

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Canad Inn, Grand Forks
Wednesday February 01, 2017**

Call to Order: Chairperson Rodney Gillund called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Shannon Binstock, Scott Burlingame, Melvin Erdmann, Rodney Gillund, Brittney Hogan, Emma-Leigh Kotzer, Dennis Lyon, Royce Schultze, Diane Siekaniec, Larry Thiele, Trevor Vannett (via phone), Erik Williamson, Bill Willis, and Peter Yung

Others Present: Nate Aalgaard, Russ Cusack, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen, Cindy Sullivan, and Rachel Hafner with ARC

Approval of Minutes: Melvin Erdmann made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Royce Schultze. Motion passed. The minutes stand approved as presented.

Correspondence: Scott Burlingame mentioned that a transition is being made to the new department of Administration for Community Living (ACL). There is a pilot tool that will be available to enter data. The 704 has newly added items and there is also additional transition information needed as well.

Treasurer's Report: No updates.

Legislative Session: Nate Aalgaard spoke about testifying at the current legislative session and gave brief overview of the testimony. Basically, legislators were asked to keep the funding for CILs as is. The budget started in the House and will cross to the Senate. Russ Cusack mentioned that Next Thursday, February 9th, the department will be notified of what cuts will need to be made to the budget. Out of 2000 FTE's, the department gave up 6 already.

Nate Aalgaard also mentioned that it is not too late for people to contact their senator's and legislators to make appeals and give input, and should be done as citizen status not on behalf of SILC.

Randy Sorensen mentioned that there are efforts to have people contact State Representatives about the benefits of Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act. Randy also mentioned that the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) and The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) have websites and can send alerts to get the most up to date information.

·<http://www.ncil.org>

<https://www.april-rural.org>

Medicaid Expansion may be up June 30th unless it is re-upped. Discussion was held on impacts to consumers since the expansion is a part of The Affordable Care Act.

Andrew Haffner from The Grand Forks Herald was in attendance. Andrew asked about House Bill 1012, which is the Human Services Budget related bill. Royce mentioned to Andrew that 51% of the staff at The Centers for Independent Living must have a disability and *also* the same percentage of members on The State Independent Living Council as well. Andrew inquired about The Affordable Care Act and what benefits that specifically gave to consumers around the state. Andrew was informed that the main uncertainty was with the state budget because of cuts that still needed to be made and where those cuts would come from.

ahaffner@gfherald.com

Speaker: Reginald Tarr, Resettlement Services Site Supervisor with Lutheran Social Services, spoke about the refugee resettlement program for New Americans. Reggie gave an overview of the Lutheran Social Services Program and explained the three different categories being Asylee, Special Immigrant Visa, and Refugee. He stated that a major public perception is that refugees receive a lot of funding, but the actual amount that a refugee receives is a one-time payment of \$925.00 per person resettlement fee and then \$325 per month, up to maximum of eight months, or when they become employed. The goal of the program is employment for refugees. Each state decides how many refugees they will accept and are in control of that number.

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Committee Breakouts: All committees had breakout sessions.

Thursday February 2nd, 2017

Call to Order: Chairperson Rodney Gillund called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Shannon Binstock, Scott Burlingame, Melvin Erdmann, Rodney Gillund, Brittney Hogan, Emma-Leigh Katzer, Dennis Lyon, Royce Schultze, Larry Thiele, Trevor Vannett, Erik Williamson, Bill Willis, Peter Yung

Members Absent: Diane Siekaniec

Others Present: Nate Aalgaard, Russ Cusack, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen arrived at 10:30, Rachel Hafuer, Ciudy Sullivan

Quarterly Directors Reports:

LaRae for Options Resource Center: See attached

Royce for Dakota Center for Independent Living: See attached

Scott for Independence, Inc.: See attached.

Nate for Freedom Resource Center: See attached.

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs: SPIL reviewed

External Affairs: SPIL reviewed

Governance: Meeting was held January 26th. Royce mentioned that the handbook was reviewed and there will be training to stay familiar with the sections. Members were encouraged to review the handbook and it will be discussed at the next meeting. A few changes needed were pointed out. Change of information stating Chair/ Vice Chair to President/ Vice President. There is a need to fill four member positions. Royce and Nate discussed having Larry move to the open Reservation Position. Larry was okay with the move.

Scott made motion to vote on moving Larry Thiel to the Tribal position. Motion was seconded by Brittney. Voting resulted in 11 Yes votes and 1 absent. Motion approved.

Susan Olson VRS was asked to apply to the SILC as VR representative in place of Peter Yung. Russ gave a brief biography on Susan who is out of the Bismarck office.

Trevor made motion to appoint Susan Olson to SILC. Motion was seconded by Peter. Voting resulted in 10 Yes votes, 1NO vote, and 1 absent. Motion approved.

Dennis Lyon mentioned that the AARP is providing tax assistance which is free and not limited to age or income. The only change is that they are asking for appointments rather than walk-ins. Further information can be found on the AARP website under tax aid program.

Russ mentioned that DDS could speak at a future meeting if it was deemed that information would be useful.

State Rehab Council (SRC): Policies for SEP were reviewed. A change to 90 days after stable employment was implemented. Russ also mentioned that counselors will be expected to provide job development and job placement services for the client's rather than pay an outside provider. DVR projects for the next ten years they will meet their financial need. In five years funds become tight and wait list might need to be implemented again. Russ also mentioned that the new contracting service used to compile customer satisfaction information is getting a good return.

Monthly Region 8 Conference Call: Rod mentioned the December meeting dealt with changes and formats. There will not be a meeting in January or February.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities: Trevor stated that a grant is in process and there will be an upcoming meeting.

Nomination of officers for 2 year terms (with option of 4) take place and voting will happen at the next meeting in May.

Current nominations from this meeting are...

Vice-President	Trevor Vannett
Secretary	Shannon Binstock
Treasurer	None

Nominations are still being accepted until the May meeting.

Positions needing to be filled are in Devils Lake, Fargo, and Jamestown.

Aimee Volk will be replacing Rebecca Haas from the Bismarck State Office.

New SRC rep will be appointed at the next meeting.

Rod gave farewell and also requested that each new member get a newspaper piece announcing them to the public.

Russ gave appreciation for Rod's service and leadership. Also thanked were Emma and Peter were also thanked as this was their last meeting too.

Royce made motion for officially installing Brittney for new SILC President. It was seconded by Larry. Voting resulted in 11 Yes votes and 1 absent. Motion passed.

Brittney gave a brief statement of looking forward to serve as president.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

May 3rd and 4th in Bismarck
August 2nd and 3rd in Fargo
November 1st and 2nd in Minot

Rod made motion to adjourn meeting. Scott seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor. Meeting adjourned.

SILC Events

Provided civil rights information to various parties related to the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. Continue to follow the Department of Labor investigation of a complaint we assisted an Individual to file on Simonson Gas Station. This was filed over one year ago with an Investigation just being initiated. Technical assistance was provided to city governments, service providers and individuals on accessibility.

Options staff presented to Physical Therapy Students, at the University of North Dakota on Independent living and Options services. Additionally three trainings were conducted on Fair Housing Rights related to service animals, regulations and Interplay with Americans with Disabilities Act. Participants included professionals, managers, and general public.

Options assisted 246 individuals with their Medicaid Part D insurance plans and kept track of the differences of premium costs pre and post assistance, the total savings Options assisted in identifying was \$ 130,726.00.

An open house was held for Ed Roberts Day so individuals could learn about independent living and Ed Roberts impact on it becoming a national service paradigm.

Success Story: Staff have been working with an individual for a couple years who has significant mental health issues, physical disabilities as well as TBI and addiction issues. Because of the addiction issues, staff gained firsthand knowledge of the Inner workings of the jail in Devils Lake. For anyone who doesn't know, the Devils Lake Law Enforcement Center (LEC) has gained some notoriety for its problems (escapes, mistreatment, etc.) In the past/Staff worked with the individual and his lawyer to advocate to the jail that he receive his medications as prescribed and other disability related issues. Staff Interacted with the nurse, the administrator, various correctional officers and police officers explaining/discussing disability awareness. We gained some victories along the way such as the individual being able to receive his meds as prescribed and being able to keep his TBI card on him which when shown to various officers Interacting with him, they would better understand his TBI disability.

Recently, Options along with several other local agencies hosted a workshop on Agency and Program Accessibility. The Law Enforcement Center sent their office manager to this workshop and she appeared to be very involved in the information being presented.

This led to the most recent turn of events. The individual had disappeared for a period of time and only recently turned up at the Law Enforcement Center again. The first thing they did was get him into detox. The very next thing was to start calling around trying to get his medications filled so that he could start taking them again. An agency that before hesitated to administer certain types of medications now is actively advocating for the individual to start receiving them again. When staff asked for a time to go visit with the individual and was initially told to come during visiting hours. Staff went to the LEC during the visiting hours and the office manager was appalled that staff had been told to come during visiting hours because then the conversation with the consumer would not be confidential and "that would not be right". She

said staff could see the individual during visiting hours but there would be no confidentiality for the individual. Staff was able to set up an appointment at a time outside of visiting hours so the visit would be confidential. The office administrator immediately saw the problem and moved to correct it and advocate for individuals rights to be honored.

Success Story: Assisted a 32 year old woman who is a New American to appeal the denial of intellectual Disability (DD) Waiver Services. Individual is deaf, mute and uses limited alternative sign language to communicate. The Human Service Center had kept her open for 8 months due to them not accepting a diagnosis of MR that was diagnosed from physician in Oregon. According to the Human Service Center they were unable to find a psychologist who was willing to do alternative IQ testing. Once the request to appeal was received, the Human Service Center contacted the individual's family and Options to let us know that they found a psychologist who would provide the IQ testing. The appeal was filed the very end of October and individual was receiving ID Waiver services and Case management by the 1st of December.

Quarter 1

	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total		Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total
I&R's	83	618	151	406	1257	I&R's	18	396	118	306	831
Direct Service	186	147	220	91	644	Direct Service	41	94	172	67	374
CEO	301	785	416	457	1959	CEO	66	502	324	338	1231
Total People	570	1550	787	953	3800	Total People	125	992	614	706	2436
Goals	97.5	100%	97.5	100%	97.5	Goals	97.5	100%	97.6	100.6	97%

	Year to Date						Year to Date				
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total		Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total
I&R's	83	618	151	406	1257	I&R's	18	396	118	306	831
Direct Service	186	147	220	91	644	Direct Service	41	94	172	67	374
CEO	301	785	416	457	1959	CEO	66	502	324	338	1231
Total People	570	1550	787	953	3800	Total People	125	992	614	706	2436
Goals	97.6	100.6	97.6	100.5	97.6	Goals	97.6	100.6	97.6	100.5	97%

Direct Service

Direct Services is based on a structured process of service delivery which is provided on a one-to-one basis to persons with significant disabilities. The Direct Service Program offers persons with disabilities more intense help in identifying and resolving the barriers that hinder them from living at the highest level of independence possible. This program utilizes a host of services incorporating legislative mandates of service delivery.

Information and Referral

The provision of information to persons with disabilities, service providers, and community members on disability and independent living topics and issues; and, referral assistance to link individuals with appropriate organizations, services, and resources.

Community Education and Outreach

This program area encompasses various services such as community education, outreach activities, and systems advocacy. Community education predominantly involves educating the general community of the issues and barriers affecting persons with disabilities. Outreach activities are primarily designed to tell people about independent living services and to increase usage of a center's services. Systems advocacy involves advocating for changes in major systems such as service delivery or building accessibility to enable persons with disabilities to utilize such in the most effective manner possible.

Freedom Resource Center
Quarterly Report
February 1, 2017

Significant activities since last SILC Meeting:

- Freedom is currently getting ready for Giving Hearts a 24-hour online fund raiser sponsored by the Dakota Medical Foundation. It will be held Feb. 9.
- Held a meeting with Lutheran Social Services to clarify services and appropriate referrals.
- Working on a collaborative agreement with FirstLink, the main 211 operator in Freedom's service area.
- Bagan working on the 511 integrated employment program in Minnesota. Two staff were hired to work on this project.
- Executive Director went to Bismarck for legislative issues.
- Currently have two full time Money Follows the Person project staff. The program will be done by the end of 2018.
- One staff is on the Brain Injury Advisory Council.
- Executive Director was on KVRr 1V for a story In snow removal.
- Freedom will host a Fair Housing tester training on Feb. 15. High Plains Fair Housing is doing the training.
- Freedom staff are doing some accessibility advocacy with the Sanford Health Athletic Complex; and the new wellness center in Jamestown.
- Freedom's Peer Mentoring Specialist went to Ability 360 in Phoenix to receive mentorship.

Independence Inc.

Directors Report-SILC

2/2/2017

Scott Burlingame, Executive Director

Staffing Update

Sine our last meeting, we have hired two new staff, both whom work out of our Bottineau office. Heather Tofteland is a NFTC. She is responsible for nursing home transitions in the counties of Renville, Divide, Bottineau, Peirce, Rollette and McHenry counties.

Amber Bowers is an Independent Living Specialist. She will primarily serve the counties of Bottineau, McHenry, Rolette and Pierce. She will provide the primary core services of I&R, IL Skills Training, Individual Advocacy, non-MFP Nursing Home transition, and post school transition. She will also assist in the Pre-EST project in which we are doing with PGC and VR.

Each new staff undergoes multiple layer of trainings, which today include online webinars, videos about the history of IL and Disability rights, one-one-one training with Jake R. on MFP, one-on-one with their supervisor and the Executive Director, and formal and informal mentoring from other staff.

In general, it will take about 2 years of ongoing training and experience before a staff is fully competent.

Community Services

On November 16th we held our 7th Annual IL Fair. We had about 200 people attend, and around 50 booth's. During the fair we had a breakout session attended by two members of the Minot City Council talking about how people with disabilities can get more involved in local advocacy.

On that note, we have a goal this year that all staff will attend at least one legislative hearing or city council meeting. Our preference is when they go, they will invite a person who receives our services to go with them.

I am working with a local group of community members to build a family homeless shelter in Minot.

we did an accessibility survey on the City of Minot building.

Individual Services

- As part of our new work plan, we are now calling all open and recently closed consumers on a quarterly basis to do satisfaction surveys and to collect a basic assessment of their needs. We are also using this as an opportunity to invite people to participate in other activities.
- We are currently looking to hire a part time Peer Mentoring Specialist.

- We are currently in every school that we set as a goal for part of our Pre-ETS program. We are also in Minot High-Magic City Campus every Tuesday and one other local school.

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Other:

We are sad to see a couple of very dedicated board members term off of our board. Rod and Susan leave after 6 very dedicated years serving Independence, Inc.

Our second annual Chili Bowl is Tuesday the 7th of February.

Dakota Center for Independent Living

A new Soup Kitchen called Ange/ 37 opened by a member of Homeless Coalition responsible for forming it at the Queen of Peace Church. The food and work is donated by different businesses and individuals.

Staff attended the Homeless Coalition in Dickinson. A new rep from Dickinson Public Schools reported 130 families are homeless according to registration forms from schools.

Staff attended the NDESPA Focus Group (North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance). The goal of the meeting was to familiarize the agencies with new legislators and also the share what the agencies know about the new representatives. This group might continue to meet through the next few months while the legislature is in session.

Attended SOAR (SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Report) updating at DHS. Information on SOAR was given and what has changed to qualify through SOAR. Concept behind SOAR is to speed up SSI/SSDI for individuals that are homeless and have mental illness.

Staff taught My Next Step class at South Central High School/ on Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination, Identifying my Values Writing, What are My Strengths and Weaknesses, Discovering Passion and Purpose, Writing My Goals and Success and Failure.

Also taught tenant education class and Job Search, Tips and Tricks at the Abused Adult Resource Center.

Staff completed Four Cornerstones of Financial Literacy Training for one family and has three more to go through the training.

Staff held basic computer classes at Primrose Retirement Center and Bismarck Senior Center. Went through some basic computer skills and gave handouts to fill out about what questions they might have in using the computers. We will be doing smaller more individualized classes at their request.

Hired a new MFP Transition Coordinator on December 27. Our other transition coordinator is on maternity leave.

Staff attended the MFP Stakeholder's meeting. We talked about the average time for a transition to happen which is about 3-4 months and part of the discussion was to help decide how many transitions could be done in 2017. Dwight from the Burleigh County Housing Authority and Dan from Beyond Shelter have started to look at spaces to possibly look into opening a replica of the "Cooper House" here in Bismarck. They are hoping to apply for funding in the spring. There is an OAR to fund MFP into the OHS budget and adding the 1time moving costs, and transition coordination costs to the aging waiver. This would be a fee for service program.

Staff attended a meeting to review the OHS budget proposal.

Staff and consumers gave testimony on four different bills. They were HB 1211 on amending the North Dakota Century code. This amendment would change the North Dakota Century Code to allow individuals with the proper accessible parking permits or license plates to park at an angle and occupy

two standard parking spaces when the designated accessible spaces are all being used. Senate Bill 2124 on the ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience Plan). This bill is an amendment to the original bill from last session. Money and assets in these may not be considered for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefits from local or state means - tested programs. This was intended to be part of the bill from last session. SB 2192 had to do with the Housing Incentive Fund where full-time moderate income families were the priority and were asking for a one time allocation of \$20 million and HB 1012 relating to centers for Independent living.

Staff is attending Legislative Working Group at P & A.

Staff attended the Homeless Coalition-discussion regarding the protest camp and an email from the Department of Justice is estimating the number of homeless people in Bis-Man may have after this is over-500-1500 people may be left behind

Brain Injury Awareness Day at the capital March 23 and the Mind Matters conference will be in Bismarck March 24 and 25th.

Victoria Thomas Trial Attorney Civil Rights Division Department of Justice Along with three other people from her office hosted a conference call with the four centers to get any additional information on accessible housing for individuals transitioning out of nursing facilities now and timeframes for securing affordable accessible housing. Also talked about the number of personal care hours individuals are allowed and how case managers differ in each county when approving the number of hours for personal **care.**

Held Coffee with the Director at the Bowman library. We talked about our core services and then opened it to attendees. I asked if anyone had concerns or issues around the city of Bowman. Through this discussion they said the bathroom in the library is not accessible because the door swings in and when somebody is in the bathroom they cannot get the door closed. The sidewalk Pleasant Manor has bulges and is a trip hazard. Those in attendance were the Mayor, community member and 8 consumers. We will be having four more of these in our service area.

Staff talked with facilities management at the state capital several times about only having the two public entrances and that the two entrances have the least amount of accessible parking. First they were looking at putting in a call box by the mail room door which is on the north side where all the new accessible parking but instead they put up a phone number at the entrance to call the state patrol and they will open the door.

Update on our transit system. Paratransit will run from 5:30 AM until 12 AM Monday through Saturday. Sundays they will run from 7:30 AM till 2:30 PM. The six major holidays will have a total of 45 hours of service yet to be determined for each holiday. Rides increased from \$2.50 to \$3 one way. Fixed route system will be offering free rides to people disabilities and reduced fares for veterans.

We will be hosting the event called Unmasking Brain Injury. Survivors of brain injuries will create masks that will represent their experiences and a way to educate others what it is like to live with a brain injury.

March 3 we will be having a fundraising event at the Eagles in Bismarck. We will be having an online auction, silent auction and live auction with the proceeds going to our assistive technology display and to purchase pill popper device and a pill bottle opener that we can give away and different events where our assistive technology display is set up.

Governance Committee Report

Governance committee had a conference call January 26th. Reviewed operations handbook with changes that were made along with a few more we found reviewing it and the committee agreed on the changes and Royce will send it to Robyn to be included with the SILC packet. Reviewed membership list and there are 4 council members who will have finished their 2nd term, 1 who finished their 1st term, 1 vacant position in Fargo area, 1 vacant position on reservation. Will probably move Larry Thiele to reservation vacancy and fill Devils Lake position. Of the 4 ending 1 will be filled by an IL director or designee, 1 will be filled by VR staff who is already been chosen by VR but will need to fill out the SILC application. Also talked about orientation training for new members and will discuss more during committee breakouts at SILC.