

**JOINT STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL/STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND**

**Thursday, July 23, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Harley Engelman, SRC Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm, on behalf of the SRC and the SILC. Harley began the meeting by providing some history of the joint SRC/SILC meetings. These meetings began about a decade ago in attempts to provide education to the councils regarding the structure and operation of each council, to learn about the initiatives each council is working on, to enhance communication, etc. Harley welcomed everyone and asked that when speaking, people identify themselves as there were two people present via conference phone. Introductions of all those present followed:

**Roll Call: SILC Members Present:** Jen Schill, Trevor Vannett, Erik Williamson, Bill Willis, Diane Secaniec, Rod Gillund, Emma Leigh Kotzer, Dennis Lyon, Peter Yung, Scott Burlingame & Brittany Hogan.

**SILC Members Absent:** Larry Thiele, Melvin Erdmann, Royce Schultze, Sandra Koffler, Jamie Hall.

**SRC Members Present:** Harley Engelman, Sherry Wilson, Darcy Severson, Russ Cusack, Kiersten Dvorak, Kelly Snelzer, Pat Anderson, Vickay Gross, Jillian Plenty Chief, Tim Davenport & Sherry Shirek – via conference phone.

**Guests Present:** Jane Updahl - Senator Heidi Heitcamp's Office, Christine Hogan, Tom Solberg, Brenda Vennes – via conference phone, Warren Granfor, Heather Stefl, LouAnn Nider, Patty Wanner & Helen Baumgartner.

Harley shared information on the retirement of Cheryl Wescott, Chief of Field Services for DVR. Her last day in the office will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. He encouraged everyone to send their well wishes to her.

**SPEAKER: DHS Executive Office – Tom Solberg**

Tom shared the DHS mission statement. He thanked the council members for their work in accomplishing the DHS mission. Information on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Grant was shared. There are four groups this grant serves: Older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, individuals with intellectual disabilities and children. Statistics of the number of people who were assisted through this program in the past two years was shared:

2013 – 14 older adults; 18 people w/physical dis.; 20 people w/intellectual dis. & 0 children.

2014 – 17 older adults; 27 people w/physical dis.; 14 people w/intellectual dis. & 0 children

2015 Goals – 17 older adults; 15 people w/physical dis.; 27 people w/intellectual dis.; and 2 children

The MFP grant began in 2007. There is a goal to serve 425 people during the grant period.

Tom provided information on the DHS budget. The total DHS budget is \$3.5 billion, with \$1.3 billion being general funds. The breakdown of the DHS budget is as follows: 68% for medical assistance; 17% for direct client services; 9% for field services – Human Service Centers, State Hospital and Life and Transition Skills Center; 4% for administration costs; 2% for Systems Maintenance & Operations and less than 1% to Capital Projects (upkeep).

Some of the Legislative Session highlights that affect DHS were shared by Tom. They include: an increase of 35 slots for Extended Services for the Severely Mentally Ill; an increase of 26 slots for Prevocational Skills for those with TBI; an increase of 35 slots for Extended Services for those with TBI; adding a 10-bed Crisis Unit in the North Central region to serve Minot and Williston; adding a 4-bed Alternative Care Unit in Bismarck; a TeleMedicine Program through UND; ND Cares Program for Veterans; an on-call Mobile Crisis unit in Bismarck; a 15-bed expansion to the Tomkins Rehab Program in Jamestown; in the area of Home and Community Based Services, there were increases in

funding to the Vulnerable Adults, 35 slot increase in guardianship for Vulnerable Adults; senior meals; 35 slot increase for Autism Waiver; 10 slot increase for Autism Vouchers; an increase in Autism Waivers to 12 slots through 9 years of age; a 3% inflationary increase for Providers and a \$1.2 million increase for Ambulance providers.

Tom summarized several of the bills which were presented during this legislative session and the affects the results will have on DHS. They are:

SB2043 – DHS will cover Community Paramedic Services under Medicaid

SB 2046 – DHS will cover Licensed Marriage Counselors and Family Therapists under Medicaid

HB1046 – appropriated funding for return to work services for those with TBI and increased funding for statewide TBI services

SB2048 – appropriated funding for a Substance Abuse Treatment Voucher Program and Consultation Services to implement Behavior Health changes

SB2289 – increased funding to IPAT

Tom concluded his presentation with a time for Q&A.

**SPEAKER: P & A - Christine Hogan**

Christine gave a very comprehensive overview of the results of the Legislative Session. A handout of several bills she worked on and the results of each is attached.

**EFFECTS OF WIOA:**

**SRC:** Russ Cusack, Warren Granfor, LouAnn Nider and Brenda Vennes

DVR is calling WIOA the Opportunity Act.

Warren spoke on how WIOA impacts performance. In the past, the RSA911 report was completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. It will now need to be submitted 4X/year to include both open and closed cases. There has been a tremendous increase in the amount of data that is required to be collected from each client. It is estimated that it will take an additional 125 hours a month to collect this additional required data. A part-time staff person has been hired in the State Office to assist Warren with compiling the required data to complete the report.

LouAnn spoke on how WIOA will impact transition services. DVR will need to allocate 15% of its funding for pre-employment transition services. Employment related services will be available to students earlier than before. These services are available for students and youth. Youth are considered to be age 24 or younger. Students are considered to be age 14 – 21 and still in High School. There is a contract in Fargo and Dickinson to provide pre-employment transition services. These contracts are with the school district.

Russ reported that Section 511 is new with WIOA. It states that individuals under age 24 cannot accept employment which holds a special wage certificate – cannot accept employment in a sheltered workshop. In order to accept employment in a sheltered workshop, an individual must apply for VR Services. The person must be determined severely disabled and develop an Employment Plan. If the Employment Plan is unsuccessful, the individual can then accept employment in a sheltered workshop. School Districts are prohibited from contracting with sub-minimal wage employers. A person cannot be employed in a sheltered workshop on their own; they need to apply for VR and try to obtain competitive employment prior to entering a sheltered workshop. People working in sheltered workshops prior to July 16, 2016 will be grandfathered in.

Brenda Vennes spoke on the impact of WIOA on Employer Services. The relationship between employers and DVR will be improved through WIOA. DVR is able to provide education and other services to employers who are interested in hiring people with disabilities. Some services provided through DVR are assistance with recruitment, training people with disabilities, internships,

consultation and technical assistance to employers. Employers will be able to have better job matches and utilize the support available when hiring people with disabilities. ND has a history of being proactive when working with employers. ND is ahead of the timelines being used to implement Employer Services through WIOA. ND leads the nation in hiring people with disabilities at a rate of 53%. ND has expanded its number of Business Services staff from one to three. Business Services staff makes business contacts, increase awareness, help with misperceptions the employer may have, etc. ND has developed a marketing campaign focusing on the services DVR provides to employers. The NDAvantage Campaign provides information for employers.

### **SILC:**

Scott Burlingame gave a report on the effects WIOA will have on the SILC. The Centers for Independent Living will be moved from the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration to the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which is part of Health and Human Services. The SPIL will be developed by the chair of the SILC and the CIL Directors. The SPIL will need to be signed by the Chair of the SILC, the Director of the Designated State Entity (DSE) and 51% of the CIL Directors. The SPIL will specify who has been designated as the DSE. The DSE will retain no more than 5% of the funds received to use for administrative support services. A 121 Project representative is required only if there is a CIL operated on or within a reservation. The duties of the SILC are to develop, monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL; meet regularly and open meetings to the public; submit reports as requested; coordinate with other agencies who work with people with disabilities; and develop a resource plan using 110 funds, funds from all other private and public sources, but using no more than 30% of Part B funds. WIOA has added a 5<sup>th</sup> core service – transition. This includes transitioning of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community based residences; assisting individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions to remain in the community; and the transition of youth with significant disabilities who were eligible for IEPs or have completed their secondary education and are younger than 24 years of age.

### **SRC/SILC OVERVIEW OF STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS:**

Due to the lack of time, this information will be shared between councils vis email. Helen will send the SILC information to Patty to share with the SRC and vice versa. The link below was shared by Patty Wanner, which Helen forwarded on to the SILC:

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/councils-partners/ndsrc.html>

Helen sent a copy of the SILC Duties and Responsibilities and the Committee Tasks to Patty to share with the SRC.

### **SRC/SILC INITIATIVES:**

Due to the lack of time, this topic was not covered during this meeting.

### **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Harley requested ways to enhance the communication between the two councils. Suggestions included: having a mini conference with IL & VR and invite any other agencies that work with people with disabilities; schedule a joint SRC/SILC meeting prior to the legislative session so that there is more input on the bills that will be brought to the legislature; meet in Bismarck for a day for those who are able/interested in taking part in the meeting; have a meeting in conjunction with the annual VR Conference; allow any interested SILC members to attend the SRC meetings and vice versa; and have a member of the SILC attend the SRC meeting to explain the structure of the SILC and vice versa. Russ mentioned that initiatives need to be considered by next March in order to make it into

the DHS budget. The Chairs of the SRC/SILC will meet to discuss the initiatives and bring them back to their respective councils.

Jen made an announcement that everyone is invited to Dakota Center for Independent Living to help celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA. The address was shared with the group.

**ADJOURN:** With no further business, Harley adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

## **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND**

**Friday, July 24, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Jen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**Roll Call: SILC Members Present:** Jen Schill, Trevor Vannett, Erik Williamson, Diane Secaniec, Rod Gillund, Emma Leigh Kotzer, Royce Schultze, Dennis Lyon, Peter Yung, Scott Burlingame & Brittany Hogan.

**SILC Members Absent:** Bill Willis, Larry Thiele, Melvin Erdmann, Sandra Koffler & Jamie Hall.

**Others Present:** Helen Baumgartner.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dennis made a motion, seconded by Brittany to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Helen received an email from Roger Naoroji, Operations Support Manager from Social Security's Ticket to Work Program, requesting to schedule a conference call with the CIL Directors. Roger would like to share information regarding the CILs becoming an Employment Network. Both Scott and Royce expressed interest in hearing what he had to say. Helen will check with Nate and Randy to see if they would like to be included. If so, a conference call will be coordinated.

**Committee Breakout Meeting:** None of the committees expressed a need for a meeting

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2016 Needs Assessment:** All the suggested changes to the Needs Assessment were discussed and the changes were made to finalize the 2016 Needs Assessment. Helen will make the changes and get it to DSS for them to put it in a scanable document and get it ready for mailing.

**Speaker:** Scott connected Billie Altom, APRIL Executive Director, via phone. Billie shared that there are 260 members in 42 different states. The focus of APRIL is to look at IL through a rural lens. One of their main focuses is Transportation issues. Another success program APRIL offers is Peer to Peer Mentoring for CIL to CIL and SILC to SILC. ND benefited from the SILC to SILC Peer Mentoring Program a few years ago when Liz Pazderal from CA assisted us. APRIL is trying to get the youth involved in their organization. They have two positions on the board specific for youth members. This is due to the new core service for transition. APRIL has a well-attended conference each year. There is a Youth Conference the day before, which approximately 60 youth attend. Billie has been working with AmTrac to help get rail transportation more accessible. Just recently the first shuttle platform was unveiled, assisting people to get from the platform to the train. There is currently work being done to get the upper level of the train accessible to people in wheelchairs. Work is also being done to implement audible and visual announcements for the hearing and visually impaired. Billie looks forward to the NCIL Conference where he hopes to get some answers regarding the changes in WIOA. He is happy with ACL in that they always have a consistent answer to the questions asked. The call with Billie ended at this time. Trevor made a motion that the SILC pay membership to APRIL, seconded by Royce. Motion passed.

**Self Assessment Results:** Royce handed out the results of the self-assessment some of the SILC members completed. He went over them, one question at a time. For the most part, the responses to the questions were positive. In response to some of the gaps and weaknesses expressed by some of the members, it was suggested that between now and the next legislative session, CILs and SILC members should meet with the legislators in their region or invite them to a SILC meeting so they can get to know IL better. In order to address the comment of the committees not working well, a suggestion was made to have more training on the duties and responsibilities of the SILC rather than having a speaker at one of the meetings. In order for everyone to understand the financial statements we get from Lynn Derman every quarter, it was suggested that she attend the SILC meetings when they are in Bismarck to give an explanation of the financial report. She would be able to answer any questions at that time. It was suggested that CIL staff be able to come to the SILC meetings so they can see what we do. A suggestion was made to have a tour of the VR offices when the SILC meeting is in Bismarck as some of the SILC members have never been there. There has been some dissatisfaction in the schedule and location of the SILC meetings. A motion was made by Dennis to leave the meeting schedule and rotation as it currently operates, seconded by Rod. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and motion failed. Trevor made a motion to have the meetings on a half day on Wednesdays and Thursdays, seconded by Dennis. Diane moved to table the motion until the next meeting, seconded by Emma. Motion passed. A motion was made by Dennis to postpone the discussion of the location of the meetings, seconded by Rod. Motion passed.

**ND CILs Funding Formula:** In Randy's absence, this report was not given.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** The last quarter financial statement was shared. These numbers are not final for this biennium as additional reimbursement requests have been submitted by the CILs since the report was printed. The bill for \$1,600 for the SILC portion of the Funding Formula report was included in this report, giving the SILC a balance of \$2,769.88.

### **Quarterly Director's Reports:**

**Royce for Dakota:** See attached

**Scott for Independence:** See attached. Scott also shared a Pledge Independence has made indicating what Independence, Inc. will have accomplished by the year 2025, Independence's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Pledge is also attached.

**Nate for Freedom:** No report

**Randy for Options:** No report

**SRC:** Rod attended the SRC meeting for about an hour and a half this morning. He shared some dates with the SILC. The SRC will be meeting a full day on September 15<sup>th</sup> as part of the Governor's Workforce Incentive Conference in Fargo on September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. The Employer of the Year Award will be handed out at this conference this year rather than the annual VR Conference. October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> is the annual VR Conference in Grand Forks at the Canad Inn. Scott made a motion that SILC members who are able to attend this conference be allowed and have the SILC pay for them, seconded by Rod. Motion passed.

**Region 8 Conference Call:** Rod reported that the recommendations for the Standards and Indicators for the CILs have been submitted for approval.

**SILC Congress:** Jen reported that she is not able to attend SILC Congress this year. It will be January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Sheridan Downtown in Phoenix. Jen will send out an email asking that interested SILC members let her know of their interest in attending.

**Adjourn:** Erik made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Royce. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.