

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Holiday Inn, Fargo
Wednesday August 2, 2017**

Call to Order: Brittney Hogan called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Willis, Brittney Hogan, Diane Siekaniec, Royce Schultze, Shannon Binstock, Larry Thiele, Dennis Lyon, Dennis Lyon, Melvin Erdmann, Trevor Vannett

Non-Council Members Present: Nate Aalgaard, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen, Scott Burlingame, Aimee Volk, Patty Wanner, Michael Houston, Cindy Gabbert

Members Absent: Erik Williamson, Susan Olson

Approval of May Minutes: Trevor Vannett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Shannon Binstock with corrections. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Correspondence – Brittney Hogan: None

Treasurer's Report – Bill Willis: SILC is funded by VR 110 funds. There were cuts to all departments as was the SILC. Last biennium the SILC underspent by \$36,023.13 so it should not be a problem for the next biennium. All CILs spent their money.

Melvin Erdmann made a motion to approve treasurers' report and Larry Thiele seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Schedule Future Meetings – Brittney Hogan:

Discussion was held on dates for the next year's meetings. Following was agreed upon for 2018:

- February 7-8th – Bismarck
- May 2-3 – Grand Forks
- August 1-2 – Fargo
- November 7-8 - Minot

New Membership Guidelines – Royce Schultze and Aimee Volk:

- In order to be a member, you must have a valid ND identification. In this case that means that we will need to find a replacement for Randy Sorenson. LaRae Gustafson has submitted an application. All CIL directors approved the application of LaRae.
- There is a new liaison for the Boards and Commissions department and her name is Julie Kuennen.
- Julie Kuennen is requesting that all applications be filled out online. If the individual needs to fill out a paper application it should be sent to Royce or Aimee and they will manually need to key it in and attach the signature page. Go to www.governor.nd.gov/boards/ and click on application form for Boards and Commissions.
- Change the statewide representation to include four service areas of the CIL's instead of the eight human service regions.

Committee Appointments – Brittney Hogan:

Discussed what committee's people are on. Bill Willis stated he would like to stay on Governance Committee and Internal Committee. Melvin Erdmann is going to think about what committee he would like to serve on.

Amending Operations Handbook for SILC – Aimee Volk:

Aimee went over spelling and grammar errors throughout the handbook. Discussed "A yearly schedule is set at the annual meeting in May" and changing it to August. There was discussion on changing President and Vice-President to Chair and Vice-Chair throughout the manual and adding WIOA 2014 additions and WIOA definition. The Governance Committee will discuss this further.

IL Philosophy – Roundtable Discussion:

Roundtable discussion was held on the IL Philosophy.

Committee Breakouts: Committee breakout sessions took place at this time.

Thursday, August 3, 2017

Call to Order: Brittney Hogan called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Willis, Brittney Hogan, Diane Siekaniec, Royce Schultze, Shannon Binstock, Larry Thiele, Dennis Lyon, Dennis Lyon, Melvin Erdmann, Trevor Vannett

Non-Committee Members: Aimee Volk, Patty Wanner, Nate Aalgaard, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen, Scott Burlingame, Michael Houston, Marie Fouquette

Members Absent: Susan Olson, Erik Williamson

Quarterly Director's Report:

Randy and LaRae for Options: See attached.

Royce for Dakota: See attached.

Scott for independence, Inc.: See attached.

Nate for Freedom: See attached.

Freedom's Youth Transition Services Program - Marie Fouquette: IL Advocate

Marie explained the history, WIOA, core services, peer mentoring program, advocacy, transitions (getting people out, keeping people out and launching people into community life). Youth transition serves ages 14-24 years old. Went through the differences between IEPs and 504 plans and frequently asked question about transitions services.

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs – Brittney Hogan:

Documentation was provided on The Grid 2017 - 2019 spreadsheet.

External Affairs – Scott Burlingame:

Documentation was provided on The Grid 2017 – 2019 spreadsheet.

Governance Committee – Royce Schultze:

Documentation was provided on The Grid 2017 – 2019 spreadsheet.

A motion was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Dennis Lyon to change regions to quadrants. Motion approved by unanimous decision.

GRID Updates – Brittney Hogan:

None

State Rehabilitation Council – Aimee Volk:

There were two policies that were passed.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Trevor Vannett:

Meeting in June and they are getting ready for the grant which will be 12 months.

Monthly Region 8 Conference Call – Brittney Hogan:

The SILC congress will be in Orlando due to budget cuts. DD SD SILC representative council will have meeting due to combining SILC, DD council, and TBI council.

The next SILC meeting will be held November 1 and 2 in Minot, ND.

Melvin Erdmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Larry Thiele. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

August 3, 2017- Royce

Governance Committee Report

We did not have a conference call since the last SILC meeting.

Aimee is making changes to the operations manual that include correct wording and adding the WIOA amendments.

Julie Kunnen is the new person in charge of the Boards and Commissions in the Governor's office. She wants all applications to be submitted online.

We have received two applications: Gillian Plenty Chief 121 director on Standing Rock. Brittney Bain, parent of a child with a disability from Ellendale.

Change the statewide representation to include the four service areas of the CIL's instead to the eight human service regions.

LaRae is approved by the CIL directors to be a director or designee from Options and is waiting to be appointed by the governor.

Membership vacancies are regions one, three, five and six.

Directors Report- Royce

Met with facilities manager of the MDU Resources Bowl about some of the accessibility concerns with the accessible seating, access to the box seating and access to the two patios.

Met with the director of Burleigh County Housing Authority to review plans for a 40 unit supportive housing development for the homeless. The 8 accessible units will have roll under sinks, front controls for stove and oven, all units in the building will have roll in showers.

Attended landlord compliance training in Bismarck and Dickinson. Topics included fair housing basics, assistance animals, criminal guidance and domestic violence/human trafficking. Staff presented on assistance animals.

Met with staff from Protection and Advocacy to talk about accessibility on the Capitol grounds and then met there to walk around and look at accessibility. There is only one public entrance now on the south side and talked about needing more accessible parking in that lot, currently have 5 spots but 3 are on the east end of the lot. The accessibility of that entrance (they added

the curb cut but the sidewalk seems to a narrow and cross slope is too great) could be better. State library bathrooms are not accessible. We would like to talk with the facilities management about these issues and then see who would take those to the Capitol Grounds Committee the next time they meet.

Staff met the director of Bismarck Parks and Rec and two of his staff and the architect who drew up the plans for the ice complex. They went through the blueprints for the seating and they were going to have issues with the vertical seating and after talking with Rocky Mountain Tech in Denver they come up with one accessible seating plus companion spot on each end on the lower level of the bleachers. We also asked them about putting up no parking signs in the access aisles in the accessible parking spaces because people will park there and I think they are putting them up.

Staff met with the Bismarck City Administrator, Bismarck city commissioner and along with taxi owners from Bismarck and Mandan were also invited to give input on a draft amended city ordinance requiring taxi companies to have at least one accessible taxi. Add a section that states at the cab companies cannot charge additional fees for people with disabilities.

Staff attended the North Dakota Lifespan Respite Stakeholders Meeting. This is a new stakeholders group. The reason for the stakeholders is the North Dakota Department of Human Services Aging Services Division is applying for a \$200,000 grant over three years and having a stakeholders group is one of the conditions of the grant. The purpose is to implement statewide systems of coordinated, community-based respite for family caregivers caring for individuals with special needs of all ages.

Staff was invited to speak at the North Dakota State Railroad Museum annual meeting. The topic was accessibility at their Museum site that staff did a walk thru. Talked about what a great addition the sidewalk was for people disabilities to be able to get from the main building across to the Steele depot building. Before the sidewalk people had to walk through grass and an uneven surface. Talked about the benefits of accessibility that also help parents with strollers, individuals that might have a hard time walking on an uneven surface and how these improvements will hopefully increase their attendance at the Museum. We were invited to talk at the annual meeting to emphasize the importance of having these accessibility features because some members did not feel it was needed.

Had speaker from Bridging the Dental Gap come and talk on why it's important to brush your teeth 2 x a day, oral hygiene and dental care.

Held a class on How to Make Medical Appointments. Talked on what you can ask your Doctor, information you'll need when you are there. Gave consumers a pamphlet and inside it has cards, on these cards it will have all your personal information on them, so at their appointments all they'll have to do is take the pamphlet with their info in it.

Showed a Money Smart video at Camp Grassick in Dawson, ND. There were 10 teenagers and 10 staff present and showed a PowerPoint on Self Advocacy.

Held an iPad/tablet and cell phone class at the Bismarck Senior Center. One lady had a kindle and we were able to set up a junk email address for her so that she could use a different email other than her primary email to register for her apps. Helped another woman reset her tablet as she had lost her 'pattern' to access the tablet.

Staff went to Mandan and met with a consumer who is moving back home. We did a video on homelessness and the great success that he has had in working with DCIL and coming out of homelessness. We will share this on YouTube once the background noise is minimized.

Attended Homeless 101 Training at the State Capitol. Topics talked about included addiction, grief and homelessness, what it is like to be homeless. Judith Roberts talked about the recovery and about Hope Manor, a recovery or sober living home. Crystal Askvig talked on Mental Illness and Homelessness. Youth Works talked on human trafficking in ND.

Staff went to Lincoln Elementary School and did the Bicycle Safety and Bullying programs. We did the video's and then broke into 3 groups and rotated the kids between the star activity, the ball and goggle activity and the bullying puppet show. They then had the opportunity to touch the Jell-O brain and we gave them a brain eraser, brain cut out papers, bookmarks on bicycle safety and a sticker.

Staff attended the Elder Abuse Awareness at Dykshoorn Park in Mandan. We talked with a approximately 80 people at our AT booth. They had speakers from West Central and the Mandan Police along with other speakers. Many of the people that came by the booth were interested in a number of items and we had several thank us for what we do in making elders aware of what is out there.

Staff attended the Elder Abuse Conference at Prairie Knights Casino on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Most of those attending were inquiring about our AT equipment and wondering where they could pick up the items

Staff and consumers toured the ND Assistive office. We learned about some AT that would be beneficial for some of the folks we serve. We talked about some AT for the bedroom, kitchen, living room, phones, computers and toys.

Directors Report
Independence, Inc.
Scott Burlingame, Executive Director

Individual Services

This month, I am going to provide some statistics on the people we serve. It is important to always remember that while stats tell a story of what we are doing, they do not tell how well we are doing. Also, remember that as a CIL, we work hard to serve people of all ages, with all types of disabilities.

So far this year we have served around 520 people.

Of those, about 190 were served as part of our youth programming in area rural schools. The majority of the people we serve in this age group are people with some form of a cognitive disability, Our Youth Transition Specialist position has been open since May, and we have interviewed about 10 people so far for the job. We are hoping to hire somebody soon.

Our largest number of people served are in the 26-64 age category. Statistically, a majority of the people we serve in this category are people with mental/emotional disabilities. They are likely to receive the services of Independent Living Skills training or Advocacy.

We have served 66 people over the age of 65. This population is primarily people with physical disabilities. This year we have assisted 26 people with nursing home transition or prevention services, with 10 being transitioned from a nursing facility back into the community.

Geographically, a majority of the people we serve do live in Ward County, however, we have worked with open consumers in 10 of our 11 counties so far. While our Bottineau outreach office has helped with this, turnover in this office has made establishing this area difficult. For the most part, even the people who do not live in Ward County are being served by people out of the Minot office. Many of these people do come to Minot to get services.

On that note, our Bottineau office does not have any staff at this time. We are planning on rehiring, perhaps in September.

When become a consumer of independent living services, they select their own Independent living Goal. Our staff are trained to work with them in setting goals that are achievable by the consumer. We are intentional in doing this, because we want people to be able to achieve their own goals and to feel the success of it. Our staff exist to guide them and coach them through the process, not to take ownership of the goals.

Community Services

I have been working with the City of Minot to help city council chambers ADA compliant. Last week, the Community Development Committee approved \$70,000 to help with that and some other council upgrades.

We are working hard on launching our new Community Leadership Academy. This project will assist people with disabilities to become members of boards, committees and councils. Participants in this program will be matched up with peer mentors, they will attend a six week coeerce, and they will receive

follow through support to actually apply for boards, committees and councils. Getting this program launched requires a large amount of work, as far too often People with Disabilities have not been invited to be part of these types of organizations.

We held our 7th Annual Celebrating Independence Picnic on July, 20th. Mother Nature had her own plans for part of the night, but we still had over 130 total people attend the event. We had live music, games, a fire truck, and an awards ceremony. At our ceremony, we gave our Advocate of the Year award to Christy Coughlin.

Christy has a long history of working with Independence, Inc. Christy is a person who is Deaf and uses ASL. She has been part of numerous emergency exercises throughout our service area, often times challenging emergency responders to better meet the needs of the Deaf/HOH community. She has served on numerous committees in our community. She has advocated for accommodations in employment for herself and others.

For Independence, Inc. Christy has long served as a liaison between us and our Deaf/HOH community. She was the first person we signed up under our new volunteer peer mentor program, and is currently mentoring somebody on improving his non-verbal communication skills.

Christy is also a Special Olympics superstar, and has participated in events all over the world.

Other

We were excited to participate in Generosity by Signal CRS competition. This was four local realtors who agreed to donate \$8,000 to local non-profits after they sold their 40th home. There was an online voting, and Independence, Inc. finished third and won \$1500.

While the money is nice, we really appreciate the extra exposure this brought us. Our website had its busiest week ever last week, with people not just voting, but also reading our information and learning more about Independence, Inc.

At the end of the fiscal year, we are going to transition to a new data management system. While our current system meets our needs, it does not allow us the type of analytical analysis we feel we need. We want to be better able to monitor outcomes and performance in order to ensure we are maximizing our efforts.

OPTIONS RCIL
ND QUARTERLY SILC REPORT
August 2, 2017

- Assisted 3 individuals with home accessibility design, contractor/vendor and/or funding information.
- Provide technical assistance to local Boy Scout group, GF VA Clinic, GF County Courthouse, VFW in Devils Lake, GF Job Service and Devils Lake fishing sites on accessibility improvements.
- Assisted individual with follow-up on complaint against local business, built with inaccessible entrances, through the ND Department of Human Rights, on-going.

Advocacy:

The DOJ called Options for names of people we have assisted to interview persons had to have been relocated out of nursing facilities. The DOJ's intent was to identify barriers they had encountered in the community related to HCBS to analyze if they were related to the underfunding for HCBS services or were isolated cases. Options identified and facilitated interviews with three people.

- One individual took three years to relocate back home due to lack of services provided in the community. He needed skilled nursing care and after collaborating with the home health care agency, tried going every other day for services and he did not obtain an infection. MFP assisted in his relocation and bought all his monthly supplies.
- Another individual was refused MI Case-Management by the human service center, after returning home from the nursing facility. She previously had a case-manager for over twenty years however, they thought she should not return home and should have gone into a basic care facility. She is her own guardian and is very happy and doing well at home.
- An individual from Devils Lake had tried to obtain a scooter from HCBS waiver and was denied. Options advocate to HCBS providing medical proof from Margie's Doctor as to why she needed a scooter, but to no avail. The appeal went to the ALJ hearing of ND and she was unable to obtain a lawyer to assist her. LAND denied her due to lack of their funding. UND Law School denied her as they are not taking new cases for two years. Protection and Advocacy denied her stating a conflict of interest. So she faced the appeal alone without a lawyer. The bottom line was the "definition of the word HOME". The State argued that this meant just her apartment. Margie and her supporters argued that home is her apartment as well as the community room, laundry room, the home delivered meal site, beauty shop, garbage dumpster and the landlord's office, which is spread out in the three interconnected apartment complex. Margie now pushes her wheelchair backwards to go anywhere within the complex. She has had seven strokes and has paralysis on her left side. She also has severe diabetics so does not heal well. Her Doctor has warned that the activity of pushing backwards causes wounds in her legs and if this activity persists she is in danger of losing one leg.

Margie was interviewed for 45 minutes by the DOJ concerning her appeal to HCBS and about their services. This discussion included barriers in obtaining equipment that should have been available to her under the HSCBS waiver since Medicaid denied her several times. Margie was told by HCBS that no one else in ND has ever appealed to the ALJ level. She recently found out she was denied from obtaining a scooter under the waiver.

NCIL:

Options sent four staff to the NCIL Conference in Washington DC. Staff participated in the March to the Capitol and rally on the lawn of the Capitol. We collaborated with Pam Taylor of the MN SILC and met with three legislative offices, Rep Colin Peterson, Rep Paulson from Mpls, and Senator Frankin's office. Options staff went alone to Senator Hoven and Senator Heitcamp's office. Senator Heitcamp personally interviewed with Options staff and shared our concerns for p/w/d and drastic cuts to Medicaid and HCBS services. She wholeheartedly agreed with our concerns and stated what difficult times people are facing and that she will continue to fight for services. This was the day that the Senate voted on their healthcare bill on the hill and Senator Hoven was very busy also. His staff stated Senator Hoven planned to vote "Yes" on the healthcare bill and I informed him of what would happen to p/w/d with drastic cuts to Medicaid, that people would leave the state and that Options would help them in this process. The conference was worthwhile, the most meaningful event was the March and meeting with legislative office staff and meeting Senator Heitcamp in person. The SILC members played a huge role at the conference collaborating with different states and learning a lot from the training sessions.

NORTH DAKOTA 2016-2017 Quarter Three

North Dakota Statewide Quarterly Statistics April 1, 2017 - June 30, 2017 Quarter 3

	Year to Date				Total	
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options		
I&R's	100	601	331	237	1269	I&R's
Direct Service	4	13	109	19	145	Direct Service
CEO	1515	2640	2071	138	6364	CEO
Total People	1619	3254	2511	394	7778	Total People
Goals	72%	100%	100%	91%	95%	Goals

North Dakota OVR Quarterly Statistics April 1, 2017 - June 30, 2017 Quarter 3

	Year to Date				Total	
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options		
I&R's	22	385	258	175	840	I&R's
Direct Service	1	8	85	14	108	Direct Service
CEO	333	1690	1615	102	3740	CEO
Total People	366	2083	1959	292	4689	Total People
Goals	72%	100%	100%	91%	95%	Goals

	Year to Date				Total	
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options		
I&R's	657	1891	734	561	4233	I&R's
Direct Service	207	183	500	177	1067	Direct Service
CEO	3451	4873	3647	687	12658	CEO
Total People	4315	6947	4881	1815	17958	Total People
Goals	89%	100%	99%	78%	95%	Goals

	Year to Date				Total	
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options		
I&R's	145	1210	573	704	2631	I&R's
Direct Service	46	117	390	131	684	Direct Service
CEO	759	3119	2845	508	7231	CEO
Total People	949	4446	3807	1343	10546	Total People
Goals	89%	100%	99%	78%	95%	Goals

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

August 3, 2017

By Nate Aalgaard

Freedom has been doing quite a bit of accessibility work lately. The Center has a task force that deals with issues in the community. One member, who is also on Freedom's Board, contacted Rep. Josh Boschee to see if he would sponsor a bill to allow people with mobility impaired parking plates or placards to take up two parking spots if no appropriate accessible spots are available. He agreed to do so. He had some difficulty getting co-sponsors, but eventually the bill passed and is now law. Minnesota has a similar law. This is beneficial especially to people with lifts or ramps in their van.

A staff member was part of the team that selected the firm to conduct a transportation improvement plan for the City of Moorhead. Freedom will provide input on priority areas such as sidewalks or curb cuts.

Center staff have been providing technical assistance for the new wellness center in Jamestown.

A member of the task force filed a federal discrimination complaint against the newly renovated Sanford Health Athletic Complex (The SHAC). The wheelchair seating in the basketball arena is not up to current ADA standards.

At the urging of the task force, the Fargodome has almost entirely fixed their problems with parking. Only a few sign issues remain. Some of the wheelchair seating has also been improved to allow a line of sight over standing spectators.

Cindy Gabbert, who visited the SILC meeting on Wednesday, has been hired as Assistant Director. She will gradually be trained to take over the Program Director job when Mark Bourdon retires in June 2018.

Freedom has hired a person to work the MFP program, after both the previous staff are moving on to new opportunities. She is an employee of Preference Personnel. She is currently in training.

The Jamestown Mayor's Committee, along with students from Jamestown University, conducted a community survey about disability issues. They presented the results to the City Council. The Freedom Jamestown staff was involved in the process.

Freedom will hold its 5th annual Art of Freedom event on October 5 at Dakota Medical Foundation. It is an opportunity for people to display their works of art, as well as a PR event for the organization.

Nate Aalgaard was involved in a panel discussion on disability issues at the Corecon event in Fargo. In doing so he discovered a very welcoming community of people who can be great advocates for disability issues. Freedom also tried to work with the host hotel to get them to purchase their own ramp for their stage, and offered a free access survey.

Diane Seikaniec gave a presentation on the Freedom In Action program at the Minnesota IL Conference in June. It was well received.