



WASHINGTON State Independent Living Council

WASILC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday January 12, 2017

Best Western Plus Lacey Inn & Suites
8326 Quinault Dr. NE, Lacey, WA 98516

Members Present:

Mark Leeper, Center Director Representative, Pullman
Jana Finkbonner, VR Tribal Representative, Bellingham
Kayla Victor, Private Business Representative, Vancouver
Esther Bennett, Ex-Officio DVR, Olympia
Keith James, Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities, Seattle
Ryan Nabors, CIL Representative, Tumwater
Almir Trejo, General Public Representative, Tacoma
Krysta Van Woert, General Public Representative, Tonasket

Members Absent: None

Council Staff:

Kim Conner, Executive Director
Alex Hatcher, Disability Integration Manager
Cassi Villegas, Executive Assistant

Guests:

Toby Olson, Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)
David Lord, Disability Rights Washington (DRW)
Jerry Johnsen, Client Assistance Program (CAP)
Jennifer Bean Client Assistance Program (CAP)
Teesha Kirschbaum, Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)
Patt Kosier, Center for Independence
Kimberly Heymann, Alliance of People with disabilities
Deborah Witmer
Hope Drummond
Jessica Williams Hall
Robert Blumenfeld
Pamela Wilson

Per Phone:

Sheila Turner, Parent Guardian Representative, Pasco
Deb Cook, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) Ex-Officio

Call to Order:

- Called to Order: January 12, 2017 at 9:10. by Mark Leeper, SILC Chair
- October 2016 Minutes- Motion for Approval

Motion: Kayla “I motion to approve the minutes.”

Vote: All in favor, motion passes unanimously

Icebreaker: Kayla and Kim

- Each Council member and guest answered random questions without any preparation

Executive Committee Report: Mark Leeper

- Congratulated and thanked Executive Director for her achievements
- Thanked EC members for taking on a significant amount of work
- Informed group on the DVR change in leadership;
- The following partners sent a letter to Asst. Secretary Queral offering their assistance and collaboration in the DVR Director hiring process; WSRC (lead agency), DDC, Arc of WA, GCDE, DSB.
- Part B funds: All of the CIL’s and SILC Directors will meet bi-monthly to determine programs that will be funded with the Part B funds.
- EC has been reviewing the SPIL, familiarizing and creating priorities, interpreting for state needs
- Council openings are available (three). Committee will be determining the need for council following SPIL Requirements

Executive Director Report: Kim Conner

- Introduced new Executive Assistant
- Reported out on the attendance of the APRIL conference in October
- CIEP and the DOH grant. There will be a strategic planning meeting in February to determine vision and focus for upcoming work plan and long-term funding strategies
- Everyone is invited to the Legislative Reception on February 1st, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building. We will be working with our partners to advocate for DVR to be fully funded
- Jana asked about the Representatives and Senators. Discussion on whether our efforts should focus on entire legislators or those that are known to be supportive.
 - It was decided to focus on those that are known to be supportive
 - Melony Stanbauch was suggested as a disability ally
- Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies Inc., a nation-wide Emergency preparedness organization asked the SILC to sign Memorandum of Understanding supporting their efforts. Kim conferred with Executive Committee and signed MOU.
- 704 Report is due at the end of January. We will be reaching out to DVR, DSB and CILs to complete report
- SILC was asked to participate in the Washington State Public Health and Medical Disaster Advisory Group (DAG)
- Worked with AL TSA and DVR to ensure that CIL’s will be reimbursed for the Center Based Training program as set by the AL TSA’s SOW

Tribal Report: Jana Finkbonner

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Meeting has occurred
- There hasn't been a lot of communication between tribes currently until the DVR leadership change. The tribes have offered to be part of the hiring process for the new DVR Director

Marketing and Outreach Committee Report: Kayla Victor

- Committee has been working on branding and website redesign
- Committee took a short break while going through the hiring process for new Executive Assistant
- It was suggested that once we develop marketing messaging that we collaborate with CIL's so that we can leverage our messaging state-wide creating unified Independent Living messaging brand
- Individual CIL's and the SILC would still have their unique messaging
- Committee making sure that the website is accessible
- Kimberly brought up rebranding and wanted to know "What makes IL sexy?" We need something that makes us stand out and want people to work with our programs. She feels this is a big topic to be considered when rebranding. Kayla responded that the sexiness comes from us doing the work and sharing that info. We need to have a succinct and collaborative message
- Questions as to why and how we are rebranding. Kayla explained that there needs to be a better understanding of IL and the outside view for others that do not have disabilities or a disabilities background. Piecing the puzzle together is a part of our mission to create a brand.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report: Ryan Nabors

- Ryan attended Governor's ball and discussed IL philosophy with freshman officials to build long lasting relationships
- The Committee is looking at working with elected officials educating on Independent Living

Center for Independence (CFI) Update: Patt Kosier

- Youth program has monthly support group meetings. They go into the high school to teach self-advocacy
- This program is building and executing workshops for youth
- Patt's CIL is working closely with DVR and other partners within Pierce County. Working on accessible taxis, affordable shuttle services, creating Tacoma Ordinance for Closed Captioning for public televisions in businesses
- New staff in the Marysville office, continuing growth in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Some funding is coming from other agencies that are happy to have CILs as partners
- Funded to host six youth dances for transitional program in Skagit
- Mayor's Committee in Marysville is working on building accessible park, collaborating with CIL

and YMCA

- Interns in the Lakewood are being trained for IL. Western Washington University requested the CIL interns come into the classroom and train for IL with current students

Alliance of People with disAbilities Update: Kimberly Heymann

- Kimberly announced that they are in the process of closing their Bellevue office. They will be opening an office in Redmond and Auburn since they can only serve King county
- They have a parent support group "ThisAbilities."
- 100% increase in participation due to app "Meet Up"
- NW ADA Center has been funded for another five years. Committee for community impact, we assume they will be looking for partners with this

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Preparedness (CIEP) Report: Alex Hatcher

- CIEP will provide technical assistance to state agencies, non-profits and various organizations to assist and ensure people with **Access and Functional needs** have equal access to programs and services. Examples of this is ensuring there is captioning on local television stations and sign language interpreters at press conferences
- Collaboration with the State agencies continues. The most recent technical assistance was reviewing and advising on a communication plan and catastrophic patient management plan
- Krysta asked about access on the Coast. Alex has worked with someone in Pacific county about reaching all people with disabilities out there. CILS and Red Cross need to be in communication for many reasons, one being the need to make emergency shelters accessible
- Mark pointed out emergencies that happen in Eastern WA lack the assistance necessary; gave examples of problems that occur i.e. interpreters for the deaf, etc.

Legislative Sessions Round One- Presentation and Discussion: Toby Olson, GCDE

- Handouts Provided: "Selected Bill Tracking" "Disability program proposals in Governor Inslee's proposed budget"
- The current budget proposal adds 235M in mental health spending. 160M in DD spending, 350M in long term care spending. 30M proposal to increase grants age, blind, disabled program
- Apple health (or Medicaid buy-in) will stay the same. No changes proposed in the Governor's budget
- This budget is based on the Governor's proposal that is based on new revenue sources. Many of these revenue sources are tied directly to the Carbon Tax proposal
- Selected Bill Tracking Handout was provided. This document is available for viewing on the legislature's homepage> bill page> selected bill tracking

- Kimberly Heymann asked about the impacts these bills could have. Toby replied that the bills have both negative and positive impacts, depending on each one specifically. He discussed the good and bad of some bills and how they can potentially affect disabled people; including the fines related to these and the consequences people with disabilities could face due to miscommunication, confusion or lack of education on those enforcing the rules
- Teesha Kirschbaum added that DVR is short on the budget, but there were no budget initiatives for DVR or School for the Deaf
- There may be legislation coming out of the Deaf community: LEAD K (language development), a push for interpretation in the medical community (hospitals/healthcare providers)

Public Comments/Questions: Mark Leeper

No public comments were given

Legislative Sessions Round Two-Presentation and Discussion: David Lord, DRW

- David stated he is focusing the majority of his time on DOC and prison systems. People with disabilities face unique challenges in prisons/correctional facilities. Disabilities range from age related to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) to Developmental Disability & physical disabilities
- Two years ago, Disability Rights Washington received a grant to provide services to inmates with disabilities
- The shortage of homecare workers was addressed. DOL changed laws so homecare workers are no longer over-exempt workers, HB1725 put a cap on money that could be overtime for homecare workers. Required pre-authorization for overtime. The general rule is, if you miss being pre-authorized for overtime three times, you will lose your ability to provide home care
- David discussed the Governor's budget and what kind of mental health services that may become available from it; i.e. competency evaluations, diversion plans, turning Western State Hospital into "forensics only" hospital
- Krysta asked how deaf people call from prison. David does not know. He said there is a need for that assistance in prisons. The disabled community in prisons face numerous challenges and lack of accessibility these issues appear be a create a harsher punishment than their peers are subject to
- Jana asked what DRW defines "disability" as in the prison system. David does not know the specific answer to this question. Jana described story of people she has encountered at the tribal level in Correctional Institution
- Jail standards are a serious concern for DRW. It is believed that developing relationships with sheriffs and jails will help in this outreach, However, the challenge with jail standards is lack of funding and the lack of agreement between counties; everyone wants to run their institution their own way

- The film *Bottom Dollar* was mentioned and the topic of the sub-minimum- wage issue was touched on. Sub-minimum- wage equates to exploitation
- Ryan asked about affordable housing and if DRW is working on anything with this. David stated low-income housing leads the way on that and they have to follow along. HOWEVER, COMMENTED ON SUPPORTED HOUSING. Kimberly brought up discrimination in housing in the City of Seattle. Toby added his input, reporting study that found systemic discrimination against people with disabilities, study through HUD. David offered a private discussion on this topic with Kimberly because he ran out of time.

DVR: Esther Bennett

- WIOA- DVR is currently working on business practices to report to the federal government. DVR is working on how to train the field (throughout the state) on how to report properly
- Implementation on pre-employment services; 15% of the federal DVR budget is exclusively used to provide pre-employment services- money is not to be used for placement. If the funds are not used then they are lost. DVR will provide services through ESD and school counselors etc.
- DVR is serving many customers with a variety of challenges. They must provide services to anyone that is eligible, and the biggest priority is to service those customers. DVR needs the maximum state dollars to have enough resources to serve everyone that requests services. There is a federal law to implement Order of Selection (OS) if we do not have enough funds to serve all those who request it. DVR is working to avoid that. However, it seems to be imminent. OS mean that lists must be created and those with the most barriers/most significant disabilities are served first
- If DVR does not provide services to the people, they will still need services and will have to seek them out through other agencies, where it will still cost the state

Client Assistance Program (CAP): Jerry Johnsen

- WIOA: Poorly written law, good intentions but puts too much on the state. People have not been trained on the new law. Good news: change the face on interactions with transition youth
- Jerry discussed change in leadership at DVR. He thinks the hiring process should be open and transparent. He commended the efforts of disability groups that contacted the current leadership when it was felt that process was unfair. It is believed that the response from the disability community and organizations caught the current leadership off guard when the hiring process was set in motion
- Andres Aguirre, outgoing DVR Director, was acknowledged for bringing certain groups to the table and giving them a voice when making policies

WSRC: Krysta Van Woert/Teesha Kirschbaum

- Krysta was introduced as a new council member on WSRC
- WSRC has been very involved (spearheading) in the response to the DVR personnel change. DVR is meant to be consumer driven and should require the consumer when these kinds of changes take place. All of the disability organizations that were available were contacted and they responded. These organizations must be reminded of the importance of the voice for people with disabilities.
- The disability community made their presence and influence known to the new Assistant Secretary on her first day
- WSRC is currently focused on ensuring lawmakers are aware of need for full state match. It was not fully funded in the Governor's Budget but there are two more opportunities to change it (failure to fund the 1.6M would cost the state 19.4M; 10M in penalties 7.8M in lost federal grant funds)
- The Barrier and Access Solutions Committee, subcommittee of the Workforce Board which is working on implementation of WIOA, identifies and removes barriers in the public workforce development system. Teesha Kirschbaum and Lou Oma Durand co-chair the committee. The 12-Local Workforce advisory committees are reaching out to people with disabilities to get their input
- WSRC is advocating for DVR to be relocated from the Rehabilitation Administration Department to a more appropriate placement. Options of relocation are being reviewed. WSRC is hoping to form strong relationship with new Assistant Secretary, Marybeth Queral to advocate and voice concerns. She has shown openness and willingness to collaborate

Department Services for the Blind (DSB): Deb Cook/Kim Conner

- Referring to WIOA, Deb stated that DSB already has a very strong youth program. It is the only VR agency in the nation that has an age range as low as nine. Spending that large of the portion of funds on students is not difficult for DSB. WIOA brings different challenges. The intent is wonderful but it is still unclear on how to implement these laws
- Commended the combined effort of everyone to make his or her opinion heard and have a strong voice during the leadership change in DVR. She feels this sort of situation rallies the community and creates concerted efforts
- DSB Council is forming a task force to acquire funding to better serve the Blind/Deaf population and sustain funds

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP): Kimberly Heymann

- The Assistive Technology programs should be funded at stable levels, as last year.
- The WA Access Fund was awarded grant \$664,000 financial capability program, did not get CDFI grant
 - Change of name to NW Access Fund. Will be announced at the November 3rd annual event and awards ceremony
- National Assistive Technology grant for AT Act Programs – it was awarded to ATAP (Assistive

Technology Association of Programs)

- o Will create more collaborative efforts between the state AT Programs and funding to programs who will be providing expertise for technical assistance including the Access Fund
- Libraries: WATAP will start a collaboration with the San Juan Island Library to bring the Aids for Better Living program to their patrons
- AT Provider Network: we are looking to recruit more members to the Network. A document on the purpose of the network is being put together and it includes the benefits and responsibilities of member, it will be distributed to the Advisory Council for the purpose of passing on the information to anyone who may be interested
- Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center: they used to have store where people with hearing loss in the Seattle area could go to try equipment and purchase it. They are moving away from a retail model but still want to offer the demonstration portion of that service. They were looking to develop a kit of equipment for this purpose. WATAP will be collaborating with them by providing the equipment and ensuring that this valuable resource remains present in Seattle

SPIL as a Work Plan: Kim Conner

- Kim discussed using the SPIL Matrix to track progress in accomplishing objectives and activities per the SPIL

Ad-hoc Membership Subcommittee: Jana Finkbonner

The Executive Committee discussed and recommends that there should be an actual Membership Committee, opposed to an Ad-hoc Membership Committees. This committee does not need to meet as often as other committees do, but it needs to exist

Motion: Ryan “I make a motion to create the membership subcommittee”

Vote: All in favor, motion passed unanimously

New and Old Business: Mark Leeper

SPIL will not change and CILs have their own work plans

Motion: Kayla “I will motion to adjourn”

Vote: All in favor, motion passed unanimously

Adjourn 4:02 P.M.