

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Hampton Inn, Bismarck, ND

May 8, 2014

Call to Order: Emma Kotzer, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm with the absence of the President and Vice President.

Roll Call: Members Present: Sandra Koffler, Erik Williamson, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Nate Aalgaard, Peter Yung, Emma Kotzer and Diane Siekaniec.

Members Absent: Dennis Lyon, Scott Burlingame, Larry Thiele, Jamie Hall, Melvin Erdmann, Jen Schill, Brittany Hogan and Joan Ehrhardt

Others Present: Russ Cusack, DSU; Helen Baumgartner, DSU; Randy Sorenson, CIL Director and Royce Schutze, CIL Director.

Emma called for a temporary chairman from the floor to facilitate the meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President, who was appointed by the President. Nate nominated Rod Gillund. A second call was made for nominees for temporary chairman, and a third call for nominees for temporary chairman. Nominations ceased and Rod Gillund was unanimously elected to serve as temporary chairman of the SILC.

Approval of Minutes: Nate corrected the spelling of Tyler Axness' name and the word "employees" was changed to "employee". Peter made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Emma. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Committee Breakout Meetings: Committees met for 40 minutes.

Speakers: Barb Burghart, VR Transition Program Administrator, spoke on the 2014 Teacher Internship Project. The orientation will be held June 11 – 13 in Bismarck, which will cover the VR process, benefits planning, College Disability Support Services, etc. The teachers will then intern in their home community with various agencies from June 16 – 27, job shadow a VR counselor and find out what services are available in their community for people with disabilities. These are Special Education Teachers in the High Schools who will be a resource for PWD and other teachers. Barb also spoke on the Summer Work Experience Program. This program runs from May 27 – September 1, 2014. This program targets high school students ages 18 – 21 and junior and seniors in high school. Students must be determined eligible for VR. Students will be placed in a temporary job, working approximately 20 hours a week for 13 weeks. The program is designed to help students develop the work skills they need to begin a career. Barb also shared a new website that has been launched for Transition Students – launchmylifend.com. Many agencies worked together to develop the website. It has transition information for students, parents and teachers. Handouts and a brochure on the transition website were distributed to council members.

Amy Armstrong, NDCPD at Minot State University, along with Codie Miller and Katie Hanson spoke on the PROMISS Grant. ND, along with 5 other states – UT, SD, MT, CO and AZ – are working together to assist 14 – 16 year old youth who receive Social Security and their families learn skills necessary to become self-sufficient. This research project will find 50 youth from over 200 youth in ND who receive Social Security who are interested in participating in the project. Half of the youth will receive the usual services available in the state to pursue further education and employment. The other half of the youth will be assigned to receive ASPIRE services to assist with their educational and employment outcomes. ASPIRE services include more intensive case management including training and information for the youth and their families on advocacy, community resources,

educational opportunities, benefits planning, financial management, self-determination, etc. A goal of the ASPIRE group is for youth to have employment before the end of High School. The goal of the project is, after 5 years, information will be collected for Social Security to compare to see if there are changes that need to be made to help youth understand how to save money, become employed and if Social Security benefits are distributed properly. A handout and a brochure were distributed to council members.

SPIL Amendment: The latest version of the SPIL Amendment was presented and discussed. Emma made a motion to approve the amendment and submit it to RSA, seconded by Trevor. Motion carried.

National Conferences: Nate made a motion that the temporary chair and the permanent chair send out letters to the Council members to find out if anyone is interested in going to the NCIL conference in July and select a candidate as soon as possible, seconded by Diane. Discussion was held. Erik moved to vote on the motion, seconded by Emma. Motion passed. NCIL Conference candidate selection motion was passed. Erik made a motion that the same letter sent out inquiring about the NCIL Conference also references the APRIL conference in October, seconded by Nate. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Director's Reports:

Royce: See attached report

Scott: See attached report

Nate: See attached report

Randy: See attached report

Internal Affairs: Discussed the SPIL Amendment proposed earlier in the meeting.

External Affairs: No Report

Governance: The SILC is now at full membership with the appointment of Brittany Hogan. Committee had a conference call about a week and a half ago to discuss training for this meeting. Committee plans to have conference calls twice between meetings.

State Rehab Council: Rod reported on the April 24th & 25th mtg. Harley Engelman was elected as Vice President. The By Laws and election process was reviewed. The 2015 Legislative issues were discussed. Peter Yung and Kari Shea, VR, gave regional updates. Cheryl Wescott reported there are few appeals from VR clients. An update was given on AWARE. Russ spoke on Order of Selection. There is no longer a wait list for VR services.

Region 8 SILC Conference Call: Rod shared his experience with attending the CSAVR meeting in D.C. Those on the call discussed the potential move of VR from the Dept of Ed to the Dept of Labor, the removal of the requirement for certified rehabilitation counselors, and sub minimal wages. Erik moved to adjourn the meeting until 9:00 tomorrow.

Friday, February 21, 2014

Call to Order: Rod called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Roll Call: Members Present: Sandra Koffler, Erik Williamson, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Nate Aalgaard, Peter Yung, Emma Kotzer, Diane Siekaniec and Joan Ehrhardt.

Members Absent: Jamie Hall, Dennis Lyon, Larry Thiele, Scott Burlingame, Melvin Erdman, Jen Schill and Brittany Hogan.

Others Present: Randy Sorenson, CIL Director and Royce Schultze, CIL Director; Helen Baumgartner, DSU. Guests from DCIL present: Kim Erickson, Arlene Havig, Vanessa Miller, & Kalcyn Intorn.

Speaker: Cindy Sheldon, Deputy Director for Medicaid spoke to the group on Medicaid Expansion. The goal of Medicaid Expansion is to get people who do not have medical coverage enrolled. The Affordable Care Act mandates coverage. There will be a penalty at some point for those who do not have medical insurance. There are approximately 75,000 uninsured citizens in ND. DHS anticipated about 20,500 would apply. Eligible candidates are those age 19 – 65 years of age and are at 138% of poverty level. Applicants do not need to have children and there is no asset criteria. Sanford Health was awarded the RFP to pay the claims for Medicaid Expansion. Native Americans who receive Indian Health Services are still eligible for Medicaid Expansion. There are no premium costs for Medicaid Expansion – a person only pays the copay, which is minimal - \$2 - \$3. There is an open enrollment period for Medicaid Expansion. Eligibility determination needs to be made in 45 days. Coverage is effective the date of application if a person is found eligible. A person does not qualify for Medicaid Expansion if they are on Medicare, but can apply if they have employer group coverage. **Cindy Sheldon can be reached at 328-4626.**

Self Assessment: Results of the self-assessment from the 14 submitted were shared. The Governance Committee plans to do an assessment annually to get the perceptions of the members and how they feel they are doing. Diane made a motion that at the next meeting the Council goes over the training points Liz shared with us so everyone knows their roles and responsibilities as members of the Council, seconded by Erik. Motion passed.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Royce informed the council that he checked with the Governor's Office and the paperwork a member signs when they are appointed is sufficient to cover conflict of interest. The Attorney General's Office states that a member must disclose if they have a conflict of interest on an issue, but they still can vote. The Conflict of Interest Statement proposed by the SILC states a person cannot vote if they have a Conflict of Interest on an issue being discussed. Trevor made a motion, seconded by Emma, to use the Governor's Office affidavit that is signed when a member is appointed to the SILC and not have a separate Conflict of Interest Statement. Nate amended the motion to refer this issue back to the Governance Committee to further study the need for a Conflict of Interest Statement, seconded by Diane. Motion passed. The original motion failed.

Treasurer's Report: Due to questions regarding the Unobligated Grants and the Federal 110 funds listed on the Treasurer's Report Lynn Derman prepares, Lynn was called to the meeting to explain these two items. The Unobligated Grants is Part B funding that is available to add to the contracts to the CILs. An estimated amount is used for Part B funding when building the budget as it is not known what the grant amount will be; therefore, this is the amount that was not originally obligated to make sure we didn't over budget funds that we would not receive in the Part B grant award. Lynn explained that the Federal 110 funds were put into the budget to replace Social Security Reimbursement funds as the SSR funds are an unknown/unstable source of funding and need to be spent immediately after receiving them. VR 110 funds are a more stable funding source. There were no further questions on the budget at this time.

SPIL Grid Update: There were no updates at this time.

2014-2015 Meeting Schedule:

August 7th & 8th: Grand Forks

November 13th & 14th: Fargo

February 12th & 13th: Bismarck

May 14th & 15th: Monot

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.