

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

June 19 & 20, 2018

South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind
Sioux Falls

Members Present: Craig Eschenbaum, David Scherer, Mark Kowterski, Chuck Quinn, Jackie Juhala, Sarah Rush, Clarke Christianson, Alan Adel, Catherine Greseth, Tammy Kabris, Bernie Grimme and Sandy Neyhart.

Members Absent: Gillian Plenty Chief, Lorie Nelson and Steve Stewart.

Others Present: Jen Red Bear, Western Resources for Independent Living; Jennifer Geuther, Division of Rehabilitation Services; Jenny Hallen, Independent Living Choices; Rich Eschenbaum, interested observer; Kasey Entwistle and Julie Paluch, Interpreters; and Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff.

Opening Actions: Craig called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. 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 "ACL Letter". **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 March meeting minutes. Hearing none; **Motion to approve the March Minutes - MSC.** Craig moved to approval of the May Executive Committee minutes. Hearing none; **Motion to approve the May Executive Committee Minutes - MSC.**

Public Comment Period: Craig asked for any public comments. Bernie, DRS Assistant Director, shared the registration brochure for the Fall Conference to be held in Aberdeen in October. He encouraged SILC members interested in attending to work with SILC staff to get registered and make other needed arrangements. The SILC has supported members related travel expenses in the past and continues to be willing to do so. Hearing no other comments, Craig moved to the next item.

Executive Session: Craig asked Staff to explain the reason behind the inclusion of this item on the agenda. Shelly explained that guidance from the Administration of Community Living points to executive session agendas need to be made public. A way in which some states have done this is to include time for "Executive Session" on the agenda of each

quarterly meeting. By doing this, advance notice is given to the public. If the time is not needed, the SILC will move on to other agenda items. Consensus was that this was an effective way to proceed. Craig noted no need for Executive Session today.

DRS Report: Jennifer Geuther, DRS IL Program Specialist, provided the report. REVIEW OF DRS REPORTS - Client Satisfaction Survey results showed overall positive feedback. The response rate for this reporting period was the same as it has been at about 33% return. IL Funding - Jennifer handed out the funding source diagram for SFY19. This covers the period of June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019. Status of CIL Contracts - Jennifer reported that ILC exceeded their goal for the provision of services and thus earned their total contracted amount. WRIL provided 94% of their expected provision of services and therefore did not earn their total contracted amount. There was a balance of approximately \$17,800 of which \$8,900 is Part B funds and \$8,900 is State funds. CIL Reviews - Jennifer reported that the reviews have been completed. They include reviewing case files, contract compliance, state requirements and federal requirements. Examples of reviewed items are: most recent audit, time sheets and billed hours, policies such as conflict of interest and confidentiality and accuracy and appropriateness of billings. Jennifer, Bernie Grimme, and Mitchell Close, DRS Program Specialist, complete the reviews. ILC's review was completed in early March. A sample of 118 cases (7.5%) were reviewed. Of those, 93% chose to have a waiver of the IL Plan, and 7% chose to have an IL Plan. Most areas reviewed scored 98.25% or 100% accuracy. Recommendations resulting from the review were: staff training on IL Plan requirements; staff training on TAD assurance forms; and consider placing cases involving peer support services on IL Plans so there is an annual review to discuss continued services. WRIL's review was completed in later March. A sample of 62 cases (25%) were reviewed. Of those, 48% chose an IL Plan, and 52% chose a waiver of the IL Plan. This was a significant change from last year. Most areas reviewed scored well (90% and above). Areas identified as needing improvement were: eligibility documentation; IL Plan reviews; coordination with VR for individuals seeking employment; and coordination with special education if the individual is a student. Recommendations resulting from the review were: staff training on eligibility and documentation; staff training on IL Plan annual reviews; begin attending

monthly provider meetings at local VR office; coordinate with special education programs; staff training on TAD assurance forms; and provide a greater variety of services (50% of reviewed cases involved applying for Social Security benefits). Service Units by Year - Jennifer had mailed out a chart showing the number of IL service units provided by each CIL for the past three years. She reported that ILC and WRIL both received additional Part C funds in the past year. During the last State fiscal year, total service units provided were 7,251 less than the previous year. NAAP discontinuing as a CIL had some impact on this outcome. UNDERSERVED AREAS - WHAT'S HAPPENING - ILC has opened an office in Mobridge. That staff person spends one day a week at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe VR office in Eagle Butte and one day a week at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe VR office in McLaughlin. ILC has almost doubled their numbers being served since making this change, not counting information and referral only cases. WRIL continues to serve people on the Oglala Lakota and Rosebud nations with current staff. The numbers they are serving are remaining steady and gradually growing. At the federal level, no word has been received on the outcome of their request for proposal process, which closed May 7th. It sought applications to establish a new CIL to cover all nine Native American reservations in South Dakota. This concluded Jennifer's report.

BVR Report: Chuck Quinn, SILC and BVR member provided this report. He reported on activities from the March meeting held in Ft. Pierre. Chuck gave an overview of the DRS Director's Report provided by Eric Weiss. Items included were nominations for the one vacancy due to occur; the status of the FY18 budget - expected to be over-expended, but no resulting cut in services is expected, nor a move to imposing an Order of Selection; Supported Employment funding update now indicating that it appears these funds will be flowing to the state, contrary to earlier reports - waiting for confirmation; and sharing of a variety of upcoming training opportunities including staff training, Youth Leadership Forum and Fall Conference. A presentation followed by Beth Schiltz and Dr. Faye LaDuke-Pelster on the Core Indicator 14. This indicator examines the status of graduating special education students a year following their graduation to see if they are pursuing further education, working or pursuing other goals. They complete this review on a yearly basis and examine multiple years of data in an effort to identify trends. The meeting continued with reports from Kim Hoberg on

VR Initiatives and Business Specialist activities such as 2018 Summer Initiatives, Business-led Groups and the Ability for Hire campaign. BVR staff brought forward two requests for BVR strategic planning funds - \$2,000 for Lighting the Way Conference and \$2,000 for participation in the 2018 International Project SEARCH Conference. Both requests were approved. He then reported on 2017 and 2018 NDEAM activities and the Governor's Awards. Chuck reported that the final three items of the meeting were a report on the outcome of the Consumer Satisfaction Survey, the revision and update of the State Plan, and a presentation on the Aspire Project - a consortium of six states working with minors receiving Supplemental Security Income - a research project. Chuck reported that they had their last meeting earlier this month.

DSBVI Report: Sandy Neyhart, Program Specialist, provided this report. MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER - They continue to work with Mississippi State University National Technical Assistance Center for technical assistance. An initial planning call will take place on July 16th. This entire TA process will take 16 - 18 months. It will include numerous teleconferences and a minimum of two on- site visits with division staff and stakeholders involved with the Independent Living Older Blind services. ELECTRONIC VIDEO MAGNIFICATION (CCTV) LEASE/LOAN - Sandy then updated members on this program. She reported that following an exhaustive search on the part of many people, one of the devices has been identified as lost or stolen. This is the 2nd machine lost or stolen since the programs began in 2004. They presently have 225 units in the program with less than nine people waiting for units. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM - Since it began there have been 33 instances of training provided by DakotaLink to 30 individuals with vision loss. It is available for people of all ages to help them with training needs supporting their independent living goals.

BSBVI Report: Catherine Greseth, SILC and Board of SBVI member, provided this report. The BSBVI met earlier this week. They are awaiting Governor appointments for two pending vacancies. The meeting included an update on the WIOA; an in-depth review of a policy update on funding of post-secondary education; sponsorship of National White Cane Day walk in Sioux Falls in October; and a report on a public meeting held in April at the

NFB convention in Rapid City. Catherine also shared that they learned of the retirement of Nancy Hoyme, Business Enterprise Program Director; there are two open business operations under this program - one in Pierre and one in Yankton. They also learned about the Durable Medical Equipment Recycle and Reuse Program. The next BSBVI meeting is scheduled for September 21st.

Due to the agenda moving quickly, Craig invited representatives from WRIL and ILC to share an update from each of their CILs. Jen Red Bear shared that WRIL now has two IL Specialists in Rapid City. They are serving three new cases in the underserved area, and caseloads are now over 30 per IL specialist. There continues to be a high demand for TAD services. They have applied for a grant from a local resource to support a summer transition program; they are awaiting word on the outcome of the application. The Rapid City peer support group is growing; its primarily made up of youth and meets the third Thursday of each month. A question was asked if their staff meets with tribal VR on the Oglala Lakota and Rosebud nations; Jen said they had not yet begun this practice but would be doing so. Jenny Hallen provided the ILC update. She reported on their Sioux Falls based summer transition program. It runs Mondays through Thursdays, with morning and afternoon sessions. Twenty youth are involved this year; they've added sessions like music therapy, cookies and canvas painting, and what it means to turn 18 by a resource officer. They also have transition service programs in Aberdeen, Watertown and Brookings. They are presently working on a software conversion. The Mobridge Staff is very busy with 50 referrals in the first month. They are working closely with Tribal housing, health representatives and VR staff.

Craig called for a break of approximately 20 minutes.

Champions of IL Awards: Sandy Neyhart, Public Awareness Committee Chair, reviewed this year's process soliciting nominations from CILs and SILC members. Two nominations were received, and the committee met via phone. Those unable to participate spoke to Sandy later and provided their recommendations. Of the two nominations, the committee is recommending an award be given to Kelly Chandler of Watertown. Kelly was nominated by Sarah Jo Jorgensen of ILC, and she read the submitted nomination. **Motion to award a Champion of IL Award to Kelly Chandler**

- **MSC.** Sandy explained how the award was developed to recognize people committed to South Dakotans with disabilities reaching their IL goals and highlighting the role of the SILC. The committee would like to see it become more of a SILC event, possibly taking place as part of or in conjunction with one of their meetings. The SILC might want to provide coverage of mileage and time, if needed by the recipient in order to participate. Discussion followed that the next meeting could be held in Watertown, and then the SILC could have an opportunity to see Kelly's work environment. Comment was made that the SILC needs to go out and be seen - they represent the entire state. It was also suggested they could possibly meet with community-based groups such as the Mayor's Committee and/or peer support group. Craig suggested further discussion on the location of the next meeting be held during closing actions.

SILC Staff Report: Staff reported that all of the nominations information is at the Governor's office. We typically hear about new appointments in early July. Once word is received, it will be shared with all members. Next was "Policies and Procedures Overview". Drafts had been mailed out prior to the meeting. The first one - A method for recruiting members and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority - staff explained that the initial draft was based on another state's policy, trying to fit our process into it. At this time, she handed out a new draft prepared by Eric Weiss, DRS Director. It more accurately reflects the way the SILC has and does recruit nominations for the Governor's consideration. It was recommended that the newest version be the one considered for action. After some discussion, **Motion to adopt the policy as prepared by DRS Director Weiss - MSC.** The next draft considered - A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law - was discussed. It was amended to include "Should a conflict of interest involve the Chair, he/she will hand the gavel to the Vice Chair." to the end of the second paragraph. **Motion to adopt the policy as amended - MSC.** The next policy - A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3) which also meets the state's open meeting laws... - was reviewed and following some discussion, **Motion to adopt the policy - MSC.** The next one - A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17 - led to

conversation on ways the State Plan is monitored and reviewed. **Motion to adopt the policy - MSC.** The final draft policy - A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii) - was one for which staff was unable to find examples. It was suggested language be added - "This will be verified by the CILs providing the SILC with the annual 704 Reports." Because some questions remained on what might be used to verify CILs eligibility to sign the State Plan, **Motion to table until further clarification can be sought - MSC.** ACL Letter - staff handed out a letter written on June 12th by Bob Williams. It addresses how SILCs, CILs and DSEs should approach the awarding of additional Part B funds. Bernie reported that the DSE has received notice of an increase to a total amount of \$332,044 - an increase of approximately \$28,000. Bernie explained ways in which the increase could be applied to the IL budget and services and be responsive to the State Plan. Consensus was to delay action until tomorrow. This agenda item was placed on tomorrow's agenda, in place of "Dialogue/Action on Policies and Procedures" which is no longer needed since action was taken on them today.

Medicaid Medical Equipment Recycle Program: David Scherer handed out a brochure on the program (see attached). He explained that South Dakota is the 3rd State to have a successful program. At the federal level, they are looking at how all states can be successful with these programs. The MERR program refurbishes, recycles, and reuses Durable Medical Equipment to support South Dakotans with disabilities. It is presently a pilot project located in Sioux Falls. The vision is that it will become a statewide program in the future.

Recognition of Outgoing Member: Chuck had shared that he would not be able to participate in tomorrow's portion of the meeting. At this time, Craig presented Chuck with a "thank you" gift in appreciation for his service on the SILC.

Meeting adjourned for the day at approximately 4:30 pm.

Craig called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 am on Wednesday, June 20th.

Recognition of Outgoing Member: Tammy shared that she needed to leave after the tour, so at this time Craig presented Tammy with a “thank you” gift for her service on the SILC.

Rehabilitation Center for the Blind Tour: Dawn Backer, Manager of the SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, provided an overview of the history of the facility, as well as the types of services available. The center has been operating for over 40 years, with 10 of those years in the present location. They provide services in the areas of skills of blindness, employment, transition services for youth and much more. Following the overview, Dawn and two of her staff took three groups of SILC members on a tour of the facility.

Craig called for a short break upon the conclusion of the tours.

Allocation of Additional Part B Funds: Bernie shared that based upon the current funding needs and allocation of Part B funds, he recommends that the additional \$28,000+ in Part B funds be awarded 25% to WRIL and 75% to ILC. These percentages are based on the current allocations of funds to each CIL. After some discussion, **Motion to allocate the additional Part B funds to WRIL at 25% and ILC at 75% - MS.** Bernie explained that these funds are for the current year; it is uncertain whether it will be available in future years; if it is not expended in this year, it can be carried over into the next year; the dollars stay within the IL system. Alan declared a conflict of interest on this motion due to his serving on the WRIL board, and he abstained from voting. **Motion Carried.**

Election of Officers: At this time, Craig passed the gavel to Bernie to oversee the election process. Bernie reported that Craig has agreed to serve as Chair another term if elected, so his name was entered into nomination. He asked if there were any other nominations. He asked a second and third time if there were any further nominations. Hearing none - **Motion to close nominations and elect Craig as Chair - MSC.** Bernie then reported that Sarah has agreed to serve as Vice Chair if elected, so her name was entered into nomination. He asked if there were any other nominations. He asked a second and third time if there were any further nominations. Hearing none - **Motion to close nominations and elect Sarah as Vice Chair - MSC.** Next, Bernie reported that Mark and Alan

have agreed to serve as Members-at-Large if elected, so their names were entered into nomination. He asked if there were any other further nominations. He asked a second and third time if there were any further nominations. Hearing none - **Motion to close nominations and elect Alan and Mark as Members-at-Large - MSC.** Bernie handed the gavel back to Craig at this time.

Recognition of Outgoing Members: Craig presented Bernie and Sandy with “thank you” gifts for their service on the SILC. He also asked Bernie if he would take the gift for Steve and be sure that he receives it with the SILC’s thanks.

Craig called for a short break prior to the next agenda item.

Community Campus: Nikki Allcock & Lori Kwasniewski provided this presentation. Both work with this program within the Sioux Falls School District. They shared that this program has been in operation for 17 years, and it started with half-day sessions at school and half day at campus for students. It has now begun to provide students with full day sessions on campus. If this continues, they will soon outgrow their current location. The program averages 30 to 40 students, with 17 to 18 in the mornings and the same number in the afternoons. Community Transitions has three employment consultants – one each at Washington High School, Lincoln High School and Roosevelt High School. Students are identified in their Sophomore and Junior years, and to dates they have not encountered any type of waiting list to enter the program. Community Campus has no grades, no bells and no tests. It focuses on adult living related skills.

Once students have earned their 22 credits in school, they apply to attend Community Campus. In selecting students, staff looks at what the student needs in areas such as independent living, pre-employment and employment skills. They incorporate the Person-Centered Planning one-page profile in the process, as part of the IPE process, as they see a short two to three-year time frame to identify and address the students’ needs. Some of the criteria they review are the functional skills of the student – the ratio of student to staff is one to five, so does this fit their abilities. Do students have the ability to be re-directed every 15 to 30 minutes? Are students able to follow steps? Some students transition from Community

Campus to Augie Access or CTE at Southeast Technical Institute. Others transition to employment. Community Campus has three work experience settings – Morell, Good Samaritan and within their own campus. These provide students with opportunities to experience various work environments while determining future employment and career goals. Some of these experiences are paid; others are volunteer.

Community Campus provides skill development opportunities in areas such as functional reading, budgeting and money management, social skills both personal and professional, job club, relationship building, access to resources in the community, driver's education simulation course, and how to access and use public transit – both fixed route and para-transit. The Campus also has recognized the importance of connecting families to adult services. They invite community resources providing adult services to a parents/youth night, where all can learn about what is available to support the youth and their families, as the youth makes a transition from youth services to adult services.

Other communities have inquired about setting up similar programs. The presentation was followed by a brief time of questions and answers. Craig thanked Lisa and Nikki for their time and presentation.

Closing Actions: Future Agenda Items – Craig asked for ideas on future agenda items. It was suggested that time be allowed for members to speak to organizations they are connected to and happenings within those organizations, not necessarily as a standing agenda item; another suggestion was to have a standing agenda item on State Plan Review; and a third item was a standing agenda item for CIL Reports. Scheduling of Next Meeting – Consensus was to hold the next meeting in Watertown mid to later September. The Ramkota/Best Western was identified as a possible site for the meeting. Staff will send out a doodle poll with potential dates. Adjournment – **Motion to adjourn – MS.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 am.