

**Alaska Statewide Independent Living Council, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting**

LOCATION

Wasilla, Alaska

DATE

June 7 - 8, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Council Members Present:

Michael Christian, chair	Advocate/Consumer
Joan O’Keefe	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Justine Fine	Advocate/Consumer
Martin Morris	SDS Representative
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative
Janalee Gage	Advocate/Consumer
Jaye Destiny Palmer	Advocate/Consumer
Buddy Kutch	Advocate/Consumer
Jen Brower	Advocate/Consumer
Annette Alfonsi	Advocate/Consumer

Council Members Not Present

Cheri Johansen	Advocate/Consumer
Cathy Gerby	Advocate/Consumer

Staff:

Heidi Frost, Executive Director
Kathy Munk, Administrative Assistant

CART Provided by: Lenny DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

CALL TO ORDER – 11:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

REVIEW AGENDA

Joan O’Keefe **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended by Heidi Frost and Annette Alfonsi, **SECONDED** by Annette Alfonsi. The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

After further discussion and further amendments by Heidi Frost, Jennifer Brower **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended, **SECONDED** by Jaye Palmer. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED** and the agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Joan O’Keefe **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the February 2018 meeting, **SECONDED** by Tom Cyrus. During discussion, a typo was noted. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the minutes were approved as amended.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Heidi Frost presented to the Council as follows:

Administrative Update:

Council Update:

- Working on training records and other new policy requirements.

Accounting:

- FY’17 review is done with no issues found
- FY’18 budget is on track
- FY’19 budget created.

IT Issues:

- Resolved many IT issues during the fiscal year
- Need a new computer.

Operations Update:

- SDS Grant – Offered to continue the current grant instead of creating a new one.
- Assisted Living Home Transition – Still unspent, working with the Trust to determine next steps.
- Enabling Technology Pilot Project (ETPP) – Expected to begin receiving applications by July. Pending – An additional grant through the Mat-Su Health Foundation to augment the ETPP. To be eligible for the ETPP, an individual has to be on one of the four waivers, be over 18 years old, and have a person or support network to engage in the pilot with the individual.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Leader of advisory group
- Presentations made at both Full Lives Conference and the Spring Preparedness Conference

- Table Top Exercise – May 2018.

Transportation Work:

- Anchorage specific
- CTAA grant for AMATS in Anchorage
- Alaska Mobility Coalition.

Healthcare Access Work:

- Mental health crisis group in Fairbanks.

Partnerships:

During FY'18:

- Fairbanks mental health crisis discussion
- Voting rights
- Medicaid Reform
- SILCs and Region X
- TBI Conference
- Transportation – Anchorage

Upcoming and Continuing:

- Fairbanks mental health crisis discussion
- Aging and Disability Coalition Conference
- Disability Pride Day
- Service animal initiative
- Voting rights
- Medicaid Reform
- Transportation – Anchorage
- Collaboration on Residence Inn/BP Energy Center disability access issue.

On the Horizon:

- SPIL needs assessment
- IL Conference
- Continue the creation of new policies required
- Service animal marketing effort
- Non-profit/donations.

How Will Council Members Help?

Ongoing:

- SPIL evaluation
- Policy Review
- Emergency preparedness
- Transportation
- Mental health crisis committee.

Upcoming:

- SPIL needs assessment
- IL Conference
- Continue the creation of the new policies required
- Service animal marketing effort
- Non-profit/donations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FY'18 Budget

Heidi Frost directed Council members to the FY'18 budget noting that some amendments need to occur because they brought Kathy Munk on full time, and Heidi has had changes to her health insurance. She also noted that they have overspent on travel this year due to more SILC members being from rural areas.

Joan O'Keefe **MOVED** to accept the amendments to the budget, **SECONDED** by Jaye Palmer. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

FY'19 Budget

Heidi Frost reviewed the FY'19 budget with members of the Council. During the discussion about attending NCIL and SILC Congress, it was noted that sometimes scholarships are available to attend those conferences, which should be explored. Council members also discussed quarterly meeting length and frequency if they should decide to enhance their rural outreach. They also discussed coordinating SILC meetings and/or the IL Conference to coincide with other events around the state to increase SILC presence and exposure. It was suggested to hold the next quarterly meeting to coordinate with the Aging and Disability Conference. It was also suggested that instead of sending anyone to NCIL or APRIL next year, to add that funding to travel for the needs assessment for the SPIL.

Joan O’Keefe **MOVED** to approve the budget with the one travel change to move NCIL and APRIL conference travel to SPIL educational forums, **SECONDED** by Justine Fine. The motion was **AMENDED** to put \$1,500 into conference travel, and the remainder of \$2,500 into SPIL travel. Jen Brower **MOVED** to accept the amendment, **SECONDED** by Joan O’Keefe. Hearing no opposition, the amendment and original motion **PASSED**.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

A lunchtime session of public testimony was held, and a full transcript was prepared.

MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION (MSHF)

Jim Beck provided an overview of the Mat-Su Health Foundation by explaining the unique position the Mat-Su Health Foundation is as a health conversion foundation formed from Valley Hospital being bought out by Community Health Systems and being turned into the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center. He noted that the Mat-Su Health Foundation still maintains an ownership stake in the hospital, so it has a rather consistent revenue stream as a result. The Mat-Su Health Foundation board also seats half of the hospital’s governing board.

Jim Beck stated that the Mat-Su Health Foundation takes a population health approach. Their mission is to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans living in the Mat-Su, and the employees of the foundation are committed to this mission.

Jim Beck stated that the Foundation provides about \$7 million in grants a year, and they are hoping to hit \$20 million annually in the next two to five years or so.

Jim Beck stated that the Mat-Su Health Foundation’s focus areas include:

- Healthy Aging
- Healthy Minds
- Healthy Foundations for Families
- Workforce Development – educational scholarships offered to residents of the Mat-Su interested in pursuing a variety of health-related careers.

Jim Beck discussed the health needs assessments conducted for the Valley, and encouraged SILC members to visit their website to view their extensive data

repository. He noted that transportation rose to the top as the biggest barrier to health in the Mat-Su.

Jim Beck then reviewed with members of the SILC an infographic that discussed the following activities of the MSHF:

- Connect Mat-Su – a community resource center as a means to get people in the Valley connected to resources.
- United Way of Mat-Su – will be doing a youth development database, which will most likely become part of Connect Mat-Su.
- Youth in Mat-Su – a proposed plan based on the Youth in Iceland model to reduce teen drinking.
- Behavioral health in schools – the Mat-Su Health Foundation has started to do some grant making for behavioral health in schools.
- R.O.C.K. Mat-Su – collective impact project.
- Transit reform – the Mat-Su Borough will own the coordinated transit plan and will work with some consultants provided by the Mat-Su Health Foundation.
- Provider network development for an Administrative Services Organization (ASO) for behavioral health.
- Other foundation activities include: Case management, referral, social connection efforts, prisoner re-entry, FIT Court, CIT Coalition, High Utilizer Mat-Su Project, senior centers – Mat-Su has the fastest growing aging population in the country.

Jim Beck fielded questions from Council members and concluded his presentation.

CIL DATA OVERVIEW

Martin Morris presented to the Council on data collected from each CIL's 704 reports in graph form. The graphs highlight areas regarding CIL's roles, tasks, services provided, and strengths. He noted that this information may be helpful as the SILC develops their next SPIL to be able to identify possible targets in terms of potential services or strategic areas the SILC can put their resources in to help Alaskans. The graphs addressed the following areas:

- Numbers of people served by CILs
- Individuals with a signed waiver versus having an ILP developed
- Age breakdown by CIL

- Gender of individuals served by CIL
- Race and ethnicity statewide and by CIL
- Disability type statewide and by CIL
- Census area by CIL
- CIL non-core services statewide and by CIL.

State Fiscal-Year 2018 Review:

- Five core CIL services plus Nursing Facility Transition grant statewide
- Individual and systems advocacy number by CIL
- Peer counseling numbers by CIL
- IL skills training by CIL
- Institutional transitions by CIL
- Youth transitions by CIL
- Information and referral by CIL
- Unregistered callers by CIL
- Nursing Facility Transition grant by CIL
- Services provided by CIL
- Average cost per person to provide core CIL services SFY'18 with only IL funding.
- Individual CIL funding compared to people served per CIL SFY'18.

Discussion among Council members during the review of the data highlighted the following aspects the SILC may want to explore for the SPIL:

- Transition-aged youth is a demographic that seems to be lacking in the data.
- Outreach to Alaska Native/American Indian data appears to be good, but other minority ethnicities are still lacking. It would be good to compare the CIL ethnicities served data to actual census data to see how it compares.
- Access Alaska counts their PCA individuals served among their IL consumers served, so their numbers may be a bit skewed as a result. The data reads that Access is providing IL services in the ILC region. It was noted that Access is the only CIL in Alaska that provides PCA services.
- The numbers in the data regarding services provided by region don't really capture the greatest areas of need, just services provided.
- Regarding information and referral, it would be interesting to find out why people contacted CILs instead of ADRCs.

- The SILC may need to consider looking at a new funding formula because the current formula is based on parity and not numbers served.
- Perhaps they should also have some way to measure time spent with individuals across all CILs, because although the numbers are there, there is no way to account for time.

Martin Morris fielded additional questions from Council members and concluded his presentation.

UPDATES FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jen Brower shared that Access Alaska came up to the North Slope for the first time in two years and saw over 11 people in two days. Their visit to the region was very impactful and appreciated.

Justine Fine stated that she has received license approval for a group home. The current hold up is that she is unable to bill at this point. She stated that they are also waiting to see how the Medicaid Reform efforts are going to roll out before they pursue finalizing any placements at this time.

Annette Alfonsi stated that the SILC provided funding for the TBI Conference for continuing education credits for the different medical providers. The SILC now has all the applications and copies of the paperwork and evaluations, and they now have the ability to provide a medical-level educational conference.

Martin Morris stated that he could provide members of the SILC with additional information about the current state of the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) federal mandate, but he did not have anything to report on it at this time. Buddy Kutch noted that he and his care providers participated in a pilot project of an EVV system.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

An evening session of public testimony was heard, and a full transcript was prepared.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Calendar

Heidi Frost directed members of the Council to the draft calendar of events, and the group discussed options for their quarterly meetings. It was again suggested to hold their fall meeting on September 24th and 25th in conjunction with the Aging and Disability Summit September 26th and 27th. The group reviewed all of the upcoming events of importance to SILC members, and they also discussed the possibility of combining a meeting with a partner in a rural location, but not combining with another large partner to engage in legislative visits in Juneau. It was also noted that the SILC should continue to plan their legislative meeting in close proximity to other disability groups' meetings because it seems to have a great impact on legislators.

RECESS

The meeting recessed upon the conclusion of public testimony at 6:05 p.m.

Friday, June 8, 2018

Council Members Present:

Michael Christian, chair	Advocate/Consumer
Joan O’Keefe	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Martin Morris	SDS Representative
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative
Janalee Gage	Advocate/Consumer
Jaye Destiny Palmer	Advocate/Consumer
Jen Brower	Advocate/Consumer
Annette Alfonsi	Advocate/Consumer

Council Members Absent:

Buddy Kutch	Advocate/Consumer
Cheri Johansen	Advocate/Consumer
Justine Fine	Advocate/Consumer
Cathy Gerby	Advocate/Consumer

Staff:

Heidi Frost, Executive Director
Kathy Munk, Administrative Assistant

CART Provided by: Lenny DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

RECAP FROM YESTERDAY/OVERVIEW OF TODAY

Council members recapped events from yesterday’s meeting. The following highlights were noted:

- The CIL data presentation was different than the SILC had ever seen before and was appreciated.
- It would be great to find a way to integrate concepts they hear from presenters to duplicate for the SILC.
- Transportation is a huge theme the Council is hearing in the Mat-Su.

- Advocacy may be needed for federal reforms to Medicaid that may eliminate coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Heidi Frost then provided Council members with a brief overview of the activities on today's agenda, and also provided a brief explanation of the Ethics Act. She asked that Council members review the entirety of their ethics materials in their binders and confirm in writing to her that they have read and understand them.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

Kelda Barstad, program officer for the Trust, reported that they are now fully staffed with the hiring of Travis Welch, Eric Boyer, and Autumn Vea.

Kelda Barstad reported that her focus at the Trust is Long-Term Services and Supports, and the Trust is looking at a variety of programs, particularly operationalizing the DD Shared Vision. The Trust has also been working with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to tackle some of the homelessness and affordable housing issues in the state and also on institutional transition initiatives in their focus of long-term services and supports. They have also been assisting with assisted living home transitions by providing funding to IL for those transitions. She noted that they are also looking at more support for senior services and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Kelda Barstad stated that the Trust is currently planning for their FY'20 – '21 budget cycle, and they will be bringing recommendations to the Trustees at their Program and Planning Committee meeting August 1st and 2nd. All final decisions will be made at the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Joyanna Geisler asked Kelda Barstad to forward a suggestion to the program officer assigned to the Disability Justice focus area of the Trust. She suggested the Trust assist in looking into the low approval numbers for Social Security hearings by Alaska's administrative law judges. Joan O'Keefe added that advocating for a systemic solution in the state to address people needing navigators for SSI and SSDI has been an ongoing issue at SAIL. She would love to see some support from the Trust on the newly formed coalition in Juneau to address this systemic issue. Kelda Barstad suggested that the SILC talk to the Trust's statutory advisory boards about the Social Security issues to gain their support, although she suspects that the statutory boards are already aware of the issues. She also noted that the Trust is supplying some gap funding to the Disability Law Center to look into the low approval numbers.

Heidi Frost also asked for Kelda Barstad's assistance to receive Trust support on the working group the SILC has regarding mental health issues in Fairbanks. Kelda stated that she will discuss this with Jimael Johnson at the Trust.

Joan O'Keefe asked Kelda Barstad whether or not it would be beneficial for the SILC to pursue more of a formal relationship with the Trust because of the amount of Trust beneficiaries the CILs serve. Heidi Frost agreed and noted that now that she has full-time help in the office, she would like to attend Trust meetings regularly and get to know the Trustees and new program officers. Kelda Barstad stated that she would love to strengthen the relationship, because as the centers have been doing independent living work for decades, it is now beginning to emerge in other systems as there is a consumer-driven demand for control of services. The SILC and CILs are the experts in this work, and it's important that the Trust and others rely on this expertise to ensure the system can cope with the magnitude of change that is occurring.

CENTER UPDATES

Access Alaska

Doug White from Access Alaska stated that Access was incorporated in 1983 and has Center for Independent Living offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su and provides personal care attendant services in the Soldotna area. Access Alaska has an office out of a home in Dillingham that serves Western Alaska and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region for personal care attendant services.

Doug White reported on the following highlights for Access Alaska as follows:

- Wellness Program funded through the Division of Behavioral Health through Medicaid on a fee-for-service type schedule.
- Once again providing IL services to Utqiagvik.
- Looking into getting an Indian Country grant through the Administration on Community Living to undergird work in the Northern region.
- Recently received a senior in-home grant for Western Alaska to provide chore, respite, and case management services for people in about 20 villages.
- Taking a deeper look at the looming changes for personal care attendant services in the state.

- One of Access Alaska's staff will be one of the first people to get the voluntary disability designation on her ID.
- The Mat-Su office does a lot of work with people with traumatic and acquired brain injuries (TABI).

Annette Alfonsi informed the group that Access Alaska had an Unmasking Brain Injury mask making event, and they were very supportive and easy to work with for that event.

Independent Living Center (ILC)

Joyanna Geisler stated that ILC provides services on the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and the Valdez/Cordova census area. They have offices in Homer, Soldotna, Seward, and Kodiak.

Joyanna Geisler reported on the following highlights of ILC as follows:

- Go Baby Go build day on April 28th – a program to build little vehicles for five toddlers with mobility issues in collaboration with ATLA. The hope is for ILC to host their own build day on the Kenai Peninsula for three or more children.
- Veterans-directed home and community-based services program to assist veterans to stay in their own homes. To date they have enrolled 41 veterans.
- In collaboration with the Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired and ATLA, ILC is hosting two-day low vision assistive technology fairs. This was started in the Kenai/Soldotna area, and they are hoping to expand to host these fairs in Homer and Kodiak as well next fiscal year.
- Hoping to resurrect the transportation voucher program with new grants starting in July.
- In August ILC will start their first three-week course of self-advocacy and skills training to five or six students that are being referred by DVR.
- ILC just completed their third nursing facility transition.

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)

Joan O'Keefe highlighted the activities of SAIL as follows:

- SSI/SSDI navigation collaboration.
- Board retreat was held in Sitka recently.

- Their adaptive recreation program is able to provide all five core IL services.
- The rec program also provides peer support and inclusion in the community and is involved with the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program with DVR. They also have Pre-ETS cohorts in Haines for youth summer employment.
- SAIL continues to be heavily involved in accessible playgrounds, and a playground is going to be built in Sitka.
- SAIL has an accessibility specialist, an architect, to help with accessible playground design as well as Home MAPs.
- SAIL has many active peer support groups as well as other groups including low vision, mental health, and TBI.
- Independent Living Services To Alaska Natives with Disabilities (IL STAND) project will be putting staff into six different villages in collaboration with the tribes to provide independent living services.
- SAIL has completed 12 nursing facility transitions this year with the grant, and they did a couple others without having to use grant funds.
- Continued partnerships with many local coalitions and other entities.

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UPDATE

Velja Elstad introduced herself to new Council members and explained SILC's former relationship to DVR.

Velja Elstad explained that the Pre-ETS program was a mandate from the federal government for DVRs to expend at least 15 percent of their funds on serving students with disabilities. To that end, DVR partnered with other agencies and service providers familiar with this population, and it has opened a lot of doors for DVR in terms of building relationships with other organizations and service providers. The goal of Pre-ETS is to get the word out to students with disabilities about employment and what resources are available out there so they can start thinking about employment before they leave school. She noted that it has really opened up the door for DVR to access this new client base because some of these Pre-ETS students then transition into DVR services if they so choose.

Velja Elstad stated that the Pre-ETS program also serves Alaska Native students, and there are some really good projects that are taking place out in schools in the villages.

Velja Elstad stated that Alaska is known nationally for the Pre-ETS program, and one of the reasons Alaska has been so successful is from their efforts in contracting through other service providers and partners that work directly with the students one on one. The funding they spend for Pre-ETS is all for services, and for this fiscal year, DVR anticipates spending all of the \$1.75 million they were obligated to spend.

Velja Elstad stated that DVR went through their review, and administratively they are looking very good. They have been flat funded, but they are still looking okay relative to many state organizations that are seeing some challenging times in terms of funding.

DVR is going to be starting up a supported employment pilot project out of Anchorage working with people that have serious mental health issues. The Division of Behavioral Health has put out an RFP and will award the grant to a community rehabilitation provider that serves people with mental illness.

Velja Elstad stated that Project SEARCH is a project set up to provide internships for students with disabilities, and they go through several rotations with the goal that they will be trained and have the skills to work within that field after the internship is over. There are currently multiple Project SEARCH sites in hospitals throughout the state. They are planning to start a new one in Juneau.

Velja Elstad stated that John Cannon retired recently, and Mark Dale has been acting director. They plan to advertise for the position later in the year.

TRIBAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (TVR) UPDATE

Tom Cyrus stated that TVR programs are funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through a competitive grant process. Grants are provided for five-year periods. The state of Alaska had 11 programs, but they currently have 10 funded programs, half of which are up for refunding this year. There are 87 programs in the United States right now, and 49 of those are up for refunding. RSA will be funding only 35 of them, so it will be very competitive.

Tom Cyrus stated that TVR continues to work closely with DVR on a lot of shared cases. The Consortium recently met in Anchorage, and they met with Mariah Krueger to work on the interagency agreement with the State to look at how they can provide better joint services.

Tom Cyrus stated that Jim Kreatschman with the Pre-ETS program has done a remarkable job getting out there and working with the tribal programs and providing them lots of information. Jim Kreatschman also sits on many of the same councils as the tribal members do regarding transition. Tom stated that he believes they have had a transition camp in most of the regions, with the exception of the North Slope, and he has been involved in all of the planning for transition camps in the Northwest Arctic region. He noted that the summer youth work experience program funded by DVR has also been a real boost to the rural communities.

Tom Cyrus stated that TVR does not provide Pre-ETS service, but he stated that his grant does have many services that mirror Pre-ETS. He commented that Kodiak also does a lot of pre-employment type services as well.

Tom Cyrus stated that TVR does a lot with subsistence in his area. He stated that he has been working closely with the Governor's Council's workgroup on transition for remote communities, and they are looking at developing materials for transition for students who are looking at staying in their home communities. They are looking at subsistence as a viable employment outcome and then supporting those efforts in transition as the students go into adulthood. He did a presentation on subsistence for Stone Soup Group, and he will be doing another presentation at the CANAR Conference.

MARKETING: SERVICE ANIMALS, SILC, AND SPIL OUTREACH

Service Animals

Heidi Frost recapped that the Council has already discussed the service animal issue at previous meetings. She stated that as a result of those discussions, two concepts emerged, doing legislation and doing marketing. She stated that one legislator suggested to the SILC that they reach out to businesses over the summer to educate them on the issue, and then after gaining their support, begin the effort of crafting legislation in the next session. The two issues they want to propose in the legislation are to make it a crime to make false statements about having a service animal and to make it a crime if a non-service animal attacks a service animal. Heidi clarified that the discussion they are engaging in only has to do with service animals, not emotional support animals.

Heidi Frost stated that in terms of marketing the issue, the concept is to let businesses learn their rights and responsibilities under the law as well as educate

the public as to what is and isn't a service animal and why people with disabilities can have a service animal.

Heidi Frost reviewed her PowerPoint with Council members as follows:

Marketing:

- What topic does the SILC want to tackle?
 - The difference between types of helping dogs?
 - What can you ask?
 - Rights and responsibilities?
- Who is in their audience?
 - Business owners/managers?
 - HR professionals?
 - People with disabilities?
 - General public?

Heidi Frost suggested that the SILC gather a small working group to include the Northwest ADA Center and mountain rescue dog training groups. In terms of the audience to market it to, Council members suggested engaging the Chambers of Commerce, business owners, city councils, community councils, and Municipal League.

Methods of marketing suggested included:

- Educational public service announcements
- Statewide newsletters
- Present at Municipal League
- Presenting or having a booth at the State Chamber meeting
- Radio ads
- Invite a news outlet to the fall SILC meeting,
- Letters to the editor
- Direct mailings.

Other questions posed to the SILC:

- Is the SILC the right messenger? If not, who is?
- What is the SILC's reputation?
 - Would this offer a chance for people to get to know about the SILC?

- Would this campaign be weakened because the SILC doesn't have the authority?
- Who could we partner with on such a big issue?
 - Norwest ADA Center?
 - GCDSE?
 - Local service dog or dog obedience training facility?

Council members suggested the following groups that could also partner:

- Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Mental health
- Other medically fragile users of service dogs
- Law enforcement
- Alaska Bar Association
- Wall Busters.

After extensive discussion, the Council decided that they will spend this year first educating on the topic and then tackling legislation.

Janalee Gage **MOVED** to form a workgroup, **SECONDED** by Jaye Palmer. The motion was clarified to be that the SILC forms a workgroup that educates the community and municipalities on what service animals do. The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

Janalee Gage **MOVED** that the SILC form a workgroup that works on identifying and educating the communities regarding what a real service dog is and does, **SECONDED** by Jaye Palmer. The motion was **AMENDED** to be service animal instead of service dog. Hearing no objection to the amendment, there was no objection to the motion and it **PASSED**.

Council members signed up on a piece of paper to participate in the workgroup.

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) AND SPIL DEVELOPMENT

Heidi Frost reviewed her PowerPoint presentation regarding the SPIL as follows:

Background

- A state must have a SPIL to receive federal IL funds.

- The SPIL is developed in collaboration with the Centers and Designated State Entity (DSE).
- The SPIL is voted on/agreed upon by:
 - Members of the SILC with the chair signing on behalf of the SILC
 - A majority of CILs with signatures from the CIL directors
 - The DSE with the director or designee signing the SPIL.

Different Areas of the SPIL

- Assurances
- Narratives:
 - Mission of the SPIL
 - Goals and objectives (including underserved populations)
 - Financial plan
 - Scope of services (including partners and OIB)
 - Design of IL Network
 - Expansion/restriction of services
 - DSE
 - SILC
 - Requirements of CILs
 - Evaluation.

SILC-Specific Information

Authorities:

- Resource development
- Other activities consistent with the SPIL
- Conducting hearings and forums

Operations:

- Financial plan
- Establishment/placement
- Composition
- Staff

SPIL Development Process

- Public hearings

- Review of public input – identification of priorities
- Committee process to determine key elements of the SPIL
- Drafting of the SPIL
- CIL director review and action on draft SPIL
- Technical review of draft SPIL
- Signatures and upload SPIL to Administration on Community Living.

Timeline:

- Now through November – surveys and focus groups
- November through February – review priorities and write draft
- February through April – review by key partners, 30-day public review
- April through June 15 – Signatures and final submission.

Types of Information to Gather

- Public testimonies during this SPIL cycle
- Customer Service Reports for the past three years
- Information gathered by partner agencies
- Needs assessment survey
- Focus group information
- Polls/outreach efforts.

SILC Assignments:

Staff:

- Gather data from surveys and public testimony
- Gather information from other entities
- Work with CILs to host forums.

Council Members:

- Participate in public comment periods in local areas
- Conduct focus groups
- Send surveys out through networks
- Operate booths.

Heidi Frost stated that this summer the SILC can work on the questions that need to be asked in the surveys and focus groups, and she will send Council members all the data from the previous SPIL cycle to see if there is anything they want to add or change.

Council members and staff engaged in an in-depth conversation about locations to hold focus groups and which Council members would participate. They also discussed that Council members living in a region that contains a CIL would work with that CIL to gather information. Council members should also contact other partners, coalitions, and tribes in their regions to gather feedback. They can have surveys available to pass out at booths at partnering events such as Disability Pride Day. There was also discussion about having a dedicated iPad available at such events that take survey respondents straight to the SurveyMonkey to collect the data instantly. This would also allow for the administrator or Council members to log into that account and see how the feedback is streaming in on a regular basis.

Heidi Frost reviewed past survey questions for Council members and asked for feedback on the proposed timeline.

Council members volunteered or absent members were suggested to travel to gather feedback from the following locations:

Bethel – Michael Christian, Buddy Kutch, alternate Jaye Palmer

Dillingham – Cheri Johansen, Janalee Gage

Point Hope – Tom Cyrus

Selawik – Tom Cyrus

Kotzebue – Tom Cyrus

North Slope Region – Jen Brower

Delta Junction and towns along the way – Michael Christian, Jaye Palmer, Annette Alfonsi

Tanana – Jaye Palmer (send survey to contact)

Kodiak – Annette Alfonsi, Janalee Gage (to engage with CIL staff)

Cordova/Valdez – Janalee Gage, Jaye Palmer, Annette Alfonsi, Michael Christian (to engage with ILC staff)

Anchorage – Annette Alfonsi

Fairbanks – Jaye Palmer

Southeast – Velja Elstad, Joan O’Keefe, Janalee Gage

Seward – ILC staff, Annette Alfonsi

CALENDAR, Continued

Janalee Gage **MOVED** to hold the web-based meeting in September and hold a three-day meeting in late November or early December, **SECONDED** by Annette Alfonsi. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Jaye Palmer **MOVED** to go down to Juneau February 13th, 14th, and 15th of next year, **SECONDED** by Joan O’Keefe. Hearing no opposition, the motion **PASSED**.

In summation, the following calendar was proposed:

- SILC Quarterly Meeting - September 24 – 25, 2018 – web-based meeting
- SILC Quarterly Meeting – Week of November 26 in Anchorage, dates TBD by Doodle poll.
- SILC Quarterly Meeting – February 12, 13, and 14, 2019 in Juneau
- SILC Quarterly Meeting – Week of May 6, 2019, dates TBD by Doodle poll, and location to be determined at a later meeting.

DISCUSSION: ACCESS ALASKA IN THE MAT-SU

Doug White presented the report from Krystal Blair, the IL manager of the Access Alaska Wasilla office. He stated that they have also hired an IL advocate there, and they are now fully staffed.

The Mat-Su continues to struggle most in transportation and housing. The report went on to state that Access Alaska received some Mat-Su Borough matching funds that are used to fund a program called the Essential Health Assistance Program, which are funds used to assist enrolled consumers working on their independent living goals.

Doug White stated that Access Alaska consumers in the area receive social engagement through peer support groups including children whose parents experience a TABI, TABI support group, and the Tea Party Group for women with mental health issues and/or a TABI.

Doug White stated that with the addition of the new IL advocate, they are able to see more consumers, and they are accepting new information and referrals. They are seeing less people with physical disabilities and more people with mental health conditions and TABIs. Their TABI population has been their largest group of people referred to Access Alaska. Their TABI referrals had been about one or two per week, but that has slowed down to one every other week or so.

Doug White stated that the Wasilla office has a consumer-directed personal care services program as well as their independent living program that offers all five core services. The Wasilla office does not have a durable medical equipment loan

closet, but people can receive assistance from the Anchorage office if that is something they need.

Marie Featherstone and her friend Gina and granddaughters appeared before the Council to discuss all of the successes they have achieved as a result of their involvement with the support groups and other services the Access Alaska Wasilla offices has offered.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Heidi Frost announced that Joyanna Geisler won the Region X Advocacy Award.

ADJOURN

Jen Brower **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Joan O'Keefe. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 9/24/18, P.D.