

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

LOCATION
Teleconference

DATE
November 16 - 17, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Board Members Present:

Joan O'Keefe	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Lindsay Davison	Advocate/Consumer
Anthony Cravalho	Advocate/Consumer
Justine Fine	Advocate/Consumer
Lisa Morley/Martin Morris	SDS Representative
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative

Board Members Absent:

Michael Christian, chair - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Richard Kiefer-O'Donnell - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Erin Atwood - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Rebecca Traylor	Advocate/Consumer
Ernie Manzie - excused	Advocate
Cheri Johansen	Advocate/Consumer

Staff:

Heidi Frost, Executive Director
Scott Maxwell, Administrative Assistant

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

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

REVIEW AGENDA

A quorum was not convened, and the agenda was not approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A quorum was not convened, and approval of the September 2017 minutes was tabled.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Heidi Frost presented to the Council as follows:

Administration:

Budget:

- Financial statement: At one quarter of the way through the year, the SILC has spent about 25 percent of their budget.
- Excel backup report: Scott Maxwell will be continuously compiling a spreadsheet of expenses.
- Review being done: Foster & Company is analyzing the SILC's financial and accounting data.
- Tax paperwork next: Foster & Company will be doing the SILC's taxes.
- FY'20 funding: In the transition from DVR to SDS, DVR has continued to fund the SILC through innovation and expansion funds. Need to explore options for future SILC funding as well as examining the federal language stating I&E funds are designated to fund the SILC. Heidi Frost will convene a meeting with Duane Mayes, Deb Etheridge, Velja Elstad, and John Cannon to discuss.
- Insurances: All of the insurances are covered.

Grants:

- APSE grant: This grant is now over.
- Operating grant: Continues through SDS.
- Assisted Living Home Transition grant: Grant to pay the one-time expenses for individuals on General Relief in assisted living homes to move into Section 811 housing. The Centers will be facilitating these transitions, and the SILC will be the fiduciary agent. This grant is now moving forward.
- Assistive Technology Project grant: This project is to use assistive technology to lower in-home care costs. The Trust has funded this as a pilot project.

Non-Profit Work:

- Continuing to move forward with steps to be recognized by the state as a non-profit to accept donations.

Time Studies:

- Heidi Frost and Scott Maxwell are completing time studies of their job duties.

Website:

- Heidi Frost asked for feedback or suggestions on how to improve the SILC's website for requesting donations or volunteers. She asked members of the Council to review the website and be prepared to provide feedback during the December monthly meeting.

Bylaws and Policies:

Bylaws:

- Currently open to public comment – no comments received.
- A vote is needed to adopt them as written or with small changes.
- SVRC liaison was removed from bylaws because it is not required in the SILC's regulation. A policy was created as described below.

Policies:

- SVRC Liaison policy: SVRC has a requirement in their federal regulations to have a SILC member as a liaison, but the SILC does not have a reciprocal regulation. The relationship between the two entities has always been positive, and SILC members feel the continuation of that relationship is important. In addition to creating this SVRC Liaison policy, Heidi Frost will also reach out to see if the SVRC can provide a partner report at future meetings.
- Financial Policy: This policy was amended to allow for an increased dollar amount limit for executive director check signing authority without a second Council member signature. A vote will be needed to adopt this policy once a quorum is convened.

Committees:

- Voting Rights Committee
- Emergency Management Disability Advisory Group
- Legislative Advocacy Committee
- APSE meetings
- SPIL Evaluation Tool Committee:

Scott Maxwell then reviewed the results of the current Center for Independent Living Consumer Satisfaction Surveys. Based on consumer feedback, they are going to revise the letter that accompanies the survey.

SDS UPDATE

Lisa Morley reported that SDS currently has their Medicaid Reform revised regulations out for public comment for the Community First Choice and the refinancing of the Community Developmental Disability Grants to the new Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW). She noted that they will also be incorporating targeted case management in these options.

Lisa Morley expanded on the General Relief Transition Program by noting that the individuals who have been pre-screened and selected for this program to transition into Section 811 housing will also receive supports that will be arranged for by the CILs.

Lisa Morley reported that the CILs will also be piloting a Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) project, which will expand funding going to the CILs for work they are doing for Medicaid recipients. In order to accomplish this, the CILs will need to transition to a different data collection system. Martin Morris also explained that the pilot project will involve staff trained at the CILs to be involved in a time study for one month to determine the impact and to assess the alignment of the CILs' systems with SDS's systems. MAC may end up to be a very substantial revenue stream for the CILs.

Lisa Morley stated that SDS is currently in the process of switching over to a new provider management and service delivery management system called Harmony, which will transform the entire system into an electronic system. Harmony will begin to go live in February of next year.

DVR UPDATE

Velja Elstad reported that DVR initiated steps to repeal the subminimum wage regulation in Alaska. She thanked the SILC for their proclamation of support for the repeal, and she noted that they received a lot of support from other agencies around the state. They are very optimistic about the repeal moving forward.

Velja Elstad reported that DVR now has an itinerant office in Eagle River, and they will have a counselor there on site throughout the week. DVR services had

continued despite the closure of the Eagle River Job Center, but because the caseload is so large in that area, it is really nice to have a location for DVR once again.

Velja Elstad stated that the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) continues to boom, which the division is very proud of. This last fiscal year, approximately 850 students were served from a hundred different communities around Alaska.

Velja Elstad shared the following DVR statistics:

- Approximately 3,400 individuals received service.
- Approximately 1,500 new people applied for services.
- 95 percent of all service recipients were considered significantly disabled.
- Last year 484 people exited the program employed.
- The average wage at case closure for employment was \$15.25.
- Roughly 80 percent of the jobs were in the private sector, 15 percent were in government, and about 5 percent were self-employed.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No members of the public appeared to provide testimony.

NEXT STEPS:

Boards and Commissions

Heidi Frost reported that last she heard, Boards and Commissions is currently having difficulty filling the SILC's five vacancies because they cannot recruit enough members with a disability to ensure the SILC meets its federal requirement. They are waiting for all five vacancies to be filled before forwarding the nominations to the Governor for approval. She noted that because Richard Kiefer-O'Donnell recently moved out of state, she will need to inform them of the sixth vacancy.

704 Report

Heidi Frost stated that the 704 report is coming due, and this will be the first time completing it without the assistance of Velja Elstad.

New Policies Needed

Heidi Frost reported that the Independent Living Administration came out with standards and indicators for SILCs, which requires the SILC to create new policies. She directed members of the Council to the PDF document outlining the new policies that are required, and she reviewed the policies.

SPIL Work

Heidi Frost stated that SPIL work continues, and data is being gathered for the required evaluations. The Council needs to consider starting work on the needs assessment for the next SPIL during calendar year '18 to get a jumpstart on the next SPIL creation.

Partner Work

Heidi Frost stated that the SILC will continue to work with their partner boards on joint legislative priorities. Other partner work includes participating in the recent Self-Advocacy Summit, and also they participate on the Full Lives committee.

Garnering More Public Testimony

Heidi Frost played a video for Council members that highlighted a different method of getting public input. She noted the Council's struggles with receiving public input and also demonstrating to the public the value of people providing that input.

RECESS

The meeting recessed upon the conclusion of public testimony at 4:02 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 2017

Board Members Present:

Michael Christian, chair	Advocate/Consumer
Tom Cyrus	TVR Representative
Lindsay Davison	Advocate/Consumer
Lisa Morley	SDS Representative
Justine Fine	Advocate/Consumer
Velja Elstad	DVR Representative
Anthony Cravalho	Advocate/Consumer

Board Members Absent:

Richard Kiefer-O'Donnell - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Erin Atwood - excused	Advocate/Consumer
Joan O'Keefe - excused	Advocate/SAIL, CIL Representative
Rebecca Traylor	Advocate/Consumer
Cheri Johansen	Advocate/Consumer
Ernie Manzie - excused	Advocate

Guests:

Billy Altom
David Levy

Staff:

Heidi Frost, Executive Director
Scott Maxwell, Administrative Assistant

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

CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

APRIL DISCUSSION

Billy Altom, executive director for Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), joined the teleconference, and he noted the collaborative working relationship he has with Alaska CILs, particularly Joyanna Geisler and Joan O'Keefe. He stated that he showcases nationally the creative transportation concepts Joyanna and Joan have accomplished.

Billy Altom shared that in addition to their strong focus on transportation issues, APRIL has a large youth focus as well. He stated that over the last couple of years, they have begun inviting the school districts to attend the APRIL conference.

Billy Altom stated that APRIL has recently updated their voucher toolkit, which is available on their website. The toolkit contains information available to communities if they want to start a transportation voucher project.

Billy Altom stated that APRIL has been putting effort into advocating against the P3I project that would have combined the SILCs, DD councils, and traumatic brain injury boards all together.

Other activities APRIL engages in include activities as a part of the Independent Living Network. APRIL's role in the IL Network is to do a peer-to-peer mentoring program for CILs to CILs and SILCs to SILCs.

Billy Altom shared that the aspect that APRIL is most commended for is their annual conference, of which there are usually 400 people in attendance.

Billy Altom stated that APRIL has a variety of committees for its membership to participate in throughout the year such as Advocacy Committee; Transportation Committee, of which Joan O'Keefe is a member; as well as other topical ad hoc committees as needed. They also have a Youth Committee that does youth peer to peer as well as youth topical calls. There will also be a youth workbook available on the website. They are also in the process of doing a series of ADA trainings for youth.

ANCHOR RIDES UPDATE

David Levy, the contract administrator for Anchor Rides in Anchorage, stated that under the ADA, communities that provide fixed-route transportation are also required to provide paratransit services for individuals with disabilities who are unable to utilize the fixed-route service. This service is Anchor Rides in Anchorage. They have recently had to make some changes to how their service is conducted in response to some of the changes to the fixed-route system. The purpose of changing the system was to increase the utilization of public transit in Anchorage and to provide a more direct way for people to get around the community.

David Levy stated that as a part of these changes, Anchor Rides has had to cut back on some areas they are providing service to as well as change some of the service they provide in the core and premium areas. The premium service costs \$5.50 per trip, whereas, the core service costs \$3.50 per trip. They have also had to limit the hours of service.

Heidi Frost noted that David Levy has agreed to participate in a committee to look at alternatives to the current system for people who have been negatively impacted by the changes.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING

Heidi Frost reviewed a PowerPoint presentation describing the legislative process with Council members and noted that their regulations state that the SILC cannot lobby, but they are allowed to educate.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Michael Christian **MOVED** to approve the agenda, **SECONDED** by Justine Fine. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Anthony Cravalho **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 14 – 15, 2017 meeting, **SECONDED** by Tom Cyrus. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the minutes were approved as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Lindsay Davison **MOVED** to suspend the election until February, **SECONDED** by Anthony Cravalho. Anthony Cravalho **AMENDED** the motion to note that the reasoning behind suspending the election until the February meeting is to ensure that the full board can participate. Lindsay Davison accepted the amendment. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF THE BYLAWS

Anthony Cravalho **MOVED** to accept the bylaw changes, **SECONDED** by Lindsay Davison. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

Heidi Frost reviewed with the Council members the content of the SVRC Liaison policy. After discussion, she added to the policy language that the full board will be more engaged in the duties of this role through the SILC's monthly meetings.

Anthony Cravalho **MOVED** that Heidi Frost clean up some of the wording in the policy and send it out to Council members to do a poll vote for approval, **SECONDED** by Lindsay Davison. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Heidi Frost reviewed with Council members the changes to the financial policy to allow her a higher dollar amount for check signing authority. Tom Cyrus **MOVED** that they change section C on the policy and procedures on expenditures to increase the dollar amount from \$2,500 to \$3,500 that will require signatures of the executive director and one Executive Committee member, **SECONDED** by Anthony Cravalho. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

SILC APPOINTMENTS

Heidi Frost shared that she just received an e-mail from Boards and Commissions announcing the following individuals who have been appointed to the SILC:

- Janalee Gage from Ketchikan
- David Kutch from Chugiak
- Cathy Gerby from Fairbanks
- Jaye Palmer from Fairbanks
- Jennifer Brower from Barrow

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Anchorage Specific:

Heidi Frost stated that Anchorage will see a ballot initiative in the April 2018 election to regulate the bathroom, locker room, and other intimate spaces on the basis of biological sex rather than gender identify, which would amend the 2015 law passed by the Anchorage Assembly barring discrimination. The reason this issue is relevant to the SILC is that it would create undue burden on individuals with disabilities that require assistance in public restrooms as well as their opposite gendered caretakers and family members.

After discussion among Council members, Heidi Frost suggested the SILC put together a small presentation to a builder's association on the concept of a third gender neutral restroom. She also suggested they could write an op-ed piece for the paper on their perspective on the issue.

After Council members shared their support of the SILC speaking to this ordinance on behalf of people with disabilities, Heidi Frost stated that she will do further review of the initiative to determine if any provisions have been made for people with disabilities who need assistance. She will e-mail Council members her findings and gather additional input at that time.

Statewide:

Heidi Frost suggested the following issues for the SILC to take a position on:

- IL awareness with the infographic.
- Advocate for services to help people stay in their own homes and communities and assisted living as an alternative to nursing home care.
- Need for advocacy and leadership to get the Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board recommendations operationalized.
- Encourage Alaska agencies and individuals to loudly oppose the watering down of the ADA via House Resolution 620.
- Substance abuse issues - more treatment for opiate abuse. Crime bill was introduced before enhanced services were put in place to successfully treat people for substance use and mental health disorders in the community.
- Small airport access issues in partnership with the Governor's Council.
- Increasing the eligibility age for the ABLE program.
- Partner with the Northwest ADA to create a new law that would outlaw the use of fake service dogs and the selling of untrained dogs as service animals.
- Funding for the SILC in coordination with SDS.

ADJOURN

Justine Fine **MOVED** to adjourn, **SECONDED** by Anthony Cravalho. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes Approved – 2/12/18 – P.D.