

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

**LOCATION**

Frontier Building  
3601 C Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Anchorage, Alaska

**DATE**

November 28 - 30, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo  
Peninsula Reporting

***Wednesday, November 28, 2018***

**Council Members Present:**

Michael Christian, chair	Advocate/Consumer
Joan O'Keefe	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Irma Goodwine	TVR Representative
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative
Janalee Gage	Advocate/Consumer
Jaye Palmer - telephonic	Advocate/Consumer
Jen Brower	Advocate/Consumer
Annette Alfonsi	Advocate/Consumer
Cathy Gerby	Advocate/Consumer
Lisa Morley	Ex-Officio, SDS

**Council Members Not Present:**

Buddy Kutch - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Cheri Johansen - excused	Advocate/Consumer

**Guests:**

Iris Matthews

**Staff:**

Heidi Frost, Executive Director  
Kathy Munk, Administrative Assistant

**CART:**

Lenny DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

**CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda contains the agenda for today's meeting, minutes from the September 2018 quarterly meeting, executive director's report, financial report, and SILC policies.

Cathy Gerby **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda as presented, **SECONDED** by Joan O’Keefe.

Janalee Gage **AMENDED** the motion to exclude the Personnel Policy. Cathy Gerby **AMENDED** the motion to exclude the Fee Administrator with IL Network Grant Policy. Joan O’Keefe **AMENDED** the motion to exclude the Financial Policy.

Hearing no further amendments, the motion **PASSED**.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### **Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE)**

Patrick Reinhart and Kristin Vandagriff presented to the SILC as follows:

- 25 GCDSE members representing a wide range of Alaskan communities.
- GCDSE’s roles include:
  - DD Council
  - Special Education Advisory Panel
  - Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
  - Advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
  - Makes up the majority of the Special Education Service Agency (SESA) board.

#### **GCDSE Five-Year State Plan Goals:**

1. Community choice and supports
2. Employment
3. Early Intervention
4. Education
5. Health Care

There are a variety of specific objectives the GCDSE will work to achieve under each of these goal areas. Members of the SILC wanting additional information for the specifics of this plan can find more information on the Governor’s Council website.

#### **Self-Advocacy Summit**

The second annual Self-Advocacy Summit was hosted this year and was a tremendous success. 65 individuals attended with 40 support people. Pre and post survey data revealed that everyone gained knowledge from the summit.

### New ACL Grant

- Five-year federal grant awarded to GCDSE of \$392,000 per year over five years.
- Develop and coordinate model approaches
- Targets three different inter-related groups or individuals and their families, service providers, and policy makers.
- Overarching goal of the grant is to increase the community integration, health, safety, independence, and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities through realization of the DD Vision.
- Includes numerous grant partners.

Members of the SILC who are interested in reading about this grant in greater detail can contact Kristin Vandagriff or Heidi Frost to request the 15-page narrative.

### Other Activities the Council has Participated in:

- National Governor's Association Employment Learning Lab
- Job Accommodation Network
- Supported Decision Making Agreement legislation and implementation
- Comprehensive Mental Health Plan.

### GCDSE Committee Emphasis This Year:

- FASD Workgroup – FASD Awareness Month, social media campaign, proclamation from the Governor.
- Early Intervention Committee – Universal Developmental Screening Task Force
- Autism Ad Hoc Committee – ECHO partner collaboratives, four pediatric neurodevelopmental specialists, ABA regulations via Medicaid final.

### Legislative Issues:

Federal:

- EMPOWER Act (Money Follows the Person)
- S.817 – ABLE Act Age Adjustment
- Medicaid

- DD Council and other DD Network funding.

State:

- Funding for waivers and other HCBS services. Advocating for the breakout of waivers from the rest of the Medicaid budget and advocate for money being spent in state versus out of state. Also explore self-directed services.
- Funding for services for individuals who need lower levels of support.
- 1115 Demonstration Waiver – is there potential to serve persons with FASD?

### **Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**

Kelda Barstad reported that the Trust is waiting on a full transition plan from the new administration as well as priorities to be established for the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Corrections, and other departments the Trust works closely with to establish good, strong service systems for Trust beneficiaries. They are waiting for that full set of recommendations and service priorities before they establish a robust list of legislative priorities; however, the Trust will continue to advocate for Medicaid optional services and continue to follow criminal justice reforms. They are also looking at updating the alcohol statutes and working with partner agencies on all of the initiatives to support a safety net so there is access to housing, employment, and healthcare across the board.

Kelda Barstad reported that there are three Trustee seats that are potentially open for reappointment. The interviews have been held and recommendations forwarded to the Walker administration. They have deferred making recommendations to the Dunleavy administration.

Kelda Barstad stated that the Trust made a recent funding allocation to the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center mental health unit so people can receive rehabilitation services and support services for behavioral health services that are needed while incarcerated in that facility. The Trust has also allocated funding for a provider for crisis respite services as well as a potential peer service building in Anchorage. This funding is a result of an excess in reserves the Trustees wanted to get out into the community.

Kelda Barstad stated that the Trust is also one of the active partners involved in developing the Comprehensive Mental Health Services Plan.

### **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Velja Elstad began her report by sharing that she will be retiring next month.

Velja Elstad reported that DVR receives the Older Blind Grant from Rehabilitation Services Administration. The \$225,000 grant is for independent living for older blind individuals, and DVR matches 10 percent, so the total amount of the grant is \$250,000. Older Blind grantees are SAIL, ILC, Access Alaska Fairbanks, and the Alaska Center for the Blind. Velja presented SILC members with a draft of the report they send to the feds regarding this grant. She stated that she hopes to see the grant continue within the IL centers because of the outreach centers provide. She also sees peer support being key to this program.

SILC members took turns giving appreciation to Velja Elstad for her years of service to the state and her tireless involvement in independent living.

### **Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS)**

Lisa Morley introduced herself as the new SDS liaison to the SILC noting that upper management of SDS has gone through some recent transitions.

Lisa Morley stated that SDS took over management of the CIL and SILC funding, and since that time there have been increases in the funding.

Lisa Morley explained the activities of SDS as follows:

- As a very large division, SDS manages a variety of programs with the goal of keeping people out of institutions.
- As a result of SB 74, Medicaid Reform, SDS has rolled out:
  - Individualized Supports Waiver – Capped at \$17,500 and provides services to 600 people that were either on a waitlist or receiving state general funds.
  - Community First Choice – For personal care services for individuals who meet nursing facility level of care.
  - Targeted Case Management – Case management services as needed.
- Harmony data system is being implemented, which will drastically increase efficiencies.

- GCDSE will be moving to the Atwood Building in 2019 and will be co-located with the Medicare Information Office and the Early Intervention and Early Learning Program.
- Inclusive Community Choices Council (ICC) continues to meet and explore developing a new assessment and support planning tool.
- SDS is working on a traumatic brain injury grant with the Center for Human Development, and they are working closely with Alaska Brain Injury Network (ABIN).
- ABIN has been going through some transitions over the past few years to become more a service provider entity, and the advisory board aspect has diminished. SDS is involved in looking at how to revive the advisory board aspect as well as keep ABIN as a service provider. They are hopeful that the Governor's Council will take over the advisory board aspect.
- SDS was successful in receiving a dementia caregiver grant from the Administration for Community Living. It is a three-year grant totaling \$900,000, and 50 percent of the funds have to be used for direct service.

### **VACATING SECRETARY SEAT**

SILC members engaged in a discussion regarding the current seat of secretary being held by Cheri Johansen and Cheri's inability to regularly participate in meetings of the executive committee. Heidi Frost suggested that the Council could request that she contact Cheri to see if she is interested in resigning this seat on the executive committee. Heidi recalled conversations with Cheri over the summer where Cheri explained that she had a lot on her plate right now.

Annette Alfonsi **MOVED** that the SILC vacate the seat of secretary due to the last couple of absences from the executive committee and the current need for the executive committee to be more involved and fill the position during this meeting, **SECONDED** by Cathy Gerby.

Further discussion ensued to note that Heidi Frost should have a conversation with Cheri Johansen to let her know that she is still very much welcomed to maintain her seat on the full Council.

Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Chair Christian explained that the Council will be voting on all four seats for the executive committee during this meeting. The chair and treasurer will be two-year positions, and the vice-chair and secretary will be one-year positions.

Heidi Frost explained that with her leaving her position and the SPIL process at hand, the executive committee will be fairly busy.

### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

No one appeared for the mid-day offering of a public testimony period.

Heidi Frost commented that the Council needs to figure out a way to connect with people if the public testimony does not work. She suggested it may take more effort on behalf of members of the SILC to reach out and encourage participation. Janalee Gage and Annette Alfonsi suggested that people don't always want to be identified in public testimony for fear of retribution. Janalee Gage also suggested hosting regular focus groups instead of public testimony at the quarterly meetings. Joan O'Keefe suggested incentivizing people to attend to appear to offer comments. Joan also suggested that CILs could encourage participation when the SILC is meeting in their area.

### **SPIL OVERVIEW**

Heidi Frost stated that the Administration on Community Living, Independent Living Administration sent out a notice that they were changing how the SPIL will be done this year. They are creating a new template that has not been made available to SILCs yet. The feds have offered that for FY'20/'21, every SILC will either extend their existing SPIL, or if they need to make substantial and material changes, they can do an amendment. She asked the Council to consider that they do a one-year SPIL because their SPIL needs to have substantial and material changes. They have accomplished a lot towards their SPIL goals and objectives, and with the new strategic plan to become a better non-profit, they will need to incorporate that information into the SPIL. They also need to work on changing their funding formulas.

Joan O'Keefe **MOVED** that the SILC go forward with the one-year plan consistent with Heidi Frost's recommendation, and she asked for unanimous support, **SECONDED** by Janalee Gage. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

## **PARTNER REPORTS, Continued**

### **Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Regan Mattingly began his presentation by noting how much he values the Center's partnerships with the SILC and the CILs. He noted that when the Center for the Blind travels out to rural areas, they provide services at the Independent Living Centers.

Regan Mattingly explained that most of their clients have some usable vision, and the Center for the Blind provides services through the spectrum of low vision all the way to blindness. The Center specializes in vision rehabilitation and they work with clients to teach them alternative ways to do things so they can retain or regain their independence in life. The services are tailored to people's individual needs.

Some of the services they offer include:

- Daily living skills
- Assistive technology
- Manual skills – use a full wood shop for training
- Orientation and mobility – cane training
- Residence to provide training for people from outside of Anchorage
- Rural service provision when able
- Low vision clinics in Anchorage and Mat-Su. Continuing to build this program.

Regan Mattingly explained that they have some masters level staff certified in vision rehabilitation and they have some that are mobility certified, which has given the Center more flexibility in what they are able to offer. They are also currently involved in a building renovation, and they will have a grant reopening on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Regan Mattingly stated that their newest program is their Youth Transition Program which is funded by DVR with Pre-ETS funding. They will be using the funding to host a youth camp at Flat Lake in the Valley. They are also combining that program with an employment-based program that youth can get employment experience with local employers.

Regan Mattingly stated that they are very fortunate to have generous donations from the general public. Approximately 30 percent of their budget is fundraising revenues, which gives them a great deal of flexibility in their service provision, although there continues to be a great unmet need statewide, such as Fairbanks not being able to receive service through the rural grant. He stated that the opportunity lies between the Center for the Blind and the independent living community to work collaboratively to fill some of the unmet needs.

### **Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation**

Tom Cyrus stated that the mission of TVR is to serve American Indians and Alaska Natives with disabilities by providing vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for and obtain gainful employment consistent with their individual strengths, capabilities, abilities, resources, priorities, and informed choice.

Tom Cyrus shared the history of the beginning of TVR services noting that it began on the Navaho reservation and then tribes across the nation started to pursue funding to provide voc rehab services in other parts of the country. In 1998 the Rehabilitation Act Amendment was enacted and Section .121 was added, and appropriations increased at that time from 2000 to the present. Tom noted that their organization is the Consortium of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR). There are 97 programs currently funded in the U.S. right now, but not all states have TVR programs. This next year there are 45 programs up for funding in the grant cycle, and the projected funding level is going to be 35 programs. Competition will be very steep, and Alaska is hoping to be able to continue to maintain all 10 programs they currently have.

Tom Cyrus stated that different TVRs work with state DVR depending on whether or not there is an active DVR counselor in the area. He stated that one of the challenges that TVRs face is that there are not jobs in rural communities. They look at self-employment, subsistence, and training opportunities. One of the things his program has done is look at a calendar of subsistence activities by season. TVR helps to determine what the added value is to the family and the community. They also look at small businesses or larger businesses that would benefit the community.

Tom Cyrus stated that they have also been active in transition services with DVR. They are doing transition camps regularly in his region, and TVR assists in incorporating the cultural aspect into the camps. They also take into account what transition looks like for kids on IEPs at the school.

Tom Cyrus stated that barriers to employment they see are a lack of housing and the expense of transportation to leave the community to travel in state.

Council members thanked Tom Cyrus for his service to the SILC as this is his last meeting, and Irma Goodwine will be taking over the position of TVR representative on the SILC.

**Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
AMHB/ABADA**

Alison Kulas, executive director of AMHB/ABADA and the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, announced that she is resigning from her position effective December 3<sup>rd</sup>. She stated that Bev Schoonover will be serving as acting executive director

Alison Kulas stated that she has been working with the Governor's Council, the Trust, the Commission on Aging, and DHSS on the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan. They have been considering what community services are needed, preventative services, and how agencies are supporting Alaskans to get the appropriate treatment in the lowest level of care needed and staying as close to home as possible. She stated that public comment for the plan will probably occur in February or March. In the meantime, the group will be reaching out to a variety of stakeholders to receive feedback in January. The plan is considering comprehensive prevention, treatment, and support services at the appropriate level of care across the lifespan so Alaskans can lead meaningful lives in their home communities. This plan is statutorily required and the target population is Trust beneficiaries.

The goals of the plan include:

1. Early childhood programs that prevent and address trauma, promote educational attainment, and provide access to early intervention services.
2. Alaskans have access to integrated healthcare options that promote optimal health, wellness, and independence.
3. Trust beneficiaries have strong economic and social well-being.
4. Prevention and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse provided through collaborative, effective, informed strategies.
5. Individuals, families, communities, and governments take ownership to prevent suicides and self-harm in Alaska.

6. Alaskans are free from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation.
7. The assessed needs of Trust beneficiaries are met in the least restrictive environment.
8. Ensure that the State of Alaska provides adequate resources and funding to support this program plan.

Alison Kulas stated that the AMHB and ABADA boards are also continually monitoring the status of the implementation of the 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration waiver.

### *Disability Law Center of Alaska (DLC)*

Dave Fleurant opened up a dialogue with members of the SILC regarding the Social Security Administration administrative law judges in Alaska that have the lowest approval rating in the country when denied applicants request a hearing before them. DLC has been working on this issue for years. They have most recently applied for and received a grant through the Alaska Bar Foundation where they have hired an attorney to look at this issue, and litigation will most likely be happening within the next year or two. He anticipates they will be able to generate a lot of data through the discovery process.

Dave Fleurant explained that attorneys could help people through this process, but because of the high denial rate, no attorneys are interested in taking on this work anymore. He stated that they also receive frequent complaints about the judges being mean and treating Alaskans poorly. His suggestion is to contact the congressional delegation.

DLC receives frequent requests from people looking for help with Social Security applications, and DLC has someone in their office who primarily assists people with applications. They also have a grant in Juneau where they just hired someone to provide the same assistance. Dave Fleurant stated that he would like to see a grant to provide similar services in Mat-Su. He noted that the application process is very complicated, and the population that needs to complete the application is unfortunately the least capable of successfully completing it.

Dave Fleurant stated that DLC is currently involved in litigation against the State of Alaska over Title 47 holds because API has closed some of their beds. He stated that API is also currently in the middle of a CMS review, and instead of engaging community stakeholders in the process of dealing with the issues happening at API, they closed their door and people ended up in jail. What is also

occurring now is that patients at API who strike a staff member or anyone else, the police are called and those patients end up in jail.

Dave Fleurant also noted that there are individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who have complex behaviors that are inappropriately being housed at API, and staff is not trained to deal with their unique needs. When the Complex Behavioral Collaborative study was completed some years back, the plan was for the collaborative to be implemented in stages, and nothing was ever implemented beyond phase 1, the hub. What has never been funded is the short-term and immediate-term residential components.

Lisa Morley commented that this issue has had to do with inadequate staffing as a result of the State and the legislature cutting the budget thus resulting in improper staffing levels that do not ensure the safety of staff and patients.

Dave Fleurant stated that in the lawsuit they are asking that if people can't be admitted into API, the patients be evaluated where they are as opposed to jail. They are not asking to overwhelm API with patients if there isn't appropriate staffing available.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Another public testimony period was offered, and a full transcript was prepared.

## **PARTNER REPORTS, Continued**

### **State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC)**

Janalee Gage provided a report on the SVRC. She noted that their last meeting was via teleconference. She reviewed with members of the SILC the duties of the SVRC as highlighted below:

- Evaluating activities of the AT Advisory Committee.
- Work with DVR on the preparation and updating of the DVR State Plan, triannual comprehensive needs assessment, and member recruitment.
- Policy and public relations, including public testimony.
- Manage the Sunshine Fund.
- Advise DVR on performance.
- Partner with DVR on State goals and priorities.

- Assist in preparation of the State Plan.
- Conduct a review and analyze the effectiveness of a consumer satisfaction function and client employment outcomes.
- Coordinate activities with other councils in the state.

## **SILC BUSINESS**

### **Review of Policies**

Heidi Frost reminded members of the SILC that there were three policies that were pulled out of the consent agenda for further rework before approval. Joan O’Keefe, Janalee Gage, and Cathy Gerby agreed to form a small subcommittee to review those policies and bring them back for approval at the next meeting.

### **Executive Director Duties**

Lisa Morley asked for clarification on the unfinished items listed in the executive director’s report. Heidi Frost stated that she offered the executive committee to hire her as a consultant to finish up the remaining tasks that need to be done, which would require entering into a contract.

## **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 4:33 p.m.

*Thursday, November 29, 2018*

**Council Members Present:**

Michael Christian, chair	Advocate/Consumer
Joan O’Keefe	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Irma Goodwine	TVR Representative
Cathy Gerby	Advocate/Consumer
Janalee Gage	Advocate/Consumer
Jaye Palmer - Telephonic	Advocate/Consumer
Jen Brower	Advocate/Consumer
Annette Alfonsi	Advocate/Consumer
Lisa Morley	Ex-Officio, SDS
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative

**Council Members Absent:**

Buddy Kutch - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Cheri Johansen - excused	Advocate/Consumer

**Guests:**

Joyanna Geisler  
Denice Gilroy  
Doug White  
Iris Matthews

**Staff:**

Heidi Frost, Executive Director  
Kathy Munk, Administrative Assistant

**CART:**

Lenny DiPaolo, RPR, CRR, CCP

**CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**RECAP FROM YESTERDAY/OVERVIEW OF TODAY**

Heidi Frost informed the Council members that she had a conversation with Cheri Johansen who informed Heidi that her schedule would be lightening up to allow her more time to devote to SILC activities. Cheri has agreed to resign from the

seat of secretary this year with the hopes that she will be able to run for the seat next year.

## **SPIL OVERVIEW**

Heidi Frost stated that the SPIL is the document that drives the goals and objectives of the IL Network and allows Part B funds to be sent to Alaska. Velja Elstad added that the Part B funds are also tied to the general funds the State contributes to the IL Network. Heidi Frost then reviewed the following goals of the SPIL and highlighted the objectives within each goal:

1. Alaskans with disabilities have the training, tools, and resources available to live independently in the community of choice.
2. The independent living network in Alaska promotes independent living ideals through education, outreach, and partnerships.
3. The SILC will become a more robust nonprofit.

In addition to these overarching goals of the SPIL, the SILC is also looking to address underserved populations within Alaska, and the SPIL also contains a funding plan for how the federal and state funds will be disbursed. The SPIL also discusses the state IL Network and expansion, and it also addresses evaluation of the SPIL goals and objectives. Heidi Frost then reviewed all of the activities that the SILC has been involved with as they relate to the objectives under each goal.

## **UNSERVED/UNDERSERVED DISCUSSION**

Heidi Frost noted that addressing unserved and underserved populations is addressed in two different sections of the SPIL. Her interpretation of the terminology is that underserved population means individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside of the purview of IL services and programs due to factors such as geographic isolation as well as racial and ethnic minorities and various disability populations, but are able to receive itinerant IL services through various mechanisms. Her interpretation of unserved is a population that has the same demographics as underserved but has not been able to receive IL services even on an itinerant basis.

Heidi Frost posed these questions to the Council to consider for unserved and underserved populations:

- What geographic areas are most in need of IL?

- Can we tell which ethnic race/disability communities are in most need of IL services?

Heidi Frost then reviewed a map with Council members that show how the state has been divided up in terms of regions CILs serve, noting the challenges all of them face serving the most remote locations of their catchment areas.

Members of the SILC and guests discussed Heidi Frost's interpretation of unserved versus underserved populations. Joyanna Geisler stated that in terms of served, underserved, and unserved, she agrees with breaking out the demographics by both geographic population and disability/ethnicity. She noted that just because an area is being "served" geographically by having a CIL based in that location, it doesn't mean all disabilities and ethnicities are being served in that location. Annette Alfonsi suggested redefining the terminology to be that underserved populations qualify for the services, but for some reason they don't get it; and unserved populations for some reason don't qualify. She stated they should look at this in terms of a policy issue. Joyanna Geisler pointed out that the only eligibility criteria for IL services is a disability that's self-reported. Joyanna also noted that in the past, the SPIL required them to not use the terminology "unserved," and she would like to see them get the term unserved into their plan because there is going to be populations in Alaska that will be unserved.

Cathy Gerby pointed out that the 704 report states: Unserved and underserved populations include, but are not limited to, groups of populations of individuals with significant disabilities who, 1, have cognitive and sensory impairments; 2, are members of racial and ethnic minority groups; 3, live in rural areas; or 4, have been identified by the eligible agency as unserved or underserved with the center's project area. Heidi Frost noted that they now have the ability to be very specific in the SPIL goals and objectives when targeting unserved or underserved populations.

## **DATA COLLECTED**

Kathy Munk directed Council members' attention to tab 3 in their binders that contains the results from the CIL surveys as well as other data that had been collected from various national sources to provide benchmark information that could help inform the SPIL. She briefly reviewed the data with the SILC.

## **IL DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

### ***Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)***

Joan O’Keefe directed SILC members to SAIL’s 2018 annual report and noted that Kate Burkhart is now their chair, and they started an endowment this year. She highlighted the following activities of SAIL:

- Core values
- Playground work
- Youth program
- Veterans-directed program
- Loan closet
- Inclusive art
- Independent living services to Alaska Natives demonstration project
- Four of their remote sites are in partnership with tribes, and Klawock on Prince of Wales has a stand-alone office now.

Joan O’Keefe stated that SAIL is funded 25 percent federal support, 44 percent state support, 16 percent fees for service, and 15 percent public charitable giving and municipal support. She noted that her board gave her a goal of 20 percent donor or fees from service, which they reached, and the board raised it to 25 percent.

Joan O’Keefe stated that SAIL just celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and held a gala that was well attended.

### **Independent Living Center (ILC)**

Joyanna Geisler stated that ILC’s region is the Gulf Coast, and their budget this year is \$1.1 million. They have offices in Homer, Soldotna, Seward, and Kodiak that employ 18 staff and three contractors. They provide outreach services to Valdez, Cordova, and Glennallen. One of the funding sources ILC leverages is the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Short-Term Assistance and Referral (STAR). ILC also has a small recreational program called Trails.

Joyanna Geisler stated that one of the most recent funding sources has come from the Veterans-Directed Home and Community-Based Services Program. They were the first entity within Alaska to advocate with the VA to get this program into Alaska and provide the services. This program is an alternative to a Medicaid waiver and an alternative to nursing home care for veterans that qualify. She noted that in the last three years they have worked with approximately 50 veterans. The

veterans, based on their level of care, are given a budget that they are completely in control of to recruit, hire, and negotiate a wage for in-home support people. Joyanna also noted that not only is it a great service, but between January and August ILC has netted \$155,000 because they receive unrestricted funds as a fee for service for their enrollment activities and meetings with the veterans.

### Access Alaska

Doug White stated that Access Alaska just celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had a large celebration in Anchorage. He stated that besides their core services, Access has a large durable medical equipment loan closet in Anchorage and Fairbanks. They also have PCA services in all locations, including consumer-directed PCA services on the Kenai Peninsula and Dillingham. They also received a senior in-home grant to expand respite, case management, and supplemental services to the Y/K region. They are serving approximately 20 villages through this grant and helping elders stay in their home and community.

Other services that Access Alaska provides include:

- Medicare counseling and outreach
- Interpreter referral coordination
- Traumatic and acquired brain injury services
- Older Blind Grant in Fairbanks
- Wellness Mental Health Program
- Pre-ETS in Fairbanks
- A partner in the Agribility Grant
- Produced three IL videos as part of their advocacy efforts
- Involved in homelessness initiatives in different communities
- Engaged with the statewide fall prevention coordinator
- Working to get IL a seat at the table when it comes to hospital discharge planning.

Doug White stated that advocacy is a big part of what Access Alaska does, and Doug Toelle is their advocacy director who is working with the congressional delegation on the Disability Integration Act, which they believe will further the ADA.

Doug White concluded his presentation by noting that he will be retiring at the end of the year, and Foraker Group will be leading an executive search for his replacement.

### Arctic Access

Denice Gilroy stated that Arctic Access covers the Nome census region and Kotzebue area. They are identified as having 27 villages, but she visits 38 because there are consumers that have need. She stated that her program looks different than the other three CILs because she is the only employee and is the sole provider of services. She noted that a great amount of her effort is on homelessness.

Denice Gilroy stated that she has been working with Norton Sound Health Corporation to start a day habilitation program, which will help get some of the homeless people off the street. They have also set up a laundry and shower area.

Denice Gilroy announced that she received a generous donation of socks, winter gloves, and beanies, and these will be given out at the shelter Christmas morning.

Other activities of Arctic Access include:

- Working on recidivism by hosting classes at the Nome Youth Facility.
- Traumatic brain injury clinic at the Nome Youth Facility that allowed inmates to get their verification of disability, service with DVR, and are now able to apply to get their GED. Five of the nine inmates that attended the clinic have now received with GED.
- Currently serving 400 individuals.
- Looking into becoming an ADRC.

Denice Gilroy shared that she is looking forward to the creation of a new funding formula because she would like to have the ability to hire another qualified staff person to assist her in the many things she does in her region. Members of the SILC thanked Denice for all of her hard work in the region acknowledging that it does not go unnoticed and people in the area value the work she does. Lisa Morley suggested the SILC consider hosting a rural meeting in Nome to get some perspective of rural services. Denice Gilroy noted that the SILC was in Nome two years ago.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Iris Matthews introduced the Council to the SWOT format as it relates to the SILC for the afternoon's activities. She stated that Council members will divide into small groups to reflect on the information learned during the course of this meeting to do the SWOT analysis, which will then feed into the development of the SPIL. When the groups have concluded their sessions, they will come back together to put the work onto large Post-It notes to further explore during the last day of this meeting.

## **SMALL GROUP REPORT-OUTS**

### **Strengths**

- Integrity to mission
- Good public notes of meetings and public testimony
- Financial security
- Looking proactively and finding development and being a solid non-profit
- Grown funding sources and discretionary funding
- National SILC network
- People can be real
- Respect different perspectives and experiences
- Active board
- Collective knowledge and experience of the board
- Humor
- Board diversity
- Accommodating and flexible for individual needs
- People seek us
- Involved with many cross-disability providers
- Solid admin supports
- Good reputation
- Motivated and engaged board members
- Good relationships with other organizations
- Strong collaboration with other agencies
- Maintained a TVR representative
- The location and office with cheap rent
- Non-profit status gives flexibility
- Stakeholder involvement
- Good relationship with CILs

- State funding
- Diverse definitions of success
- Statewide CIL conference
- Good ED and staff
- Education and advocate with the legislature

### **Weaknesses:**

- Funding uncertainty
- Don't qualify for Pick.Click.Give
- No control over board membership
- Awareness of the SILC is low, not as well known as CILs
- Need a new SILC ED
- With the new administration there are new commissioners
- Distinction of being a non-profit, SILC diluted mission because of non-profit status
- Difficulty getting board members to work outside of meetings
- Board alumni involvement
- Committee=dirty word
- Consolidate data collection with other agencies
- Limited/no teeth to influence change
- Bridging language between top level and consumers
- Revamp survey data collection word use
- Advertising
- Small staff
- Lack of public testimony
- Unknown future funding
- Reduction in length of meetings
- Technology issues at meetings
- Accessibility with technology
- Leadership transition
- Staff steep learning curve
- Reach outlying areas in person
- Special projects, although providing funding diversification, splits focus and confuses what the mission of the SILC is
- New fed requirements
- Non-profit funding development
- Supplemental funding
- No backup funding

- Exhausting energy putting out fires, thereby can't do any other work.

## Opportunities

- New administration
- Uncertain funding
- Michael Christian and Senator Micciche relationship
- New legislative session
- Strategic marketing focus on humanity
- Education for general public
- Data collection collaboration
- Showing economic value of independent living and cost savings
- Get Alaska Housing to have a seat on the SILC
- Get Alaska Homeless Coalition to have a seat on the SILC
- Opportunities for strategic collaborations
- Board alumni engagement
- Engage consumers
- Enforcement of violations
- Support CIL goals
- Participation and collaborating with the hospital and mental health providers regarding discharge so people have accessible housing, ramps, home healthcare, and medications
- Increase donations by becoming more visible
- New funding formula = new opportunities to expand IL Network
- New ED
- One-year SPIL
- Access additional data from other board plans
- Fastest growing senior population
- Maintain and grow relationships with CILs and other partners
- Initiate conversation for public/private strategic collaboration
- Non-profit administrative board
- Possible new leadership with new direction and new motivation
- Strategic pursuit of additional funds
- Enabling tech pilot project
- GR transition project
- Special projects raise awareness of SILC
- Proactive regarding aging population and healthcare
- Youth leadership forum
- Financial literacy

## **Threats:**

- Possible reduction of face-to-face meetings
- Healthcare takeover
- New administration
- Rising cost of living
- Autism, TBI, FAS services not coordinated, no voice
- Mental health crisis
- Untreated mental illness
- Support system issues
- Opioid epidemic
- Homelessness
- Global warming
- Federal proposal to merge TBI, DD Council, and IL
- Reduced resources can equal less cooperation
- State budget
- Price of oil
- Resource cuts and competition
- New nursing home beds
- Increasing aging population with a lack of capacity to serve
- Workforce shortage
- Less resources = fewer services and more people in need = survival mode
- Community response to things they don't understand
- Lack of training and education resources
- Bans from services such as Brother Francis and the women's shelter
- Lack of awareness of IL services and cost savings due to IL
- Lack of peer support
- Lack of access to social services
- IDD and SMI don't have an intersection to meet

## **RECESS**

Meeting recessed at 4:00 p.m.

***Friday, November 30, 2018***

The meeting was canceled due to an earthquake.