



WASHINGTON

State Independent Living Council

P.O. Box 45343 Olympia, WA 98504 360-725-3695 www.wasilc.org

Washington State Independent Living Council

SILC Quarterly meeting

Yakima, Washington

October 23, 2008

Members Present:

1. Romel Mackelprang (Chair)
2. Rob Honan (Executive Director)
3. Barbara Hathaway (Executive Assistant)
4. Jana Finkbonner
5. Al Neely
6. Lynnae Rutledge
7. Robert Roberts (WSRC representative)
8. Linda McClain
9. Gilbert Garza
10. Devin Beach
11. Diane Hansen

Members Absent:

12. Sandra Carr
13. Debbie Cook

Visitors:

14. Sarah Rasmussen, ASL interpreter, Tacoma
15. Cindy, Ellensburg, ASL interpreter
16. Darlene Pickard, CART Provider
17. Trina Forest, Executive Director, Center for Independence, Lakewood
18. Von Elison, Executive Director, Central Washington Disability Resources, Ellensburg
19. Cathy Neely, DVR Yakima
20. Terry Archer; Providence Horizon Group
21. John Valdez with Yakima Valley Farm Workers VR program.
22. Irene Mendoza

The State Independent Living Council meeting was called to order by Romel Mackelprang at 3:05 pm at the Southeast Community Center, 1211 S. 7th Street, Yakima, Washington on October 23, 2008. Introductions around the table then ensued.

Devin Beach made the motion to approve the July 17/18, 2008 minutes, with one correction, and Gilbert Garza seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. The correction from the July 2008 Minutes was to remove Linda McClain's name from "Members Present" on page 3 because she did not attend the meeting.

Chair's Report – Romel Mackelprang

- NCIL (National Council on Independent Living Conference)
 - Mackelprang reported that he, Devin Beach, Linda McClain, Trina Forest, and Jim Baker went to Washington DC to attend NCIL conference in July.
 - Mackelprang gave the opinion that that the Washington state was not well represented compared to other states.
 - Executive Director, Rob Honan, was scheduled to attend the conference, but his request was ultimately denied due to out of state travel restrictions.
 - As Mackelprang was giving his overview of the NCIL Conference, Devin Beach mentioned she had the opportunity to meet with Marilyn Golden who is opposed to the initiative bill of I-1000. This is the “assisted suicide” or “death with dignity” initiative, depending on the perspective. Beach expressed to Golden that she didn't feel it was her duty as a SILC member to necessarily make a decision either way on the initiative.
 - Mackelprang provided information to audience members about the Holocaust Museum, and how it relates to persons with disabilities.
 - The march to the Capitol and rally was discussed as a high point of the trip to Washington DC.
 - Mackelprang also discussed the visit with Sean Barrett of RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration), the RSA protest by members of the NCIL contingent, and some concerns regarding RSA (inconsistent interpretation of the Rehabilitation Act and narrowing of the scope of SILC duties as defined in the Act).
 - Linda McClain interjected that she would like the SILC, the Centers for Independent Living, and the State of Washington to figure out a way to find out who will be going to NCIL in the future so that the planning process could be better. Part of this process is to better educate ourselves on the federal issues facing the CILs and Independent Living.
 - Mackelprang wanted Honan to talk about the SPIL committee, which he did. Honan commented that the SPIL committee meeting took place at the Hawthorn Suites hotel in Kent on September 10, 2008. All of the CIL representatives, several advocates, several SILC members, and the SILC staff were present. The outcome of the meeting was a re-prioritization of the State Plan. *(Note: The full notes of the September 10, 2008 meeting can be found at: <http://www.wasilc.org/Events/RecentEvents.html>)*
 - Mackelprang then discussed a federal grant that Eastern Washington University applied for- to improve the quality of education for students with disabilities. Part of the three-year grant (the grant cycle was amended several times in the process) is to provide for part-time Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors at

Eastern Washington University. Ultimately, the grant ended up being on a three-year cycle.

- As part of the federal funding process (for IL, ACIL-WA, and CILs in the state), Mackelprang discussed a meeting with Charley Lane (dRC director), Rob Honan, and two Eastern Washington University staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to obtain federal (and other) grants to advance IL projects in the state. This was considered a very good first step by Mackelprang.

A break was taken at this time.

- (*The Chair Report/ Discussion continued.*) Mackelprang stated that he met with Lynnae Ruttledge and Rob Honan on September 10, 2008 further exploring the possibility of the Washington SILC becoming a 501c3 (non-profit) agency. In addition, this informal meeting centered around the logistics of DVR (Ruttledge) being Honan's supervisor of record, and how this can cause confusion and lack of cohesion between the Council, DVR, and the SILC Executive Director.
 - Lynnae Ruttledge shared some of her experiences with Oregon regarding their (the OR SILC) potential transition to a 501c3 agency. She remarked that there were legal restrictions from a state constitution perspective about funding a 501c3 as well as about the Oregon Governor appointing members to a 501c3 organization. However, Ruttledge mentioned that in speaking with Assistant Attorney General, Eric Nelson, the state of Washington could overcome these potential barriers faced by counterparts in Oregon. Ruttledge stated her support for the potential of the Washington SILC transitioning to a 501c3, but also suggested there are a great many elements to weigh before a decision could be made. (The Oregon SILC never made the transition to non-profit status, and they still remain within the state government of Oregon.)
 - Ruttledge suggested a meeting between the leadership of the SILC, Vocational Rehabilitation office, and Department of Service for Blind with the Governor's office after the election. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the role of DVR as Honan's supervisor, out of state travel, and other pertinent issues.
- Mackelprang then discussed the pros and cons of SILC transitioning to a section 501(c)(3) entity.
 - To this end, there was a **motion made by Jana Finkbonner** for Rob Honan, Executive Director, to research the pros and cons of the Washington State Independent Living Council transitioning to a 501 c3. **Linda McClain seconded the motion** to have Honan research this issue. **The motion passed unanimously.**
 - Mackelprang concluded his report by discussing his visit with Marilyn Golden of DREDF (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund) regarding I-1000. Mackelprang stated that the Initiative is very complicated and personal in nature. Linda McClain, Al Neely, Devin Beach, and Lynnae Ruttledge also spoke about the complexity and personal nature of the issue. Further, Ruttledge stated that in order for the SILC to truly take an issue The Council would need to gather public input and have speakers and information from both sides of the issue.

- In the end, the Council decided not to take a formal position on I-1000 for the myriad of reasons provided above.
- Mackelprang stated that SILC needs to have representation at the SILC Congress. At a minimum, he believes that the Executive Director, one of the council members, or the chair to be able to attend the conference. SILC needs to write a letter to Lynnae Ruttledge, the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, saying that we consider this a critical and essential function of the SILC to have people at the Congress. And to therefore, request travel funds. The letter would also reflect these are in fact federal dollars that doesn't impact the state budget. It's also important for us to meet our contractual obligations.
 - Rob was to write up a draft letter and have Romel Mackelprang to read over and give feedbacks before sending the letter off to the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Guest Speaker: Von Elison

Von Elison, the director of Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR), the Center for Independent Living in Ellensburg, Washington. Some highlights of her presentation:

- This past January the Center moved into a smaller less expensive place in downtown Ellensburg. The space itself is much roomier than the old office space.
- CWDR provides many independent living services, including recreation and social activities.
- Elison also stated that there is currently a heavy emphasis on getting consumers ready to vote due to the upcoming elections. Within two (2) months, the center had registered 80 people to vote who live right in city of Ellensburg alone.
- There are many individuals with mental health disorders being served at CWDR.
- Elison reported that CWDR had to cut back services area to half of Yakima County, including Toppenish, but they still serve Kittitas County in its entirety.
- CWDR had its kickoff on September 30th for the “Transition Program” they are coordinating with Central Washington University. The primary source of the funding is the Part B Contract with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The meeting was adjourned after the Public Forum was conducted at 8:30pm by Romel Mackelprang. The meeting will resume the next day, October 24, 2008 at 8:30am.

There was a short break before the start of the Public Forum

Public Forum

- Andreas Aguirre; the community program administrator with Washington VR., announced he was at the meeting to see what's going on with CILs.
- Jana Finkbonner, Council member, made this public comment: “This message is coming from a

meeting at Lummi with the tribal individuals. I have offered up my staff to maybe do some volunteer work for ILs. But I want to find out from you IL peoples what does that mean? Would it be a conflict of interest if SILC/Centers train some of our staff so we could provide the basic information and understanding?"

- Terry Archer from the Providence Horizon Group brought up a concerns transportation not being provided especially after hours and on weekends in this rural part of the state.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 6:45 PM

The second day of the October SILC quarterly meeting came to order at 8:34am at the Southeast Community Center, 1211 S 7th Street, Yakima, Washington on October 24, 2008, and was presided by Chair Romel Mackelprang.

Members Present:

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| 23. Romel Mackelprang (Chair) | 28. Robert Roberts (WSRC representative) |
| 24. Rob Honan (Executive Director) | 29. Linda McClain |
| 25. Barbara Hathaway (Executive Assistant) | 30. Gilbert Garza |
| 26. Jana Finkbonner | 31. Devin Beach |
| 27. Lynnae Ruttledge (ex-officio) | 32. Diane Hansen |

Members Absent:

1. Debbie Cook
2. Al Neely
3. Sandra Carr

All members who were at the October 23rd meeting, with the exception of Al Neely, who was ill, attended October 24th.

Chair Mackelprang then turned the meeting over to Honan to discuss the **Logo Contest**.

Honan provided some background information about the Logo Contest first by stating that Council member Sandra Carr suggested changing the SILC logo at the April 2008 meeting. At that same meeting (April 2008) Linda McClain suggested that there be a “Logo Contest” to determine the winning design, and a Logo Committee was formed. The committee consists of Sandra Carr, Gilbert Garza, and Linda McClain. Throughout the summer, committee worked on the logistics of the contest—with some assistance from the DSHS media personnel. Honan passed around draft of the contest. The following are elements of the contest

- Open to youth with disabilities 13-20.
- Prize: \$250 Visa Gift Card, which was raised to \$500 Gift Card
- Entries Close: 5 PM January 16, 2009
- PDF format preferred, though other formats will be accepted

A motion was made by Diane Hansen to (1) increase the amount of the prize to a \$500 gift card from a \$250 gift card and to (2) make the contest open to students with disabilities in Washington state. Devin Beach seconded this motion.

There was discussion on the floor. Points of the discussion included (1) What is considered a disability for the purpose of this contest? It was decided (no motion or friendly amendment on this point) that the widest definition of disability would be used, and this would be the Washington state definition. There was a friendly amendment added, and this was to make the age range of the contest from 13 to 21 years.

The motion carried unanimously.

Native American Position Paper. Jana Finkbonner finished the position paper for review for the Council. The Draft paper was handed out to members. Most of the paper was put together for the July meeting and a map of the tribal reservation areas was added to the paper.

Finkbonner made a motion to approve the draft position paper on Native American issues and Independent Living that she put together. Devin Beach seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Department of Services for the Blind- Debbie Cook. She was not at the meeting, so no report was given.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Report- Lynnae Rutledge

- Rutledge provided information on current revenue situation in state government, particularly as it relates to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). She indicated that the Department would undergo an approximately \$300M reduction between the current date to June 30, 2009. DVR will need to come up with a \$4M reduction out of that \$300M. Further, losses in state funding will reduce their federal match significantly.

- The new Part B Contracts, with the focus on transition for youth, was also discussed by Rutledge. She indicated that the grant year began on October 1, 2008. There was a “kick-off” meeting scheduled for November 13th in Lacey with CIL personnel and others to discuss the new contract and to answer questions about the process, the purpose, etc.
- There was a brief discussion from Center directors about their perception of the move towards transition services compared to other needs in their service areas.

Rehabilitation Council of the Blind (RCB)

- At the current time, there is not a RCB representative on the SILC, and this has been the case since Libby Winzer resigned from the Council last winter. Mackelprang suggested that new member Diane Hansen fill this role since she is currently a member of the RCB.
- Honan stated that the Governor’s office would prefer to have someone else take this slot. Mackelprang believes that appointing a member to the SILC just to satisfy the RCB slot is not a prudent thing to do. Given the small nature of the Council, members agreed this was not the best idea (to appoint a new member to satisfy the RCB slot)
- **A motion was made by Linda McClain for a letter to be written to the Governor’s office explaining our situation, and suggesting that current member Diane Hansen be appointed the RCB slot. Devin Beach seconded this motion. This motion passed unanimously.**

Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)- Bob Roberts in place of Sandra Carr

- Roberts recently attended the WSRC meeting, and gave the following report, which focused on the three “T’s”: Transportation, Transitioning, and Training
 - Transportation. There are problems getting clients to their employment sites, especially for those who have evening or weekend job. Most transportation doesn’t run during those times especially for rural areas. There were no ideas or solutions discussed.
 - Trainings. Trainings are continued to be provided to DVR staff as well CRPs (Community Rehabilitation Professionals).
 - Transition. Some of the students of the Section 121 programs (Tribal DVR) have some hardships with transitioning programs due to lack of transportation in rural areas.
 - We also have a new representative of the Section 121 programs to the council. Sherry Cleveland from Colville, Washington.
 - WSRC had its Public Forum in Spokane and it turned out really well.
 - Roberts briefly talked about the WSRC budget.

SILC Budget Report: Rob Honan

- Honan handed out the budget/ expense report as an Excel Spreadsheet
- He stated the fiscal year just ended on September 30th, and \$178,449 was spent out of the \$219, 836 budget (81%). He stated, however, that bills and other expenses (invoices) not received will increase the actual expenses for the fiscal year.
- Mackelprang suggested to Honan to write a letter to the Governor’s office and DSHS to find a way to send two members of the SILC to the SILC Congress in Las Vegas. (there was no motion to this effect). This letter is to be a “justification” to send appropriate members and staff to the SILC Congress.

ACIL-WA Report: Linda McClain

- ACIL-WA has been working extremely aggressively on state funding.
- ACIL-WA is continuing to work on its 501 c3, and are almost there.
- ACIL-WA has completed brochures which will assist in the legislative process.
- McClain also stated that ACIL-WA is working with potential legislative sponsors, but at the same time each the centers of going to be working within the community to identify and invite post consumers, advocates familiar with the centers
- Centers are working to attend advocacy day during the legislative session.

Executive Director Report- Rob Honan

- Honan indicated he sent out the reports electronically, and the entire report can be read off the SILC website.
- The following items discussed included the following:
 1. The New Transportation Accessibility Committee,
 2. Brochures for ACIL-WA
 3. Participation on the Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF) board.
 4. SILC website
 5. SILC position papers (there was general discussion on they could be better used)

A short break was taken after the Executive Director Report

Mackelprang directed a discussion about the position papers and how it could work to ACIL-WA's and the SILC's (and the Center's) advantage both politically and for outreach/ marketing purposes if the SILC could get other groups (like RCB) to sign off and support the position papers. Other groups mentioned were the WSRC, the ARC (in Spokane) and the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCED). The main point is to have allies sign off on the position paper to support the CILs and for the CILs/SILC to support those other groups, too.

2009 Meeting locations

- The January meeting will be held in Olympia (per tradition) on January 28th and 29th .
- Spokane (Linda later amended to anywhere in Eastern Washington) was chosen as the site of the April meeting.
- Seattle was chosen for the July Meeting site.
- Vancouver was chosen for the October meeting.

The exact locations and dates of the April, July, and October meetings will be discussed at a later date.

There was some discussion about whether to go to a one-day meeting or keep them two days. Nothing was resolved at the time, and would be decided upon in subsequent meetings. Lastly, there was discussion on the effectiveness of public forums that are connected to the meetings.

Election of Officers for 2009

- Honan stated that no one's term was expiring.

- Mackelprang provided general information on who the officers are: Chair, Vice Chair, and Member at large.
- Devin Beach made a motion that the current slate of officers maintain their positions in the following year: Romel Mackelprang (Chair), Linda McClain (Vice Chair), and Sandra Carr (Member at Large). Gilbert Garza seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The current slate of officers was elected unanimously.

Next meeting: January 28th and 29th in Olympia.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:32am.

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara Hathaway
Executive Assistant