



WASHINGTON

State Independent Living Council

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State Independent Living Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
July 17th & 18th 2008
Bellingham, WA
Whatcom Community College

Washington State Independent Living Council's (SILC) Quarterly meeting came to order at 3:05pm at Whatcom Community College (Syre Student Center, rooms 107-108, 235 West Kellogg Road, Bellingham, Washington) on July 17, 2008 with a bang of the gavel by Chair Romel Mackelprang.

Members & Staff Present:

1. Romel Mackelprang (Chair)
2. Robert Honan (Executive Director)
3. Barbara Hathaway (Executive Assistant)
4. Jana Finkbonner (member)
5. Al Neely (member)
6. Lynnae Ruttledge (ex-officio)
7. Sandra Carr (member)
8. Debbie Cook (ex-officio)
9. Gilbert Garza (member)
10. Devin Beach (member)

Members Absent:

11. Bob Roberts (WSRC rep to SILC)
12. Linda McClain (member)

Guests:

13. Guest Speaker - Phil Jordan, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence)
14. Sarah Rasmussen, Tacoma, ASL interpreter
15. Sarah Geballe, Bellingham, ASL interpreter
16. Darlene Pickard, Marysville, Real Time Captioner (CART)

Agenda:

- **071708-01.** Devin Beach moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Sandra Carr. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

071708-02. Jana Finkbonner moved to accept the April 25th Council Meeting. Seconded by Al Neely. The Minutes were approved unanimously (with corrections).

- Corrections to April 25th, 2008 meeting minutes:
 - On page 11, fourth paragraph, Because it was unknown who seconded the motion *to amend the by-laws to include one "304 (MSFW) representative to the Council*, Jana Finkbonner made a motion to change this to: "Seconded by a Council member." This motion was seconded by Al Neely. Minutes from April 25, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Introductions were made at this time. Barbara Hathaway, new Executive Assistant, introduced herself to SILC members and others in attendance.

SILC Chair Report - Romel Mackelprang

- Mackelprang stated that the NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) Conference will take place this coming Sunday July 20th through Friday July 25th. Romel Mackelprang, Devin Beach, and Linda McClain of the SILC will be attending. In addition, there will be several others from the Washington Independent Living community at the conference.
- Linda McCain and Robert Honan contacted the Washington state legislative offices in Washington DC to schedule appointments with members of Congress (or a disability policy/ health care staffer) to discuss federal legislative initiatives. Of the initial contacts, there were very few actual appointments set up. Most of the visits were impromptu. There were several major issues of interest to the disability community, including the following: the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, the ADA Restoration Act, the CLASS (Community Living Assistance Services and Supports) Act .
- Mackelprang plans to meet with Marilyn Golden of DREDF (Disability Research and Education Defense Fund) to discuss I-1000, the so-called "Death with Dignity" or "Physician Assisted Suicide" initiative that is on the ballot in November. Mackelprang stated that he is aware of the issue, has written academic papers on the subject, but wants to learn more from Marilyn Golden. He also stated that the SILC will not take a position on this issue at this time.

Guest Speaker – Phil Jordan

Phil Jordan, from the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) spoke about the need of agencies pairing up to give support to one another. He stated that the goal was to get the agencies that work on either domestic violence and/or sex assault to combine forces with those in the disability rights movement. He shared his experiences with various agencies that

he is working with, including Disability Rights WA, WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) , and WA Coalition of Sexual Assault.

He laid out potential future plans under consideration, such as encouraging agencies to provide trainings to their advocates in order to learn on how to understand each other's language and to understand how to work with persons with disabilities.

There was a break at 4:33pm

The meeting resumed at 4:47pm

The meeting then opened for public comment. Because there was no public in attendance, the discussion on Position Papers resumed.

- Some of the Positions Papers were already approved back in the April 25th (2008) meeting, including ones on Veteran's issues and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers (MSFW). Further, older papers were brought back to table in order to add on additional background information, amend, or update. At this point, the DRAFT Position Papers were read either by Rob Honan or Romel Mackelprang.
- The "positions" (not the entire document) on Veteran's issues and IL and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker were approved in the April meeting, and the Council agreed that they were ready to be posted on the website. No formal action taken during this meeting. There was then discussion on the Native American paper.
- **071808-01.** Devin Beach moved to approve the Position Paper on Native Americans with Disabilities as read. (Mackelprang suggested that Finkbonner work with Honan to update the Position Paper and it will go on the website after additional background information is placed into the text.) Sandra Carr Seconded. Passed unanimously. (The "position" was moved unanimously. Finkbonner agreed to flesh out the "background" and "conclusion")

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm by Romel Mackelprang.

The Washington State Independent Living Council meeting was reconvened at 8:39 am on July 18, 2008 by Romel Mackelprang.

Members and Staff present on July 18, 2008:

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| 17. Romel Mackelprang (Chair) | 21. Lynnae Ruttledge (ex-officio) |
| 18. Rob Honan (Executive Director) | 22. Sandra Carr (member) |
| 19. Barbara Hathaway (Executive Assistant) | 23. Debbie Cook (ex-officio) |
| 20. Al Neely (member) | 24. Gilbert Garza (member) |
| | 25. Devin Beach |

(Member)

Members Absent:

26. Bob Roberts (WSRC rep to SILC)

27. Linda McCain (member)

30. Jana Finkbonner (member)

Guests:

31. Sarah Rasmussen, ASL interpreter

32. Mike Kosanovich, ASL interpreter

33. Darlene Pickard, Captioner

34. Charley Lane, disability Resource Connections

SILC Chair – Romel Mackelprang (report continued from day before)

- Mackelprang stated that in the future council members that are desirous of attending one of the three “big” out of state conferences (NCIL, SILC Congress, and APRIL) are encouraged to give a lecture or a workshop. Because the SILC is a “state SILC”, we have to go through state (DSHS) channels for out of state travel approval, and doing a presentation enhances our justification. He suggested each of members submit a proposal to present at one of the three conferences.
- Of all conferences, the NCIL is the most important for our Executive Director (Rob) to attend. In this current situation, the Council Members need to make a plan for Rob to come up with justifications to allow the Executive Director to go to at least two of the three big conferences. NCIL should be considered the first priority where SILC and APRIL conferences are the second and third priorities.

Committee Reports

Debbie Cook, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) –

- Cook stated that DSB has developed a new case management system.
- The Feds provided new regulations for the Older Blind Program.
- Further, Cook asserted that contracts were due for renewal, but there was a major focus group activity in the spring and subsequently DSB revised the entire program.
- All contracts for Independent Living programs are out for bid.
- Cook addressed rumors in the community that stated that DSB’s Independent Living (IL) Program had closed down. The fact is that the center has not been closed. DSB was not taking any new referrals for three weeks. But, as of right now we are taking in new referrals.
- DSB’s providers have decided to make a living wage. In the past, many providers have been making a great many sacrifices to stay in business. Most providers are now trying to work for the Vocational Rehabilitation

program. DSB is losing a lot of providers to the VR program which paid twice as much as we did. This has been a problem.

- The risk management department at DSB is now requiring higher levels of insurance for the service providers. The costs have increased significantly due to covering large territories and driving long distances between clients.
- There are about 8,000 or more people statewide that could benefit from DSB's program. We are serving about 6,800 per year.
- Romel Mackelprang suggested to Rob Honan, the Executive Director to work closely with DSB to work on a draft paper to put the facts together, mainly we either neglect the older people or pay our service providers a substandard living wage, all due to public policy.

Lynnae Ruttledge- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

- Ruttledge stated that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is working with the Centers for Independent Living on a new focus for the Title VII, Part B contract.
- The new (Part B) contracts (implemented in October) will focus on transition activities.
 - Section 504 kids
 - Help build bridges between kids with disabilities who are transitioning:
 1. from public education into the adult world, employment
 2. going on to community college or going on to a 4-year institution.
- On another matter, Ruttledge said that The Office of Financial Management (OFM) is asking the Council to have a closer study on the out-of-state travel expenses, especially attending conferences.
- Ruttledge said that the SILC is traveling a lot more than anybody else in state government.
- Lynnae will be asking for 80% of the funds from the Federal Rehabilitation Program and 20% of the funds from the State. We're not asking for additional funds in the '09-'11 budget.
- The new contract for the Centers (Title VII, Part B or 7B) will be distributed on the first of October, 2008.

Sandra Carr- Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) Report

- Carr stated that the Order of Selection and the Waiting List was over as of February 2008.
- As of April 2008, there were a total of 1,269 open cases across the state. The number of success rehabilitations is 26% of cases this year.
- DVR counselors realized once after the waiting list is over, they are now able to give more time to each of their clients. The only concern they have is that they want to make sure they provide quality services to their clients; each counselor may have somewhere between 80 and 100 cases.

- DVR is able to get more vendors and pay for their services, (job developers, vocational evaluations, etc...) to better serve those clients so they can be better placed vocationally.
- The public forums are now becoming more positive since the system changed.
- After Lynnae Rutledge received a public recognition for “The End of the Waiting List” by the Governor of Washington in March, Carr noticed there was no captioning on TV (open or closed) for the deaf and hard of hearing. She subsequently emailed Lynnae to find out what had happened. Lynnae replied it was a last minute planning.
- Debbie Himes of the Governor's committee on Disability and Employment had asked SRC to help fund the Youth Leadership Forum program. The Ninth annual Youth Leadership Forum will be held in Olympia for young people with disabilities on August 10-15. We (the SRC) agreed to fund \$2,000 towards the event.
- Carr said that the next SRC meeting will be in Spokane next week at Doubletree, downtown (July 24th and 25th)
- Jerry Johnsen also gave us a book on the history of the Rehab Act during a recent WSRC meeting.
- Lastly, Carr recently read an article in the newspaper that told the story of her giving a lady the Captel phone in Spokane. This lady made a comment that her community center has a loop system put in for people who are hard of hearing. A portable loop system costs \$600 to where whole set in system be \$6,000. Carr asked the question, “How many of the Independent Living Centers have a loop system for the hard of hearing?” Nobody was able to answer the question and agreed to take a look into it

Rob Honan, Budget Report and Budget Proposal

- Honan provided the SILC budget report. He stated that as of July 15, 2008 the SILC unofficially has spent \$127,612 of its \$219, 836 budget (58% of yearly total)
- Each year, the budget process consists of the SILC Executive Committee drafting a yearly budget based on past expenditures and projected future expenses. Once the Executive Committee decides on a figure, the Executive Director (Honan) works with the director of DVR (Rutledge) to come up with a figure palatable to DVR (since the SILC funding comings from Title I funds). If there is agreement, then the proposed budget is taken to the SILC for approval.
- Honan presented the FY 2009 Proposal to the Council. The total budget (includes salaries, supplies, travel costs, and other operational costs) is \$207,998 (versus budget for FY 2008 of \$219, 836).
- There was brief discussion on the budget.

- **071808-01.** Sandra Carr moved to approve (adopt) the budget. Seconded by Gilbert Garza. The motion carried.

Charley Lane, ACIL-WA Report

- Lane gave the ACIL-WA report on behalf of Linda McClain, who was unable to make the meeting
- At Romel Mackelprang's request, Lane gave a presentation in New York at the Society for Disability Studies conference. The presentation panel focused on the bridging the connecting between IL and disability studies. The SILC picked up the hotel costs (dRC picked up the remainder of the costs) since Charley was representing the state of Washington and the SILC.
- He talked about the transition from the current 7B funding to the youth service funding. He stated there will be a "transition to transition" process taking place.
- The Centers talked about some new ideas that will help closely with the schools and with the community, especially with families and developing leadership and how the 504 kids can work into the Center fabric in many different ways.
- Lane gave an update about the 501(c)(3) application ACIL-WA submitted back in February. The IRS is still processing the January 501(c)(3) applications. It does not look like we'll get the official status for the 501(c)(3) at this time, but the IRS states that the approval should be very soon.
- The focus of the upcoming strategic planning on September 11th and 12th is to develop a "work plan" – to go hand-in-hand with the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), based on each CILs strengths or "best practices."
- My center will provide training to other IL centers about how to work with the deaf and hard of hearing community (an example for the "work plan"). How staff can receive more updated information to the centers about its deaf culture and show them the ways to provide accommodation.

Robert Honan – Executive Director Report

- Honan briefly discussed the SILC logo contest. Sandi Carr's suggestion is to find something fresh and new, and something that would reflect the independent living philosophy. DVR (the state) has approved the SILC to present a prize for the winner who submits the winning (to be chosen by the Council) logo. The committee of Executive Director Honan and Council members Carr, Garza, and McClain are working on the details of the contest.
- Honan also handed out his report. It can be found on the SILC website at: <http://www.wasilc.org/Events/RecentEvents.html>.

Position Papers

- Honan and Mackelprang put the remaining position papers on the LCD screen for the Council members to review. The “positions” on the papers were read out loud for as well for maximum audience participation. Honan and Mackelprang quickly went through each of the papers and the “positions” were fine-tuned by the committee as a whole. The remaining position papers were originally written (and approved) in 2005 and were badly in need of revisions.
 - **071808-02.** *“24-Month Waiting Period (to receive Medicare) for Individuals Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance”* Sandra Carr moved to accept this position as amended. Seconded by Al Neely. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **071808-03.** *“Transition”* Sandra Carr moved to accept the amended and updated position as re-written and worked on by the Committee as a whole. Seconded by Devin Beach. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **071808-04.** *“Long-Term Care”* Gilbert Garza moved to accept this position as amended and re-written by the Council. Seconded by Sandra Carr. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **071808-05.** *“Housing”* Devin Beach moved to accept this position as amended and re-written by the Council. Seconded by Gilbert Garza. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - **071808-06.** *“Elections and Voting Rights”* Devin Beach moved to accept this position, “Right to Vote” as re-written and amended by the Council. Seconded by Sandra Carr. **Motion carries.**

With the exception of the position paper on Native Americans with Disabilities, all of the position papers will be posted on the SILC website.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm by Chair Romel Mackelprang.

Respectfully Submitted by

Barbara E Hathaway
SILC Executive Assistant

** Note: All commentary is summarized and not meant to be direct quotation.*

