

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

June 26, 2019

AmericInn Conference Center

Ft. Pierre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacki Juhala, Clarke Christianson, Dave Scherer, Craig Eschenbaum, Sarah Rush, Alan Adel, Jen Red Bear, Eric Weiss, Ronda Williams, Mark Koterwski and Tasha Jones. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ben Wolf Necklace and Syndee Jundt. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Rich Eschenbaum, interested observer; Matt Cain – Independent Living Choices; Bernie Grimme, DRS Assistant Director; Sakura Rohleder, LRC analyst, Julie Paluch and Kasey Entwistle, Interpreters; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

OPENING ACTIONS: Craig called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 APRIL MINUTES – Craig asked for any changes to the draft April minutes; hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE MSC.** APPROVAL OF MAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – Craig called for any changes to the draft May 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 agenda.

DRS REPORT: Bernie Grimme provided this report. He explained that centers for independent living (CILs) submit quarterly reports, and he referenced the reports that had been mailed out to members prior to the meeting. He focused more specifically on the Independent Living (IL) Funding Sources SFY19 chart, explaining how Part B, Part C and Social Security funds all play a part in funding IL services in the state. Bernie then referred to the Status of CIL Contracts report, indicating that it reflects a 12-month period. Bernie also provided a graph showing the number of IL service units provided by year from SFY16 through

SFY19 thus far, and he spent time explaining factors impacting the trends over the years e.g., staff turnover, closing of a CIL. He explained that there is the ability to drill deeper into the data on this report e.g., units of specific services provided, and he offered to provide more detailed data, if the SILC would like such information. The SILC asked him to do so for future meetings. Craig thanked Bernie for his report.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (BVR) REPORT: Eric Weiss, BVR liaison to the SILC, provided this report. He shared that they met last week, and they did not have a quorum for their meeting, so any items requiring action were moved to the next meeting. He reviewed major items within the agenda, drawing specific attention to the report received on Indicator 14. It is a measure of students with individual education plans (IEPs) who complete or leave secondary education and their “success” following the conclusion of this level of education. The results show there is a connection between students’ participation in transition events and success after secondary education whether that is going on to post- secondary education, employment or other goals. Eric also spoke of changes occurring with the consumer satisfaction survey process carried out by DRS, and efforts to capture input from individuals with cases closed unsuccessful. Next, Eric spoke to the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA), which DRS and the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) are presently undertaking. It is a requirement, and it is completed every three years as a means of identifying need and planning for the future development of vocational rehabilitation services to meet those needs. Eric also spoke to the rollout of customized employment – a service designed for people who previously were unsuccessful in integrated community employment. They may have had success in sheltered employment or enclave employment; vocational rehabilitation and other services are working towards community integrated employment outcomes for those served, and customized employment is seen as a tool that may support these individuals in attaining that goal. He shared that the next meeting will be in September, some joint time with DSBVI, in Pierre or Ft. Pierre. There was a question about DRS seeing an increase in people served. Eric responded that in the past three years, they have set records for case service expenditures. During the past couple of years, the number of applicants has trended down a bit. Many factors impact these numbers so it is difficult to say what exactly is driving them. Craig thanked Eric for his report.

WORKGROUP UPDATES: CONSUMER SERVICES – Ronda provided this report. She shared that their main focus is exploring the development of a memorandum of understanding between CILs that will address issues like transferring of cases when individuals relocate or when they wish to be served by a CIL not covering the area in which they live. They have been working to add an independent living specialist from each CIL to this group. Jeneya from ILC and Linda from WRIL will be joining the group. Since this is Sarah’s last meeting, Ronda invited others to join the workgroup. She hopes to schedule a meeting of the group in July. PUBLIC AWARENESS/OUTREACH – Catherine provided this update. She explained that they hope to do more outreach in the coming months and provided examples of the types of outreach they may pursue. She also brought forward that they had received one nomination for the Champion of IL Award. It is Doris Schumacher of Brookings. Doris has been active on the local level, starting a brain injury support group, as well as very active in the Brain Injury Alliance of SD. She was nominated by ILC. **MOTION TO AWARD DORIS SCHUMACHER THE 2019 CHAMPION OF IL AWARD – MSC.** Staff asked how and when they would like to make the presentation, sharing how its been done in the past. **MOTION TO HOW AN EVENT SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR’S EVENT IN BROOKINGS AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING – MSC.** ADVOCACY/INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION – Tasha provided this update. She explained that they continue to wait for the DOT survey information, so they have not been active. It was suggested that staff provide Tasha with DOT contact information, so SILC workgroup members may connect directly with them rather than having to go through staff. Staff will forward that information to Tasha. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY/HOME MODIFICATIONS ASSISTIVE DEVICES – Dave shared that the group has not meet recently. He indicated that DakotaLink is pursuing additional grant opportunities and exploring areas such as smart homes. They will also be re-examining their low interest loan program to see what changes might increase its usage. At this time there was dialogue about having the topic of “workgroups” on the next meeting agenda. It is expected there will be new members on the SILC at that time. It would seem to be a good time to review the workgroup roles, the need for them, and provide new and continuing members an opportunity to determine on which they would like to serve in the coming year(s). Consensus was this topic needs to be on the agenda.

DSBVI REPORT: Ronda Williams provided this report. She began sharing information from their IL Older Blind Program Specialist – Sandy Neyhart. First, they recently had a conference call with consultants from Mississippi State about changes being proposed to the data report for the Older Blind program. This process is presently in the public comment period. If changes result, it will mean changes to the DSBVI case management system. Ronda then provided an update on the CCTV lease/loan program. Eight units were to be removed due to their age; five individuals asked to keep what they had and three requested newer models. Consequently, they presently have a small surplus. They have a total of 226 units and the older units are 2008 models. She reported that the Assistive Technology Access Project – a project that provides individuals with training on their personal devices – has provided training to 64 people since it started in 2017. Five people are currently involved; this is not a permanent service/program. Finally, Ronda reported that six DSBVI staff members are attending “Changes and Challenges in Diabetes Care and Education” in Sioux Falls on the 27th and 28th. Ronda then moved on to provide an update on the vocational rehabilitation program within DSBVI. There was a Partner Meeting on June 18th focused on the Workforce Development Council Goals and Priorities. It included a SWOT Analysis and work on strategies. She briefly mentioned the CSNA, since Eric had provided information on it during his earlier report. Ronda explained that DSBVI counselors met in Pierre May 6th – 8th and reviewed 86 case files for quality assurance, to ensure policy compliance and that the program is meeting federal requirements. They see this as a good opportunity to discuss best practices and provide training to new staff. She highlighted some areas in which DSBVI has seen improvement, as well as some areas where improvement and/or need for training and clarification are needed. Next, Ronda explained that they will be meeting with the Nebraska Commission of the Blind since they are a state that has two agencies (of which there are few). This will occur July 16th through the 18th. She shared they have a new VR Counselor, Taylor Wold, located in Sioux Falls, and with this hire, they are fully staffed. Finally, Ronda shared they have all staff training scheduled for July 29th – 31st in Pierre. It will include administration, counselors, IL rehabilitation teachers and rehabilitation center staff. Some topics to be covered are: working with individuals with secondary disabilities, including diabetes, dementia, brain injury, mental health conditions and deaf/blindness. Mississippi State University consultants will be presenting at the event. Craig thanked Ronda for her report.

BOARD OF SBVI REPORT: Catherine provided this update. They met last week, and she explained that they, too, did not have a quorum present for their meeting. She reported that Bob Jahner, CSNA consultant, presented at their meeting. She explained a process he had them participate in that broke them into pairs and led them in discussion on what brought them to serve on the board. She affirmed that the information from the CSNA will be used to develop the DSBVI vocational rehabilitation State Plan that needs to be written for FY21 – FY23. Catherine reported that a public forum was held during the NFB SD convention in Rapid City and about 30 people participated in it. She explained that the Board deferred their election of officers to the September meeting, due to a lack of a quorum. She closed by speaking to the DSBVI Transition Week activities. The number of applicants is growing, and there is some talk about possibly needing to hold more than one week, if this trend continues. Craig thanked Catherine for her report.

A break was taken at this time. The meeting reconvened after 20 minutes.

CIL REPORTS: INDEPENDENT LIVING CHOICES (ILC) – Matt Cain provided this update. He shared that the Watertown office will be going from 1½ to 2, as well as there will be new staff coming to the Brookings office. He also explained that one position from the Mitchell office will be locating to Chamberlain in order to provide better coverage of that area. With that move, ILC will have 10 offices throughout the state. Matt explained that they have only installed 10 ramps, primarily due to weather conditions. They have 50 ramps waiting to be installed, and their contractor has indicated that he believes he will be able to get them all in place in the foreseeable future. ILC will be having transition programs/services happening out of several offices, with a total of 82 youth participating. Matt then reported that Native American ILC presently has 66 cases between Pine Ridge and Rosebud, and their staffing has remained stable. He shared that ILC will be getting tablets and/or laptops for all their staff so they will be able to complete case notes and other activities while out and not have to wait to return to their offices to do so. A question was asked about how they advertise openings. Matt described their process, and he agreed to send them directly to DRS and DSBVI once he knows to whom to send them. A question was asked if there were problems around finding housing for people. Matt responded that it truly depends on where they person wishes to live. Tasha shared information on new projects/properties with vacancies, and she encouraged CILs to be in touch with

unmet needs. WESTERN RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (WRIL) – Jen Red Bear provided this update. She reported that their numbers receiving home modifications/assistive devices has gone down. They have received another grant from SD Housing Development Authority for security deposits, and this is a heavily used program. Their Pierre staff is fairly new, and Jen has been spending time training her. She is pleased that this staff is staying in touch with ILC's staff in Mobridge and Chamberlain. WRIL had its second annual evening fundraising event, and it was successful; they had fewer volunteers, so they continue to work at expanding their volunteer base for these types of efforts. Craig thanked Matt and Jen for their reports.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL): Eric provided background and an update on the status of SD's work on revising the current SPIL for 2020. It is in the hands of ACL at this time, after submitting a technical amendment based on ACL's guidance, after being submitted on May 30th. The next step will be to begin work on drafting a SPIL for FY21 – FY23 and considerable dialogue followed on how to proceed with this process. The SILC presently has a SPIL Committee, and it was agreed that it will be needed to carry out this work and prepare a draft for the full SILC's consideration. There were questions about when ACL might provide information on the timeline for this submission, as well as what the "new" document might look like; staff was directed to contact ACL to see what we might learn on this front. Consensus was that SPIL Process needs to be a standing agenda item for the upcoming meetings.

STAFF REPORT: Shelly provided this report. FY19 FINAL BUDGET REPORT – This report had been sent out earlier. There was a couple of questions about how the budget is developed and the impact of having unspent funds. Eric responded to these since these budget amounts are contained within the DRS agreement with the Coalition to provide staff support to the BVR and SILC. GOVERNOR'S AWARDS PROCESS UPDATE – Shelly reported that a total of 34 nominations were received, with 14 in one category. The next step is for the joint BVR, BSBVI and SILC Committee to review the nominations and come forward with recommended recipients. Once that is done, they are passed on to the BVR Executive Committee and eventually to the Governor. Eric encouraged that only one recipient be identified for each category, even though it may be very difficult to do based on the quality and number of nominations. Shelly asked if the SILC wished to commit any funds in support of the 2019 Governor's

Awards Ceremony. They have been a co-sponsor in the past. **MOTION TO SUPPORT THE 2019 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY UP TO THE SAME AMOUNT AS APPROVED FOR 2018 – MSC.** Shelly will check last year's minutes and ensure that amount if the maximum provided, if needed. ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING (ACL) – Shelly had been asked to look into whether there was anymore information out about the proposed reorganization of ACL. She was unable to locate anything new from what had been previously sent out. Consensus was that until the appropriations process is completed in D.C. there probably would not be much on this front. As information becomes available, it will be passed on to members. Craig thanked Shelly for her report.

OTHER BUSINESS: HONORING OF OUTGOING MEMBERS – Craig recognized Sarah and Clarke for their years of service and leadership, and thanked them on behalf of the entire SILC. Each was presented with a piece of art from the Suzi Cappa Art Center in Rapid City, and the full SILC expressed their appreciation via applause.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – New member orientation, SPIL development, Workgroup dialogue, Champion of IL Award Luncheon and opportunities to hear from other disability focused groups/agencies from the Brookings community were identified at potential agenda items. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – It was agreed that the meeting will be in Brookings. Staff will send out a Doodle poll with possible dates. ADJOURNMENT – Craig thanked everyone for their participation. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MS.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30pm.