



WASHINGTON

State Independent Living Council

P.O. Box 45343, Olympia, WA 98504 360-725-3695; Fax: 360-407-3899

Washington SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2011
Red Lion Hotel
SeaTac, WA

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Romel Mackelprang, SILC Chair.

Members Present:

Romel Mackelprang, Cheney
Sandra Carr, Spokane Valley
Trina Forest, Lakewood
Devin Beach, Ellensburg
Al Neely, Yakima
Gilbert Garza, Toppenish

Linda McClain, Spokane
Andres Aguirre, Olympia
Debbie Cook, Seattle

Members excused absent:

Charity Drummond

Staff:

Rob Honan, Olympia

Barbara Hathaway, Lacey

Visitors: Lori Lane- speaker

Service Providers:

Darlene Pickard, CART provider
Roxy Andrews, ASL Interpreter
Karen Rosenthal, SSP

Mike Kosanovich, ASL Interpreter
Kathy Neely

Once the meeting was called to order, the chair welcomed everyone and dispensed with introductions since all present knew everyone.

Devin Beach made a motion to approve the July 8th Port Angeles meeting minutes. Linda McClain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the agenda ensued. Though there were no formal changes to the agenda proposed, Honan mentioned that he neglected to include yearly elections to the agenda. Mackelprang stated that the elections would take place in new business in the afternoon.

Chair's Reports/ Comments: Mackelprang wanted to discuss some of his recent Africa trip and show some slides, but the technology was not cooperating (he managed to retrieve the slide show later and gave details on his latest stay in southeastern Ghana. He also talked about future trips to Africa, some of which might involve fundraising). He stated that some members will be serving their last term and that elections will need to take place later in the meeting. He stated that he and Sandi were ineligible to continue as SILC members after September 30, 2012, and that new members would need to be recruited. Mackelprang mentioned that the SILC should be looking to fill certain "slots" such as geography, disability, etc., but most importantly "skill sets."

There was a break taken after Chair Mackelprang's report.

Lori Lane. Vusion Design Media "What You Need to Know About Web Access." Here are some of the highlights of her presentation:

- Introduced herself as a small business owner and web designer
- Why Web Accessibility? One benefit is that everyone can view or access your website. Population is aging; these people will benefit from accessible websites. Mobility, voice recognition, tagging, etc. all are beneficial to the older computer user.
- Accessible technology works well for both temporarily disabled and those with permanent disabilities.
- Other groups that benefit: ESL (English as Second Language), those with learning disabilities, those that struggle with the written word, etc.
- Web Accessibility impacts images. It is a public relations opportunity. Web accessibility also shows social responsibility.
- There will be some developments in the regulation of web accessibility in the future: Expansion and modification of Section 508 and W3C.
- Cost of web accessibility is variable. There are no standard costs in making web sites accessible. A lot depends on graphics and set up.
- Ways to set up a website (while decreasing costs) 1. Plan ahead, 2. Developing the tools they have and using them, and 3. Learning, sharing, networking with staff. If these three things are implemented, your website will be well-visited.

Committee Reports: Honan apologized for not having the written reports ready for distribution before the meeting began. Thus, the reports were all provided verbally.

- **Debbie Cook: DSB:** Not much to report. Things are moving along pretty much as usual. Cook reports that all the projects for the stimulus (ARRA) funding have been wrapped up due to the ending of the ARRA funds. The new data manager system for the Older Blind Program is about to be launched. DSB hired a new assistant director,

Michael Mackillop. Cook added that the small Part B program is likely to be hit as a result of the 10% (potentially) budget cuts.

- **Andres Aguirre: DVR:** Like DSB, DVR is also looking at potential 10% cuts in some program areas. Some federal funds would have to be reverted due to less state matching funds. DVR has a good hiring plan in place which will allow the DVR to fill positions until a potential freeze (DVR is still way below FTE level). Aguirre stated that the big concern is the 2013-2015 biennium, when impacts will really happen if the economy/ budget does not start to improve. Aguirre also announced that Susan Dreyfuss, DSHS director, is leaving at the end of the year. Aguirre also mentioned that the DBTAC in Mountlake Terrace was re-awarded the five-year grant to continue providing their services.
- **Linda McClain: Rehabilitation Council for the Blind/ RCB:** McClain is still learning the ropes, and asked Debbie Cook to fill in some gaps. Cook stated it will be a challenge serving customers with unbalanced funding (Part B being cut and Older Blind losing funds due ARRA going away BUT the VR program is healthy). McClain stated that she was impressed at the numbers of jobs DSB was finding for visually impaired customers that pay over \$20 per hour.
- **Sandi Carr: WSRC:** Stated that Spokane DVR office hired a Deaf and HH counselor, and her name is Val Davis. Carr discussed how the WSRC chair talked about the use of motivational interviewing (MI) by DVR staff. There was a discussion on this. Carr also stated that Don Brandon from the NW ADA Center presented to WSRC about accessibility. She also stated that she has heard from the community about rumors of DVR going back into order of selection, but the rumors appear unfounded. Lastly, Carr engendered a discussion about trial work period. Jana Finkbonner added that DVR is in the process of receiving their customer service satisfaction surveys back.
- **Romel Mackelprang: Executive Committee:** The chair mentioned his work with RSA Commissioner Lynnae Rutledge (and others) at the IRI or Institute of Rehabilitation Issues. Essentially, this is a group that RSA constitutes to compose an annual report on topics of interest. The group is currently working on the “impact of health care reform on people with disabilities, specifically around issues of vocational rehabilitation relative to health care reform.”
- **Linda McClain: ACIL-WA:** McClain reports that several members of the WA CIL group are in Alaska for the annual APRIL conference. The recent IL trainings (at the Triple A’s) were a success around the state. These trainings took place in Bellingham, Spokane, and Yakima. The 2012 NCIL conference is set for June 11th-14th. McClain also mentioned that there might possibly be a youth program retreat in February or March. **AND OF COURSE, the NEW CIL** was awarded in Bellingham. Trina Forest made that announcement on behalf of ACIL-WA. Forest stated that RSA awarded the grant to the Center for Independence. As written into the proposal, the CIL will be a branch office for a time and then will spin off into a free-standing CIL. Forest stressed that this was a state-wide collaborative effort to get a new CIL in Bellingham. McClain also wanted to mention the Blue Path training (there was a presentation on Blue Path at the July Council meeting) that her and Von Elison attended in Moscow, ID, which was very useful to the CIL staff.
- **Budget/ Expense Report:** Honan stated that he e-mailed out the report the week prior to the meeting. Honan was pleased to report that the SILC hit the spending targets, particularly the expenses that were not Salary/Benefitted-related. In other words, the operational costs hit its budgeted target.

Lunch break was taken

- Lori Lane gave a brief demo during lunch by testing accessibility on the Best Buy and Boeing Educational Credit Union websites.

Task Force Reports:

- **501 c3.** Honan and Al Neely. The only thing new to report is that Honan checked with Andres Aguirre and DVR fiscal manager on how the funds would be transferred to the SILC if the body chose to go 501 c3. Honan reported that the SILC would have to enter some type of contract (vetted by the Attorney General and Governor's office, of course) with DVR for funding. But, of course, this would mean that the SILC would have to cover 100% of its costs. One of the comments/ questions was on the whether the Governor would still pick the SILC members of the SILC was non-profit. Honan will look into this matter. Forest suggested that this was not the time to be looking at this transition. But, Mackelprang suggested that it is important to keep gathering bits of information so that a truly informed choice can be made in the future.

Position Papers. This is a continuation of the conversation from the July meeting. Honan gave some context on the issue saying that there were currently 10 approved SILC position papers and are currently available for use. And in light of massive cuts to programs that allow individuals to live independently with dignity, the SILC began discussion on this topic at the July meeting. Honan announced that not much work had been accomplished on this paper. He did say, however, that he received some very good suggestions for updating on the Election and Voting Paper from Tom Allman of the WA Secretary of State's office.

The Council then took the last hour of the meeting to build on the rough draft Honan forwarded to the Executive Committee regarding cuts to Medicaid, Disability Lifeline program and others. Mackelprang led the discussion and the Council worked on a rough draft. Mackelprang asked Honan to email the draft to the executive committee for further evaluation before the January meeting.

New Business

- **Meeting Locations: 2012.** The Council came to a consensus on the dates and places for the meetings in 2012:
 - January 12th and 13th: Olympia area
 - April 12th and 13th: Vancouver
 - July 12th and 13th: Pullman
 - October 11th and 12th: Seatac Corridor
- **Election of Officers** for FY 2012: Carr nominated Jana Finkbonner for Chair. Gilbert Garza seconded the nomination. Finkbonner respectively declined the nomination, which killed this motion. Linda McClain then nominated keeping the existing chair and vice-chair slate going into next year (Mackelprang as Chair and Finkbonner as Vice Chair). Trina Forest seconded this motion. Realizing that the slate was not "complete", Trina then nominated Devin Beach to be the SILC at-large representative. Gilbert Garza seconded the motion to add Beach on as the At-Large representative. There was a brief discussion on this, but the nominations ceased. The Council unanimously elected the

slate presented: Mackelprang as Chair, Finkbonner as Vice-Chair, and Beach as At-Large Representative. The fourth member of the executive committee, the ACIL-WA representative, is selected by the CILs/ ACIL-WA rather than the SILC.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Honan