

SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2008
Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Ave SE Lacey, WA

9:10 AM Meeting Called to order by Chair Romel Mackelprang

Council Members Present: Libby Winzer, Debbie Cook, Romel Mackelprang, Al Neely, Linda McClain, Gilbert Garza, Devon Beach and Jana Finkbonner, Lynnae Ruttledge, Bob Roberts (Washington State Rehabilitation Council representative to the SILC) and Executive Director Rob Honan.

Audience Members: Dick Winzer, Andres Aguirre, Von Ellison, Charley Lane, Jim Baker, Noemi Ortega, Kerry Boss, Dick Winzer and Trina Forest.

Interpreters: Sarah Rasmussen and Michael Kosanovich.

Welcome: Jana Finkbonner from Bellingham, the newest member to the Council. Also, Debbie Cook is now an official SILC member, having replaced Kevin Nathan who resigned in July 2007. Chair Mackelprang recognized both and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the SILC.

1. Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2007 (Spokane meeting):
 - a. Motion made to approve minutes by Linda McClain
 - b. Seconded by Libby Winzer
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Vote: Approved as written (unanimous)

2. Approval of Agenda:
 - a. Motion made to approve agenda by Linda McClain-- with a request to amend the agenda.
 - b. Discussion-McClain requested to make the ACIL-WA Report after lunch.
 - c. Seconded by Al Neely
 - d. Vote: Approved agenda with amendment to move ACIL-WA report after lunch. Unanimous.

3. Public Comments:
 - a. Romel Mackelprang and Rob Honan had a conversation about the availability on the Council. There is currently one space left that is for Private Industry slot (Shelley Hawkins’).
 - b. Romel Mackelprang wants to evaluate the size/organization of the council to see what best meets the charge.

- c. Jim Baker (CIL director from dARSW, Vancouver, WA) informed us that Representative Deb Wallace had written into the House appropriations bill potential state funding for Centers for Independent Living. Representative Wallace will ask the legislature for \$1.05 M to fund the seven CILs in the state of Washington. Jim Baker and Rob Honan met with Representative Wallace in October 2007 and in January 2008 to discuss the possibility of state funding for CILs. Linda McClain was at the January 15, 2008 meeting.
- d. Romel Mackelprang stated that the legislative reception is going to be held tonight at the capitol. He encouraged other SILC members to talk with their legislators as well. .
- e. Mackelprang wants to meet with Linda, Rob and Jim at lunch to craft out a rough draft statement to submit to the Legislature tonight in hopes to gain some of the funding this year.
- f. Al Neely points out that Mr. Clements who is disabled would be a good contact to meet with.
- g. Linda McClain thinks that would also be a good idea.
- h. Executive Director welcomed Debbie Cook as a new official member of the council.

9:50-10:45 AM: “Presentation of Disability Studies and Universal Access: Promoting IL through SILC, CIL and Higher Education Collaboration”.

(Romel Mackelprang, Charley Lane & Rob Honan)

- 1. Goal is to expose what it takes to create awareness about disabilities for all ages.
 - a. Linda McClain wants to know why deinstitutionalization isn't one of the core services.
 - b. Rob Honan: Shawn Barrett of RSA informed us that deinstitutionalization is not officially a core service, yet is vital to independent living.
- 2. Feedback
 - a. Linda McClain: Great intro for SILC members and disability awareness.
 - b. Jana Finkbonner: Good information gathering, now knows how to work together better. Cultural piece is what she needs to work out cultural resistance.
 - c. Jim Baker: Appreciates the break down.
 - d. Devin Beach: Liked the fact that it is very accessible for people with different backgrounds. She liked the history example.

11:00 AM: “Presentation of the “Flight of the Phoenix: Successful Collaboration between SILCs, DSUs & Communities” (Romel Mackelprang, Lynnae Rutledge & Rob Honan)

- 1. Feedback
 - a. Jim Baker: As one who has survived the “rebirth”, good presentation
 - b. Trina Forest: We have learned a lot from the chaos

- c. Linda McClain: Thinks it is important to get the message across that this is a reality that can happen, but there is a way to get past it. We are paving our way to success and cohesion.
 - d. Lynnae Ruttledge: We need to list Tribal VR to the slide Other Govt Agencies.
2. Romel Mackelprang stated the benefits to doing this presentation are:
 - a. Gets Washington out there.
 - b. It will create opportunities for ourselves & help further our goals.

11:35 AM: Discussion on By-Laws

1. Mission statement change purposed.
 - a. Editorial changes were made throughout the By-Laws, but Rob Honan make the necessary and additional changes and disperse a copy to the council 14 days before the April 25th meeting. The changes will be discussed as “Old business.”
 - b. Al Neely wanted to know what happened to Grievance Committee. Romel wasn’t sure what happened to this committee. This committee will be recreates as an Ad Hoc Committee.
 - c. Debbie Cook thinks this is a process rather than a committee that is handled as some sub form of the executive committee. She believes there needs to be By-laws process setup for handling grievances.
 - d. Linda McClain likes the idea of combining the committees gives SILC members the opportunity to work well.
 - e. Romel Mackelprang states we will set up a process for grievances rather than forming a formal Grievance Committee.

Lunch: Noon to 1:25PM (*The SILC and audience members took a break during this time*)

1:25 PM: Discussion on draft of purposed letter to the Legislature for meeting on 1/16/2008

1. Approval of Letter.
 - a. Linda McClain made a motion that “we approve the letter with all the grammatical changes made.”
 - b. Libby Winzer seconded the motion.
 - c. Amendment to the motion Romel Mackelprang doesn’t want to limit the letter just to tonight’s legislative meeting.
 - d. Linda agrees
 - e. Al seconded the motion with the amendment
 - f. Motion, as amended, passed unanimously

Discussion on Policy papers

Romel asked everyone to go over the 7 different policies, make necessary changes and we will re discuss as a group at the next council meeting and approve as a council.

Policies are as follows:

1. Deinstitutionalization
2. Brain Injury
3. Voting Rights
4. Housing
5. Long Term Care
6. 24-month waiting period
7. Transition planning

Lynnae recommends creating three new policy papers:

1. Veteran's & Veteran's services to generate support and partnership
2. Issues with Migrant Farmers
3. Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation issues

It was suggested that Gilbert Garza will be the lead for Migrant policy and Jana Finkbonner be the lead for Tribal policy.

1:15 Executive Director Report-Rob Honan

1. Rob Honan will give everyone a copy of his reports.
2. Personnel update Grace Doyle is no longer employed at the SILC (and the WSRC) and we are currently seeking a half-time person to do grant writing or resource development. This person will work for SILC to expand capacity for the SILC and the Centers for Independent Living.
3. Budget report:
 - a. \$219,000 in the budget and we have spent a little over \$42,000.
4. Honan asked for feedback on how everyone felt about having a different meeting site other than the hotel?
 - a. Libby- likes the building and lunch!
 - b. Al – doesn't matter where the meeting is held
 - c. Linda- likes the idea, less intimidating, but acoustics not good.
 - d. Trina- Just remember to send out documentation to keep everyone in the loop.
 - e. Gilbert- public place friendlier for people
4. **Reminder** the next meeting is in Seattle and not Sea-Tac.

- a. Date April 25th, 2008
- b. Location to be determined

2:20 Committee Reports

1. Debbie Cook- DSB going to look at a variety of things regarding coverage. There was no increase in funding, but there has been an increase in demand for services. They will form an Ad Hoc Committee in Feb to get options and make recommendations on how to move forward. (Department of Services for the Blind)
2. Lynnae Ruttledge- DVR reports reductions on the waiting list is now 607 people, down from 12,000. Hopefully by Feb there will be no waiting list. Andreas Aguirre is the new Committee Program Manager. His focus will be to build capacity with centers to do partnership with Voc Rehab (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)
3. Libby Winzer- No report at this time for Rehabilitation Council of the Blind
4. WSRC (Washington State Rehabilitation Council) – Bob Roberts stated that five new committee members were appointed, including the Client Assistance Program representative. The WSRC now has a full Council.
5. Linda McClain- ACIL-WA reports that 7 centers successfully turned in the 704 reports. They are working to educate the public about both sides of the issue assisted suicide issue, and as ACIL-WA have not taken a formal position on this issue (upcoming statewide initiative) . There are a couple gaps in the 501 C 3 filing process, but it is anticipated that ACIL-WA will be an IRS-recognized agency by the next SILC meeting. Four centers will participate in “Working Well” with disabilities movement out of Montana.

New Business

1. **Gilbert Garza-** There are large sections of Washington state comprised of Latinos and Hispanics that are not represented with IL Centers. Hopefully next year there will be more funding for another center and they will not be left behind. We appreciate and are thankful for the support from SILC
2. **Noemi Ortega-** The Migrant Council has requested again that there needs to be a center in the Tri-Cities. There are a huge number of migrant farm workers that have disabilities that could benefit from a center. They need a place to call home.
 - a. Linda McClain- “Now is the time to partner up and work together.
 - b. Von Ellison (Director of Central Washington Disability Resources)- This will take all partners involved and who will lead and where will the funds come from? (question to Noemi Ortega)

- c. Romel Mackelprang- Put Noemi in the driver's seat on this issue. How can VR be involved and SILC. How to allocate the \$1.05 million dollars to get a center in the area. Can we facilitate this by April?
- d. Linda McClain- let's work together on a grant that is fundable.
- e. Lynnae Ruttledge- from DVR's prospective we need to identify the role that DVR can play. Partner up and do outreach to the community and help with other connections to DSHS related services. We need a place that is recognized and valued in the area.
- f. Debbie Cook- DSB has a provider in the area that is serving Latinos and wants to serve more.
- g. Linda McClain- invited the Migrant Worker Council to work together and create a partnership with the existing CILs.

Old Business

- 1. None reported

Reminder: The Next meeting will be held **April 25th, 2008** in Seattle. Location TBD.

Minutes taken by Rayanne Mueller, Business Services Unit DVR