

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Holicay Inn, Fargo, ND**

**February 20, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Dennis called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm

**Roll Call: Members Present:** Dennis Lyon, Sandra Koffler, Larry Thiele, Erik Williamson, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Nate Aalgaard, Scott Burlingame, Peter Yung, Melvin Erdmann, and Jen Schill.

**Members Absent:** Jamie Hall, Emma Kotzer, Diane Siekaniec and Joan Ehrhardt

**Others Present:** Russ Cusack, DSU; Helen Baumgartner, DSU; Randy Sorenson, CIL Director and LaRae Gustufson, CIL

**Approval of Minutes:** Erik made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Trevor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** RSA informed the DSU of an increase in IL funding over and above the COLA, amounting to \$9,292. A statement needs to be drafted informing RSA how North Dakota would like to have the amount above COLA distributed to the CILs. The CIL Directors will work on this tonight and present some information to the SILC tomorrow to assist in drafting a recommendation to RSA.

**Old Business:** SILC meeting at Spirit Lake in November: Larry stated that Nancy Robertson, Tribal Secretary, enjoyed the part of the meeting that she attended. Dennis will send Nancy a Thank You letter for her presence at the meeting. A discussion was held on who we could have come in to speak on the three focus areas in the SPIL and develop a partnership with them to reach out to people with disabilities in these three areas. It was highly recommended that a County Veteran Service Officer come in to speak at one of our meetings.

Dennis presented a t-shirt to Rod which he picked up at SILC Congress. This was presented to him for his work as the former SILC President.

**Speaker:** Sara Weiderholt, SEHSC, presented information on services to the Homeless. She handed out brochures on the PATH Program – Project Assisting Transition for the Homeless. Qualifications for the program required a diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse or mental health only, and being homeless. Sara has 12 years of experience working with the homeless. Her primary goal is to make sure people's basic needs are met – have food, clothing, and things they need while staying in a shelter. Sara works a lot to get accessible, affordable housing for people. There is an 18 month housing wait list at this time. She helps people apply for Social Security and helps people navigate the system to acquire the services they need. Last year, there were 972 homeless people in the state, half of which live in Fargo. Of the 972, 189 of them are younger than 18 years of age. Thirty one percent of the homeless have moved to ND to find employment. Thirty five percent of the homeless have a mental illness. People in the shelter are up by 7:00, have a chore to do and are out in the community during the day. They received one meal at the Salvation Army. They need to find their own lunch. Some are out looking for jobs or going to job interviews. Sara tried to build a support system into the treatment of the addiction or mental health issues. People are allowed to stay in a shelter for 45 days, then can apply for an extension. A person can then go to another shelter if housing has not been found. Sara does use the Center for Independent Living in the Fargo region to assist in accessing some of the resources in the community. Freedom has also helped with people who fall through the cracks in assisting them to get back into the community. Renae from Heidi Heidtcamp's office was present for a portion of the afternoon.

**Committee Breakout Meetings:** The three committees met separately at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

**Governance:** In Royce's absence, Jen reported for this committee. She requested that everyone complete the Conflict of Interest Statement and the Self Assessment tonight and turn them in tomorrow morning. Shannon Simonson from Minot has decided to resign. Her position in Minot is open. Scott has a couple of people in mind he will be asking to fill out an application. The Committee had a discussion on future speakers. The Veteran's County Service Officer from Bismarck will be asked to speak at our next meeting in May.

**External Affairs:** Ideas for future speakers included Disability Coordinators, Transportation Coordinators and County Veteran's Service Officers. A report from the Mobility Managers should be requested updating the SILC on the progress of the statewide transportation system. Scott will talk with the DSU regarding how to move forward with development of a website. Will be reviewing all SILC materials for possible updates.

**Internal Affairs:** Discussed ways to do outreach to the three focus groups in the SPIL. A news story on the services provided by the CILs for the DAV newsletter would go out statewide. Jen volunteered to submit a picture and article to the Fargo Forum with information about the SILC meeting held this month in Fargo. To provide information in the area of transition, it was suggested that the Transition Coordinator from Independence, Inc, and the VR transition VR Counselor present to the SILC at our next meeting in Minot. Russ spoke on the Teacher Internship Program offered by VR during the summer. One of the teachers who have gone through the program, along with the VR State Office staff person could give a presentation on the program at one of our SILC meetings. On March 23 – 25, the Veteran's County Service Officer Training is in Bismarck. Dennis will contact Royce to see if one of both of them could attend this training to provide information on what the CILs provide.

#### **Friday, February 21, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Dennis called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm

**Roll Call: Members Present:** Dennis Lyon, Sandra Koffler, Larry Thiele, Erik Williamson, Trevor Vannett, Rod Gillund, Nate Aalgaard, Scott Burlingame, Peter Yung, Melvin Erdmann, and Jen Schill.

**Members Absent:** Jamie Hall, Emma Kotzer, Diane Siekaniec and Joan Ehrhardt

**Others Present:** Russ Cusack, DSU; Helen Baumgartner, DSU; Randy Sorenson, CIL Director and LaRae Gustufson, CIL, and Amy Long from Senator Heidi Heidtcamp's office.

**Speaker:** Nate introduced Tyler Axtness, employee of Freedom and Representative from the Fargo area. Tyler spoke on the success of the last Legislative session for people with disabilities. This included the additional \$800,000 allocated to the CILs, Medicaid Expansion, the Autism waiver, re-established the Governor's Council on Employment of People with Disabilities, the mandatory reporting of Vulnerable Adults, Recreation for People with Disabilities in Bottineau, etc. There is a study in progress for one year to determine the need of Home and Community Based Services. Items that Tyler is looking forward to working on in the next session are Medicaid reimburse for transportation, a balance between HCBS and long term care and dealing with the huge energy issue. He recommended that the CILs continue to work on increasing their funding so that services can be delivered statewide. Email or a phone call is the recommended way to contact your Senators and Representatives. Chain letters are noneffective ways to get a response from a Senator or Legislator.

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

**Randy:** See attached report

**Scott:** See attached report

**Nate:** See attached report

**Royce:** See attached report

Scott made a motion to send a Thank you letter to Senator Heidi Heidtcamp's office expressing our gratitude for sending two staff members to our SILC meeting, seconded by Trevor. Motion carried. Trevor made a motion to have the Congressional staff and Governor invited to every SILC meeting, seconded by Erik. Motion passed.

**Part C Allocation:** Randy presented a draft of a proposed allocation of the additional \$9,292 in Part C funds. Melvin made a motion to submit the proposed allocation to RSA, seconded by Trevor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Melvin gave the Treasurer's Report. Peter made a motion to approve, seconded by Rod. Motion carried.

**SRC Meeting:** Rod gave a report on the January 10<sup>th</sup> SRC meeting held via polycom. Lynn Derman presented a budget report. There was a request for Lynn to report on the OB Program, Randolph Sheppard and Social Security Reimbursement at each quarterly meeting. There are no longer people on the waiting list for VR services. In evaluation the Strategic Plan, the performance measures have all been met or exceeded except in the Employment goal which was due to Order of Selection. The SRC is working on becoming compliant with the 51% of membership having a disability. Right now there are more people who do not have a disability. The SRC would like to have public testimonials at each quarterly meeting from VR clients as they have had in the past.

**Region 8 SILC Conference Call:** Stephanie Jensen from Wyoming spearheads a monthly conference call to discuss any topics of concern among the members present on the call. In November, there was a discussion on services to people on reservations. ND shared their upcoming meeting at Spirit Lake. All on the call were interested in how it was planned and the outcome. In December, a discussion was held on how each state does their public comment forums for the SPIL. Also discussed information entered into the 704 report. In February only 2 people were able to take part in the conference call. Stephanie recently sent out information that an ILRU representative would be able to facilitate a regional face to face meeting in Denver in April. She was gathering information from the states as to who would be able to participate. Rod made a motion that we participate in a regional training led by ILRU in Denver, seconded by Jen. Motion carried.

**SILC Congress:** Dennis reported on his attendance at SILC Congress in San Diego from January 18 – 21. The first day was spent talking about the Rehabilitation Act. Discussed the pros and cons of SILC Congress becoming a nonprofit organization. RSA spoke on the roles and responsibilities of the DSU. A Technical Assistance circular was sent out by RSA on this topic. Another will be coming out regarding SILC Assignments. There was a discussion on providing emergency services to people with disabilities. An area that we may want to focus on when we write out next SPIL is Emergency Preparedness for people with disabilities in our state. Nate informed the group there is a grant to do Emergency Preparedness Training in MN. SILC Congress will be in San Diego again next year.

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

**Conflict of Interest Statement:** The question was asked as to whether the paperwork signed by each Council member from the Governor's Office is sufficient for Conflict of Interest or if another form needs to be signed. The Governance Committee will check to see if the additional form is necessary. Dennis will be asking at each meeting "How we know what we are doing is of value in the community?"

**Adjournment:** Rod made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm.