

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Holiday Inn, Fargo
August 7 - 8, 2019**

Call to Order: Brittney Hogan called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Willis, Russ Cusack, Nancy Lundon, Brittney Hogan, Mark Bourdon, LaRae Gustafson, Jared Ferguson, Ben Johnson, Drew Hanson, Brenda Boehler, Sarah Bachmeier, Gillian Plenty Chief

Members Absent: Royce Schultze, Trevor Vannett, Shannon Cook, Matthew White

Non-Council Members Present: Aimee Volk, Randy Sorensen, Nate Aalgaard, Scott Burlingame

Approval of May 2019 Minutes: Mark Bourdon made a motion to approve the May 2019 SILC minutes with amendments as discussed, Brenda Boehler seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Drew Hanson made a motion to approve the agenda Brenda Boehler seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Correspondence – Brittney Hogan: Will update on ACL vs. NCIL discussion.

Treasurer’s Report – Bill Willis: Reviewed the Treasure’s Report. Bill and Aimee held a discussion on a meeting with Lynn Derman.

Jared Ferguson made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and Nancy Lundon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

LaRae Gustafson made a motion for two people to attend the APRIL Conference once it is approved through ACL for Sarah Bachmeier and Drew Hanson to go. Mark Bourdon seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Update on the NCIL Conference – Brittney Hogan, Scott Burlingame, and Mark Bourdon

Went to the NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C. and spent most of the time in the SILC sessions. They want to make sure there is disability representation at the table. There was a great discussion that consisted 600 people. The closure was “who are we”. How do we create space to include all people?

Scott and Brittney sat with North Dakota representatives which was a good discussion. They discussed several North Dakota issues from employment to criminal justice reform to addiction, etc.

Had discussion on NCIL and if we should renew the membership. Talked about SILC Congress as there is no membership fee.

Gillian Plenty Chief made a motion to withdraw the NCIL membership immediately and Russ Cusack seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Brenda Boehler made a motion to draft a letter on the withdrawal of NCIL and Drew Hanson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Brenda Boehler made a motion to send two SILC members to SILC Congress in February 24-26, 2020. Russ Cusack and Ben Johnson submitted to go. Drew Hanson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

ACL vs. NCIL – Randy Sorensen

Randy went over the memorandum that was recently sent out. There is not a law on non-profits lobbying which is separate from the federal funds. Discussion was held on ACL vs. NCIL. Information should be presented in a clean and concise manner. Discussed what lobbying is and what is not.

Review Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Policy – Aimee Volk

Reviewed the policy and had everyone sign the policy for this year. The signed copy will be placed in the Training Binder.

Schedule 2020 SILC Meetings – Brittney Hogan

- February 6-7, 2020 – Bismarck
- May 7-8, 2020 – Grand Forks
- August 6-7, 2020 – Fargo
- November 5-6, 2020 - Minot

Please note that the dates are now the first Thursdays and Fridays of February, May, August, and November.

LaRae Gustafson made a motion to approve the dates above for the SILC 2020 meetings and Brenda Boehler seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Consumer Panel – Freedom Resource Center– Diane Siekaniec and Dan Holte

Discussed the panelists personal experiences. They discussed how they came to find out about Freedom Resource Center. Dan described his experiences with the peer mentoring program and being a bus route trainer. Diane explained how she learned about Freedom Resource Center. She explained the classes she took there and how they assisted her. She talked about Freedom in Action (FIA) and how it came about. They have gone to rural communities to do art projects.

Committee Breakout

Thursday, August 8, 2019

Call to Order: Brittney Hogan called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Willis, Matt White, LaRae Gustafson, Jared Ferguson, Russ Cusack, Mark Bourdon, Drew Hanson, Nancy Lundon, Brittney Hogan, Brenda Boehler, Sarah Bachmeier, Ben Johnson, Gillian Plenty Chief

Members Absent: Royce Schultze, Trevor Vannett

Non-Committee Members: Aimee Volk, Randy Sorensen, Scott Burlingame, Nate Aalgaard

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs – Scott Burlingame: See Grid

External Affairs – Drew Hanson: See Grid

State Rehabilitation Council – Trevor Vannett: No report

State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Trevor Vannett: No report

Quarterly Region 8 Conference Call – Brittney Hogan: No report

Aging and Disability Resource Link – Michelle Gayette

Michelle navigated the demo Aging and Disability Resource Link website. Updates should be done mid-September. There was discussion on held on how we can get independent living on the ADRL website. Aimee will send suggestions for IL to Michelle. They will be hiring five new staff members to assist with the in-reach and outreach services.

Quarterly Director's Report:

Randy for Options: See attached.

Dakota Center for Independent Living: No report available.

Scott for Independence, Inc.: See attached.

Nate for Freedom: See attached.

The next SILC meeting will be November 6-7, 2019 in Minot, ND.

Mark Bourdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Willis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Independence Inc.
Directors Report-SILC
8/2/18
Scott Burlingame, Executive Director

Community Services

We held the Sound of Independence on June 7th. We had 8 musical acts consisting of people with and without disabilities. In between each set, we had different types of programming awareness. We had about 120 people in attendance.

On July 18th we held our 19th Annual Celebrating Independence Picnic. We had over 140 attendees, and we awarded our 201 Advocate and Youth Advocate of the Year to Doug and Mary Stipp. Doug and Mary were our most active members of the Independent Living Ambassadors. They were very diligent in raising awareness around the importance of snow removal, as well as working hard to organize our local blind community.

For the month of June, we had a large awareness campaign called “Give for Independence”, highlighting our services, our partnerships, and our success stories.

System Advocacy Update

Administration for Community Living Restructure

- Bob Williams is no longer with the Administration for Community Living.
 - Julie Hocker, Commissioner for the Administration on Disabilities (AoD) will also serve as the Director of the Office of Independent Living Programs.
 - Continue to monitor ACL changes.

ACL/Independent Living Administration FAQ

- The agency issued a memo on Allowable Advocacy Activities for Federal Grantees
- The five-page document focused on the role of lobbying for CILs and sought to offer clarity.
 - They tried to distinguish lobbying and systems advocacy by defining each activity. The interpretations are more restrictive.

- According to the memo, under basic IRS rules, those of us that are paid under federal dollars are allowed to educate lawmakers on policies or issues. However, we cannot be paid for urging a lawmaker to support or oppose legislation.
 - For example, if you discuss a bill and ask a legislator to support or oppose an issue, you are now lobbying.
- The memo is certainly more than just lobbying; it really limits our ability to advocate.
- Board members and consumers are also unable to contact lawmakers to influence policy.
- Title VII of the Rehab Act mandates us to do systems advocacy and it is important for centers to understand the bill.
- ACL/ILA is looking to enforce lobbying activities paid by federal dollars.
- Scott is advising CILs to tread very carefully when discussing issues with lawmakers to ensure you are not encouraging them to support a bill.
- NCIL and APRIL should collaborate to ensure we are speaking together on this issue.

Service Animal Advocacy

- Through APRIL, we would like to see about getting in front of any changes to service animals, and try to find a solution that protects rights.

Individual Services

We hired Sarah Bachmeier as our new Independent Living Advocate. Sarah will be a Care Coordinator through the Free Through Recovery Program, as well as providing other core IL Services. She has been working hard to bring more awareness about Independence, Inc. to Northland Health Center, CMS, the Minot PD, the Ward County Jail, Growing Together LLC,

We have three total staff who are Free Through Recovery Care Coordinators.

We were approved to be a provider for, and underwent the training for Open Doors Landlord Mitigation Program.

We have had two got outs and one prevention since June 1st.

We have begun to offer summer work experience as part of our Pre-ETS services. The first consumer we took out found a job at the first place she visited.

Our Bottineau office moved to a smaller location in July. This will help us to save some money and do a better job of being able to interact with other people.

Cassie Wick and Lacey Keller from the Montana Independent Living Project in Butte, MT joined us for a few days to do a Youth Mentoring through APRIL. They focused on how to make our program more interactive and to increase our community based outcomes. They also taught our staff how to do a basic Walking Audit in downtown Minot.

We finished up our Health My Way grant through Montana State University. This allowed people to learn how to make healthy decisions while living independently.

Freedom Resource Center Quarterly Report

August 5, 2019

Jamestown

Staff is participating in planning and recruiting people with and without disabilities for an airline disaster with the Jamestown Airport to meet FAA standards.

Staff has been attending Census 2020 meetings and has relayed to all staff the importance of participation in the Census and the impact the population count can have on state and local program budgets.

Since April, staff has assisted with two MFP transitions.

Our Accessibility Specialist conducted two Lunch and Learns, one in Jamestown, one in Valley City. Topic was Is Your Business an ADA Lawsuit Waiting to Happen?

Fargo

Our Accessibility Specialist conducted a training for landlords on landlord and tenant rights about assistance animals.

Since April, staff has assisted with one MFP transition.

Staff toured Cobalt Rehabilitation Hospital in Fargo, set to open fall 2019. Two years behind target date.

A board meeting was held on July 22. Three new members were elected to the board, and new officers also elected.

The Civil and Human Rights Task Force continues to meet monthly and work on accessibility issues. A couple of those currently are downtown Fargo parking, parking at Sanford facilities, and following along with city government ADA issues.

Held our 30th Anniversary Open House with all office staff coming to Fargo on July 26. This was also to commemorate the anniversary of the ADA. Two different TV attended and ran stories on the event at night. The Executive Director was on KFGO a couple days before the event.

We are now planning for our 30th anniversary awards banquet. It will be held September 17, and feature the Dueling Pianos, along with awards for our volunteers and advocates.

Lisbon

Since April, staff has assisted with two MFP transitions.

Wahpeton

Freedom is collaborating with Extension Services to help people learn cooking skills.

NORTH DAKOTA 2018-2019
Quarter Three

North Dakota Statewide Quarterly Statistics
April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019
Quarter 3

	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total	I&R's	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total
I&R's	628	563	131	199	1521	I&R's	126	343	102	141	713
Direct Service	12	121	67	19	219	Direct Service	2	74	52	13	142
CEO	2861	1385	1406	546	6198	CEO	572	845	1097	388	2901
Total People	3501	2069	1604	764	7938	Total People	700	1262	1251	542	3756
Goals	88%	93%	99%	100%	94%	Goals	88%	93%	99%	100%	94%

North Dakota OVR Quarterly Statistics
April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019
Quarter 3

	Year to Date					Year to Date					
	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total	Dakota	Freedom	Independence	Options	Total	
I&R's	1069	1731	687	677	4164	I&R's	214	1056	536	481	2286
Direct Service	160	369	539	174	1242	Direct Service	32	225	420	124	801
CEO	6228	4086	7192	1115	18621	CEO	1246	2492	5610	792	10139
Total People	7457	6186	8418	1966	24027	Total People	1491	3773	6566	1396	13227
Goals	91%	93%	98%	82%	94%	Goals	91%	93%	98%	82%	94%

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.

Options SILC Report

Aug. 8, 2019

- In the last quarter, Options assisted two individuals with disabilities in learning to use the bus system. Both individuals have cognitive disabilities and both demonstrated an eagerness to understand the system. One individual understood the system after one session, while the other is still ongoing. We've found the maps and timetables offered by the city as fairly difficult to understand, even by those without disabilities, and as a result I print every route and timetable individually and write down times on a note for them. Both individuals report satisfaction, and we hope to keep the ability to understand public transit accessible to all.
- The Durable Medical Equipment program has remained steady in the last quarter. In our equipment warehouse, Dave has been working hard to re-organize it and our Hubscrub Equipment Washing Machine has been up and running again!
- Our social media has been getting some traction. Some equipment has been found thanks to the tools, such as hospital beds. Hospital beds are extremely difficult to transport and store, so we try to connect recipient and donor. We've been able to do this a few times. While there is still work to be had with our digital presence, various agencies in our service area sometimes assist in spreading the word about our services by sharing posts.
- An individual has volunteered to assist us with our Information and Referral program. She has been a big help and has been going through our various service brochures and information packets and helping us keep information timely and relevant.
- Options staff met with two individuals, Andy and Diana visiting from Viet-Nam and Papua who are participating in the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative program (YSEALI) and provided information on Disability Awareness and how to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in the programs they are running in their home countries. Andy is developing an entrepreneurial program for young women and Diana runs a private school teaching English. They also were provided with contact information for local Resource Centers for Independent near their home cities.
- A person with terminal cancer needed to have her bathroom made more accessible in order for her husband to assist her with her activities of daily living. The Consumer and Options staff worked on funding with ND Housing Financing Agency to obtain the funding need which will assist her to be independent as long as she can.
- Options staff has assisted several individuals when disability has struck by helping them make application for Social Security benefits, information about legal assistance, assisting with community resources while waiting for a determination and by providing advocacy services when requested.
- Options staff has collaborated and networked with agencies in Pembina, Cavalier, Walsh Counties and obtained new referrals in these areas.
- Options continues to assist people setting up their own homes. In one instance we assisted an individual which had come to Grand Forks following their child who is attending a post-secondary educational institution who had nothing. Options assisted

the person to gain access to ND medical assistance, an apartment, furniture, medical equipment, and specialized adaptive equipment. We accomplished this through various funding sources and community benevolent organizations.

- Another person who was from a rural ND city out of Options service area found themselves receiving rehabilitation services within Options service area. The person requested our help in assisting to set in place disability related services so she could move back to the town she came from.
- Provide information to person who needs assistance with effective communication as they are applying for new a driver's license after moving from another state. We discussed how to request the necessary accommodations in order to be successful.
- A person which has been a regular attendee in a cooking class Options conducts in Devils Lake has been learning various cooking skills such as following recipes, zesting lemons, grating cheese etc. The person recently has moved to Minot to participate in the Job Core's, culinary arts training. The person reported to Options staff person that their interest in this area grew out of the classes Options held. Options Devils Lake staff person has been conducting this class for the last nine years.
- Various trainings were conducted at Mt Brooke, a day activity center, for persons with mental illness. The trainings included information about Mental Health Awareness which involved learning how to recognize early warning signs of negative changes to your mental health and when to ask for help. Additionally people were instructed about Assertiveness. The main tenant of the training was knowing the difference between passive and aggressive behaviors.
- A 1.5 hr training was developed and provided on Service Animals (ADA), Emotional Support Animals (Fair Housing Act/Air Carriers Access Act) and access to VA Clinics (Rehabilitation Act of 1973) to 5 VA Clinic Staff members. Besides the lecture written materials such as Service Animal Pocket Guides were included. Attendees discussed the ADA and Fair Housing Act Reasonable Accommodation process for medical/clinical professionals who prescribe service and emotional support animals.
- A staff person participated in Fair Housing Training and Panel Discussion in Fargo, ND with approximately 30 attendees.
- Assisted a person with disability in their request to participate with senior meal and activities. Previously they were requested to stop attending due to behavioral issues. Staff assisted with negotiated the accommodations needed while also outlining and setting boundaries in order to participate.
- A person was assisted with filing an Employment Discrimination complaint with ND Department of Labor/Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).
- Assist a person who was visiting Arizona while on vacation and denied admission to a bar/restaurant for his service animal with information on how to file a complaint.
- Assist person with filing Employment Discrimination complaint with ND Department of Labor/Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

- Assisted 8 individuals and one not for profit with business, home and apartment accessibility design, contractor/vendor lists, reasonable modification request and funding information.
- Provide information on service animals, the Fair Housing Act, automatic door installers for senior center in Larimore, resources for an automatic door opener for an individual's home, home modification, ramp funding, ADA, employment rights, regulations for the installation of automatic doors, access requirements for emergency shelters with a checklist and mail delivery accommodations.
- Review a local ARC site and provide information on how to improve accessibility.
- Participate on a call with the ND Vocational Rehabilitation Quarterly ADA Coordinators meeting sharing resources and information.

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