

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

September 11, 2019

McCrary Gardens Visitor Center

Brookings

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Eschenbaum, Mark Koterwski, Patty Kuglitsch, Ronda Williams, Mark Sternhagen, Krysten Zimmerman, Ben Wolf Necklace, Eric Weiss, Tasha Jones, Syndee Jundt and Jen Red Bear. **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kathy Rutten, Alan Adel, Dave Scherer, Jackie Juhala and Catie Greseth

OTHERS PRESENT: Rich Eschenbaum, interested observer; Matt Cain and Jenny Hallan – Independent Living Choices; Sue Wente – PA and Driver for SILC member; Julie Paluch and Rick Norris, Interpreters; Jennifer Lewis, DRS IL Program Specialist; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Craig welcomed the new members in attendance – Patty, Krysten, Mark (S) and Ben – and then turned over the presentation of materials to Eric and Shelly. Each new member received a “manual.” It was explained that time would not allow for going over every item within the manual, yet reference would be made to all of the contents, so members would know what resources they have at their fingertips. Shelly began with a brief overview of the Independent Living movement history, philosophy and key concepts e.g., consumer control. Eric followed by explaining the role of the Designated State Entity, as well as giving an overview of the Department of Human Services and the placement of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within DHS. Additional topics covered were an overview of the Rehabilitation Act and portions relating specifically to the SILC, duties and authorities of the SILC, authorized uses of IL funds, SILC bylaws and member expenses reimbursement process. Eric and Shelly both invited new members to be in touch with any questions that might arise once they have time to closely review all of the information within the manual.

OPENING ACTIONS: Craig called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He welcomed all and asked them to introduce themselves. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Craig asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Shelly asked to add “SILC Policies” under “Staff Report.” **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES – Craig asked for any changes to the draft June minutes; hearing

none – **MOTION TO APPROVE MSC**. APPROVAL OF AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – Craig called for any changes to these draft minutes. Hearing none – **MOTION TO APPROVE – MSC**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Craig asked if there was any need for the SILC to hold an executive session. Shelly explained the reason this item appears on each meeting agenda, for the benefit of the new members. 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: Eric Weiss, DRS Director, provided this report. He reviewed the four reports, which had been mailed out earlier. In a couple of cases, he handed out revised or additional reports. **CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY** – Eric reviewed the content of this report, and he noted that the dates on the top of page 2 are not accurate. The comments provided always reflect the “Reporting Period” displayed on Page 1 of the report. There were a few questions about how these surveys are handled, and it was agreed that when the CIL Directors provide their reports, it would be a good time to explore this topic. Consensus was that the return rate of over 30% is very good. **IL FUND SOURCES – SFY2020** – Eric handed out a revised report after noting that some of calculations on the mailed report were not accurate. He also provided a limited explanation of the various funding sources and their uses. **STATUS OF CIL CONTRACTS** – Eric reviewed the earlier mailed report which reflected FY19. He then handed out the same report reflecting the first three months of FY20. He highlighted that with 25% of the year completed, both CILs are over their expected goal for the provision of services – ILC at 38.08% and WRIL at 42.21%. **SERVICE GROUPS REPORT** – Eric handed out a revised report from the earlier one mailed out. In reviewing the one mailed out, they had noted some data that appeared to not make sense. In reviewing the information, they found an error, and corrected it for the revised report. This change was in the % reported for travel by each CIL. In talking about these reports, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to send out maps depicting service areas of each CIL to all members. Staff will send out this information right away. Hearing no further questions, Eric concluded this report.

WORKGROUPS: Craig introduced this topic, followed by asking Shelly to review the current groups. She identified there are presently four workgroups – (1) consumer services, (2) Public Awareness/Outreach, (3) Advocacy/ Interagency Collaboration, and (4) Assistive Technology/Home Modifications Assistive Devices. She provided an overview of the activities each group has historically completed, as well as their current membership. New members were encouraged to consider which they might want to participate on... This was followed by updates from each committee. The major update was from the Consumer Services workgroup. This group has been looking at the topic of consumer choice and transferring/referring of cases between CILs, since coverage areas have changed with ILC being awarded funding to service the nine tribal nations. They have reviewed existing documents – Authorization of Client Choice DHS-IL-07/15 and Program Guide DRS/IL 08-02 Statewideness, Consumer Choice, and Timeliness in the Provision of Independent Living Services. They have also been working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to these topics. Their next steps are to revised an existing document to reference “referral” of cases rather than “transfer” of cases between CILs, as well as the changes to the “draft” MOU and then schedule another meeting. They expect to have something for the full SILC to consider at it’s December meeting. Public Awareness/Outreach had no update other than today’s Champion of IL event. Tasha reported that the Advocacy/Interagency Collaboration Workgroup has been in touch with DOT about their recent survey. The results are yet to be finalized and made public. Craig reported that the Assistive Technology/Home Modifications Assistive Devices workgroup has not met recently.

DIVISION OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

(DSBVI) REPORT: OLDER BLIND INDEPENDENT LIVING (OIB) PROGRAM –

Ronda provided this report. In mid-July, consumer satisfaction surveys were distributed to 61 individuals whose cases were closed – goals met. Thus far, they’ve had a 48% return rate. Analysis of the survey responses will be completed at the end of the 4th quarter and included in the annual report.

LUNCH AND LEARN EVENTS – These events are being held in conjunction with the Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). One was held in Martin on August 15th with 28 individuals participating. Another is scheduled for September 18th in Mitchell. A DSBVI staff person presents on the Older Blind IL program at these events. MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY – Ronda spoke about

a facilitated conference call for OIB program managers which focused on “Well Connected.” This is a network of senior living communities in California, which provides phone-based outreach for isolated, homebound seniors and visually impaired/disabled adults. Information about this program will be shared with DSBVI’s rehabilitation teachers, and information on the program can be found at: <https://covia.org/services/well-connected/> Ronda also reported that Sandy Neyhart, DSBVI’s OIB Program Manager, was invited to be on a panel at the OIB Program Managers’ Conference in Minneapolis this week.

BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (BVR) REPORT: Eric provided this report. The BVR met in Ft. Pierre on June 19th. One key focus was the State Plan – its status, key partners and the approaching work needed to update it by July of 2020. One key component is the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA), and Eric explained that Bob Janner, a consultant who has assisted with this activity in past years, is again assisting with this portion of the process. He explained that the BVR meets again on September 26th, and a portion of that meeting will be held in conjunction with the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. The Division of SBVI is participating in the CSNA, and thus the reason for meeting jointly to receive a draft report from Bob. The June meeting also included time focused on Indicator 14 – a presentation based upon a survey of all students on IEPs who had graduated, received a certificate, dropped out or aged out as of 2018. Eric also reported on the DRS initiative around “customized employment” – its history, focus and desired outcome in supporting individuals with significant disabilities becoming successful in securing employment in integrated, competitive settings. He reported that their December meeting will be held in December, due to past experience teaching them this is the best way to meet, due to the unpredictable influence weather has during that time of year on meeting in person.

BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (BSBVI) REPORT: The last SBVI board meeting was held June 21 in Pierre. Robert Jahner spent time explaining the statewide needs assessment process and obtaining feedback from the board members. Unfortunately, there was not enough attendance for a quorum, so nothing was voted on. The next meeting will be held jointly with BVR on September 26. Robert Jahner will be in attendance, and will share results with both Boards regarding the statewide needs assessment. The SBVI Board will convene again on September 27 with

regular agenda items. Nichole Nelson is replacing Patrick Czerny as the CRP representative on the Board. Nichole works for School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and contracts with SBVI as the Transition Specialist. This will be her first board meeting.

The meeting broke at 11:50 AM in preparation for the Champion of Independent Living Lunch. Joining the SILC at this time were Tom, Doris, Glen and Hannah Schumacher.

CHAMPION OF IL AWARD PRESENTATION: Craig invited Jenny Hallan to speak to the reasons she and other staff of ILC nominated Doris for this award. She spoke about Doris' ongoing work on behalf of people with brain injury on a local and state level. She co-founded the Brookings Brain Injury Support Group in 2014, and it has continued to flourish under her leadership. The group has provided community education and public awareness of brain injuries by developing and setting up displays, carrying out fundraising campaigns, participating in Disability Awareness Day at the State Capitol, providing rides for individuals from Brookings to participate in the monthly Sioux Falls Brain Injury Support Group and much more. Following Jenny's comments, Craig presented Doris with the 2019 Champion of IL Award. Doris shared a few thoughts upon receiving the award – thanking some who have supported her in her efforts and expressing surprise and thanks for this recognition.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 PM.

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORTS: INDEPENDENT LIVING CHOICES – Matt Cain, Executive Director, provided this report. He identified the location of their 10 offices, and he addressed the travel involved with providing services in some of the areas served by staff in those offices. ILC has recently had some staff changes due to a variety of reasons. Their number of referrals are up for the year, and to date this year ILC has served 2,342. This number is larger than the total served in any previous year. ILC has completed its summer transition programs, which were held in various locations, and they involved between 75 and 85 youth in total. Mark (K) raised an issue relating to access to fire alarms for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, speaking to the value of hardwired alarms. The CILs are committed to provided these, yet they need to follow policies in terms who is served first based upon those policies. WESTERN

RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING – Jen Red Bear, Executive Director, provided this update. Jen reported that their numbers being served are up this quarter. They are receiving a lot of referrals due to the availability of the rent security deposit program funded through SD Housing Development Authority. This program helps to assist in addressing the homeless issue in Pennington County; it is available for people living in all the counties within their service area. Jen reported that she will be interviewed on KOTA-TV in the coming weeks, which will be a good outreach opportunity for the CIL.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL): Eric provided an overview of this process and the current status of the process. A new three-year SPIL will need to be written and submitted to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) by the end of July. **MOTION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC SPIL COMMITTEE – MSC.** At this time, those in attendance were asked if they were interested in serving on this committee. Eric, Patty, Craig and Mark (S) volunteered to serve on the committee. Eric and Shelly will explore whether the SILC can expect further guidance and documentation on how the next SPIL needs to be written, since it is expected it will be a totally new format from the current one. A copy of the current one will be sent to new SILC members.

BROOKINGS MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITIES PRESENTATION: Mark (S) reported on this group. He explained that the committee had disbanded, and when he learned about it, he contacted the Mayor seeking to re-establish it. It was re-established at the end of May with all new members. He spoke of their efforts to increase awareness about "access for all," and he shared some post-its they are using to promote those efforts. When they see a problem with disability access of any kind, they place a post-it at that site, take a picture and post it along with the location on Facebook. The post-it says, "#WhatIfItWasME" and it is an effort to promote empathy, not sympathy. He shared information on the creator of the design, and he suggested that with the 30th Anniversary of the ADA occurring next year, possibly a group such as the SILC would want to do something statewide using this model. Mark also shared that Billie Sutton will be presenting in Brookings during National Disability Employment Awareness Month – October. Mark is also scheduled to speak on the SDSU campus concerning access for all.

STAFF REPORT: GOVERNOR'S AWARDS PROCESS UPDATE – Shelly explained that we are still awaiting final word on the announcement of the recipients and the date of the event. Once known, it will be sent out to SILC members. Forgetting they had acted on funding for this event, she raised a need for this action. SILC members reminded her of their action on this at a previous meeting, so no further action was needed. SILC POLICIES – Shelly reminded members that Jennifer Geuther and she had returned from a SILC Congress a couple of years ago, and as a result shared that it was highly recommended each SILC have certain policies in place. The SILC worked on these policies, and they were adopted at the June meeting. At this time, Shelly handed out copies to members. The policies are: A Method for Recruiting Members and Regularly Providing Recommendations for Eligible Appointments to the Appointing Authority; A Method for Identifying and Resolving Actual or Potential Disputes and Conflicts of Interest that are in Compliance with State and Federal Law; A Process for Developing, Seeking and Incorporating Public Input into Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluating Implementation of the State Plan; and A Process to Hold Public Meetings and Meet Regularly as Prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3); and for the Public to Request Reasonable Accommodations to Participate During a Public Council Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: FALL CONFERENCE – Craig promoted the Fall Conference. Information had been sent to SILC members earlier. Anyone interested in participating can contact staff about needed arrangements. SILC CONGRESS – Craig explained that he, and usually a staff person from the SILC or DRS, has attended this the past few years. This year's event will be held in San Diego. The dates have not yet been announced. It is an opportunity to meet with other SILCs from across the country and territories. As information becomes available, it will be shared with members. A question was asked about NCIL and the SILC's involvement with this organization. Staff explained that the SILC has been a member at times, and at other times has not been a member. Patty spoke to the value of the NCIL conference, as it provides an opportunity to meet with our congressional delegation in Washington DC on the issues relating to independent living.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Craig asked for any items. Shelly suggested that the SPIL will most likely need to be an agenda item on each meeting agenda for the next several meetings. No other items were raised

at this time. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – Consensus was the next meeting will be held via video-conference. Staff will consult with DRS about potential dates in December and send out a Doodle Poll in the next week. ADJOURNMENT Prior to adjourning, Eric took a few moments to thank Shelly for her years of service to the SILC. This will be her last meeting as SILC staff, and her commitment and passion have been appreciated over the years. A couple of other members added comments to Eric's. Shelly thanked them for the opportunity on behalf of the Coalition and herself. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MS.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.