thought of doing a survey; they became aware of the State DOT presently completing a statewide survey and thus will wait for those results before moving forward. It is expected that the results will be available in May or June. **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY/HOME MODIFICATIONS ASSISTIVE DEVICES** – Dave provided this update. The workgroup – Alan, Craig and Dave – held a conference call. Their main topic was

conversation on the increased inquiries for funding sources for accessible vehicles. The result of their dialogue was that we all recognize the need and the types of assistance presently available e.g., assistance for modifications, low-interest loans, public transit – yet these types of assistance are not meeting all the needs being brought forward. It was agreed that transportation needs are a topic that needs further focus, including public transit.

DSBVI REPORT: Ronda Williams provided this report. **OLDER BLIND PROGRAM** – Mississippi State University has been providing technical assistance to the program. Since February 1st, DSBVI has (1) instituted a pre-post functional IL assessment with the program; (2) staff reporting amount of time spent in providing skills training; (3) staff reporting amount of time spent driving; and (4) implemented a targeted outreach effort with staff of Long Term Services and Supports statewide. The expected outcome of these activities is better measurement of the quality and gains made by those served as a result of the receipt of services. **PERSONNEL** – Two staff have recently completed training at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind; they are both rehabilitation teacher and rehabilitation counselor and located in Pierre and Rapid City. **ELECTRONIC VIDEO MAGNIFICATION LEASE/LOAN** – SBVI recently purchased two additional full page text to speech capability machines. The program has 221 units with a minimal waiting of 30 – 45 days to obtain a unit following referral. **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROJECT** – Fifty-nine people have received training through this project, which provides five hours of individualized training in the use of their computer, telecommunication or electronic devices. **TAD APPLICANTS WITH VISION LOSS** – The program continues to receive referrals. The application was recently updated in relation to the 2019 poverty guidelines. **TRANSITION WEEK** – Ronda shared that the Transition week will be held in June at the Rehabilitation Center in Sioux Falls. They have 27 applicants for the week, so they will need to make some decisions on who is selected to participate. They will also need to institute an application process for future years, based upon the increased interest in the program. **MOU WITH DLR** – Ronda reported that a memorandum of understanding was recently amended to address improving the exchange of information between DLR and DHS for federal reporting and case management purposes. **COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT** – SBVI will also be working with Bob Jahner on the completion of a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. He addressed the board at their last meeting, and he will be meeting with them at their June meeting. **NFB-SD** – The state

convention will be held April 26th in Rapid City. DSBVI will be participating, and they will be holding a public forum in conjunction with the convention.

BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED REPORT:

Catie provided this report as she is a member. Three current members are eligible and interested in reappointment. Patrick Czerny has served the maximum number of consecutive terms. Nicole Nelson's has submitted a nomination to fill Patrick's vacancy. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 21st in Pierre. DHS Interim Department Secretary Shawnee Rechtenbaugh attended the recent board meeting and provided a legislative update. A major item resulting from the session was a 10% increase in funding for nursing facilities, a 6% increase for community support providers, and a change in state law language from "hearing impaired" to "hard of hearing". Finally, Catie reported that the board has committed up to \$6,000 in support of 2019 NDEAM expenses.

CIL REPORTS: ILC – Matt Cain, Executive Director, provided this report. He reported that ILC has recently signed an agreement with National MS Society to provide case management services to people with MS in the state. SD was one of three states that did not have this service in place. There will be funds to provide some hours of case management, as well as some home modification services; if additional services are needed, the person would then be moved into IL services. ILC staff has set a goal of serving 2,000 in the current year; as of the end of March they have served 1,545 – they believe they are on target to reach their goal. There continues to be a high need for ramps and home modifications. The lack of resources in support of these services, and the past winter, has impacted the ability to provide these services. ILC presently has 63 people needing ramps and 17 are in the Martin area. For some people the lack of a ramp keeps them home bound. ILC has two staff in their Martin office; they have opened cases to serve 23 individuals, and they have responded to 75 requests for information and referral. Matt reported that they worked with KELO TV to create a 30-second commercial, and it has been airing. He also reported that they have hired a chief operating officer; it is Colleen Moran, former attorney with the City of Sioux Falls. WRIL – Jennifer Red Bear, Executive Director, provided this report. She reported that the need for home modifications and ramp services is a large need for those they serve, as well. There was some lengthy dialogue on the HMAD needs and how those needs have been and might be met e.g., use of private funds such as Federal Home Loan Program, DakotaLink assistance, Springfield Prison built

ramps, and the opportunity to set aside a % Part C funds to support these services. WRIL continues to provide the security deposit assistance program through SD Housing Development Authority – this program is for all people, not only people with disabilities. WRIL has a major fundraising event happening on April 13th, and Jen invited all to participate and/or support the event. Jennifer then introduced her staff, and this was followed by the SILC members and others in attendance introducing themselves. Jennifer also spoke about the staff in the Pierre office and efforts to get WRIL's name back out in the area, expecting that this will result in an increase in referrals and services being delivered in the area.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) COMMITTEE REPORT:

Eric reported on behalf of the committee. The committee met in December at which time it was agreed that SILC staff would contact ACL staff to inquire as to whether the SPIL revision being considered would be viewed as a technical amendment or a substantive amendment. This contact was made via email, and in early February word was received from ACL that it would be viewed as a technical amendment. This means there is no need to hold public meetings in relation to this revision. There will be a need to hold public meetings next year when a new three-year SPIL is created by the SILC, CILs and DSE. The revisions being made now are in relation to ILC being awarded the grant to serve the nine Tribal Nations and the use of "tribal nations versus reservations, as found to be most respectful in consulting with some Tribal Leaders. The email exchange with ACL and the draft language had been mailed out to SILC members prior to the meeting. **MOTION TO ADOPT SPIL REVISIONS AS MAILED EARLIER – MSC.** SILC and DSE staff will work with the Chair and others to submit the approved SPIL revision in accordance with ACL procedures and timelines.

STAFF REPORT: Shelly provided this report. STRATEGIC PLANNING FUND REQUEST – The SILC had received an earlier request for funding in support of the 2019 Youth Leadership Forum in the amount of \$2,000. The request had been mailed to members prior to the meeting. A few questions were asked about prior support and budget availability. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$2,000 IN SUPPORT OF 2019 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM – MSC.** Staff will notify the person submitting the request of the SILC's decision. **NOMINATIONS PROCESS** – Shelly shared that she had extra copies of the nominations materials and nominations are open until April 12th. She indicated two current members will be going off and two are eligible for and interested in re-appointment. At the

present time, we've received one nomination. DSE staff indicated we could expect another nomination this week. NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH (NDEAM) – Shelly spoke to the report on the 2018 activities recently sent out. She also shared a synopsis of the proposals received and approved for 2019. At this time, she asked if the SILC would be interested in providing financial support of these events. They have done so in the past.

MOTION TO SUPPORT 2019 NDEAM ACTIVITIES WITH UP TO \$5,000 – MSC.

At this time lunch arrived, so a break was taken for lunch.

SILC CONGRESS REPORT: Craig provided the report, as he participated in the 2019 SILC Congress held in Orlando, FL – February 25th – 27th. He reported there were 42 or 56 SILCs represented – there are fifty states, the District of Columbia and five territories making up the total of 56. He explained that the conference format is similar to the Fall Conference held in South Dakota; it is three days of information on topics such as dealing with conflict of interest, how SILCs operate in other states/territories, difficulties in recruiting and having members appointed, an update from the IL Network and more. The SILC Congress has decided to incorporate, and the next event will be held in 2020 in San Diego. He also explained that he met a man who graduated from Watertown High School, who is a member of the Colorado SILC. Craig invited people to go the event site to learn more information about what happened and the various topics. He said it was well worth the trip, and he learned a lot.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: At this time the gavel was given to Sarah, Vice Chair, since Craig was running for a position. Sarah then turned the process over to Eric for carrying it out. Eric explained that the Executive Committee was bringing forth a slate of three nominations for the four positions – Craig for Chair, Alan for Vice Chair and Mark for Member-at-Large. A second Member-at-Large has no nomination at this time. The process began with Eric calling for further nominations for Chair, twice. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT CRAIG AS CHAIR – MSC.** Eric then moved to calling for further nominations for Vice Chair, twice. Hearing none – **MOTION TO CEASE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT ALAN AS VICE CHAIR – MSC.** Next, Eric moved to calling for further nominations for Member-at-Large. Several nominations were brought forward with all but one being turned down.

MOTION TO ELECT MARK AND TASHA AS MEMBERS-AT-LARGE – MSC.

At this point, Sarah returned the gavel to Craig to continue with the meeting agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS: LEGISLATIVE SESSION – Beyond what had already been shared, Eric spoke briefly to HB1122 – the bill that changed state statute language from referring to “hearing impaired” to “hard of hearing.” This was an action that SILC Member, Mark Koterwski had brought to the SILC’s attention at the previous meeting and sought their support.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – SPIL revision was noted as an item that will need to be on the upcoming agenda, along with various standing agenda items. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – Eventual consensus was to hold the next meeting in Pierre/Ft. Pierre in June. Since the DakotaLink AT Advisory meeting is in Ft. Pierre on June 27th and a member is part of that group, an effort will be made to hold the SILC meeting on June 26th in Pierre/Ft. Pierre. ADJOURNMENT – Craig thanked everyone for their participation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – MS. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1 PM.