SILC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Friday January 9, 2015
Red Lion, Conference Room
2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia, Washington 98502


Members Absent: None

Council Staff: Emilio Vela, Jr., SILC ED, Olympia. Marie Slusser, SILC Executive Assistant, Olympia.


Service Providers: Darlene Pickard, CART Captioning Service provider. Paula Meyer and Shelly Hanson, ASL Interpreters.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order on January 9, 2014, at 9:00 AM by Dale Kosier, SILC Chair.

Approval of October 2014 Minutes: With two changes, the council moved and seconded to approve the minutes of October, 2014 as presented. The motion carried.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Report: Jana Finkbonner reported that two tribes lost their grant with the current funding cycle. DVR has been able to make up for the losses and keep their doors open.

Association of Centers for Independent Living in Washington Report: Mark Leeper reported that the ACIL-WA is revisiting what the roles are of the Independent Living Centers. Coalition of Responsible Disabled (CORD) changed their name to Spokane Center for Independent Living (SCIL). Charley Lane is the interim Director and a new Director will be hired soon.

Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) Report: The Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) welcomed Dale Kosier as the SILC Representative on the
WSRC Council. The WSRC turned in their Annual report to the Governor’s office and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). One concern addressed in the report is the placement of DVR under JJRA and not having a direct line of communication to the Secretary. The second concern addressed in the report is regarding DVR not having long term support for behavioral health. WSRC has been very involved with DVR leadership to work on updating the proposed WAC updates and how they will affect the customer.

The WSRC has continued partnering with the SILC and North West ADA to continue planning the 25th anniversary of the signing of the ADA.

**Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) Report:** Debbie Brown gave a brief overview of DSB services under Part B funding. DSB requested additional positions from the Governor’s office that they have not yet been awarded. Debbie gave an IL testimonial and put a face to the services that they provide.

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Report:** Lorie Christoferson reported that the next biennium starts July 1, 2015. DVR is requesting $1.6 million in Federal funding. The Governor’s office increased DVR’s budget by $2.3 million in other areas, but not in the requested areas.

- The new hires in DVR are:
  - Lori Magnuson, Transition Manager
  - Katie Merkovich, Community Relations Manager
  - Michelle Mulhern, Policy Manager

**Client Assistance Program Report:** Jerry Johnsen reported that the Washington Client Assistance Program works with the rehabilitation agencies and Independent Living Centers. CAP has been working hard with the placement issue of DVR.

**SILC Chair Report:** The Governor’s office has confirmed the appointment of the SILC rep on the WSRC as Dale Kosier. His first WSRC meeting is January 22-23. The Executive Committee has been working on planning the year and started working on an orientation processes for new members. The SILC has reviewed a private business for profit representative application and recommended Kayla Victor to the Governor’s office. Dale represented SILC for a legislative visit with Representative Ross Hunter, Senator Andy Hill, and both budget writers in the legislature. Dale will represent SILC at upcoming SILC CONGRESS in San Diego from January 17-20. SILC has partnered with the WSRC and formed an ADA Celebration Committee to celebrate the 25th anniversary ADA. A draft Proclamation has been submitted for Governor’s signature, and a request for Governor to speak at the event (location TBD) has been submitted. The SILC 704 end of year Report has been reviewed and submitted to the RSA. Dale requested that the IL Centers and other members contribute ideas and articles for the SILC Newsletter. SILC and IL Centers are going to be planning Public Forum to form the new SPIL.

**Governor Appointee Training:** Keith Swenson, Deputy Director from the Governor’s office, spoke on best practices for Expectations of Appointees and Ethics in Government.

**Open Government Training:** AAG Eric Nelson, from the Attorney General’s office, gave an Open Government presentation to the Council. The presentation included education around Open Public Records and Open Public Meetings.

**Public Comment/Questions:** Jim Kinney from Aging and Long Term Service Administration (ALTSA) announced that they are a resource for supported employment. Other contacts to provide information are AARP and the Eastern Washington Area Long Term Care.

**SILC Bylaws:** Mark, Ryan, Jana agreed to join the Bylaws Ad-Hoc group to update the bylaws to conform to the new law changes, the regulations regarding the State Plan for Independent Living, nominations, election, voting, council committees, ad hoc sub committees.
**Independent Living History and Philosophy:** Duane French presented a historical overview about his experiences with the history and philosophy of independent living.

**WIOA Changes Discussion:** SILC Chair and staff are going to the SILC congress in San Diego to discuss and learn more of the new WIOA law changes. It was reiterated that the SILC cannot provide direct client services. The SILC can now do resource development. The public process to developing the next SPIIL will happen this year. The Designated State Unit (DSU) has been changed to Entity (DSE). The SILC has an opportunity to choose what DSE that the SILC will partner with. The governor’s office has the final say for what entity the SILC is partnered with. The Federal code that was supposed to come out of Jan 18th, has now been postponed to March. There will be some changes to the 704 reporting. There is a reemphasis of the SPIIL that clearly identifies how money is supposed to be spent. There needs to be a discussion about what critical pieces that needs to be addressed. SPIIL now requires signatures from the DSE, SILC chair under the advice of the Council, and the Independent Living Centers. There is an additional core service added that pertains to transition services. One change that will happen is a collaborative relationship with the SILC about how those services are contracted out. IL will be more imbedded into the VR program to assist with pre-employment services and more emphasis on greater technology services.

**SILC Executive Director Report:** Emilio Vela reported that The SILC is already a body affiliated with NCIL and it was recommended for people to become individual members of the NCIL to bring a stronger presence to Washington. Emilio participated in the following:

- APRIL Annual Conference and Board participation in October, 2014.
- WSRC Meeting in Mount Vernon October, 2014.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Project Team meetings.
- Internal team meetings and External team meetings.
- FEMA presentation by EPRT team.
- Results of November 7, 2014 meeting with ACILWA Directors and DVR Leadership.
- Region X SILC Directors conference call.
- DSHS Assistant Secretary Meetings and other essential partner meetings.
- Community Connections Convening Summit participation.
- Representation of SILC at the SRC/DSB meeting December 5, 2014.
- ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee updates.
- 704 Report submission, Orientation Manual, Newsletter, and Executive Committee work.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion:** Janna Finkbonner moved and Mark Leeper seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.