

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Holiday Inn, Fargo
Tuesday, November 01, 2016**

Call to Order: Chairperson Rodney Gillund called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Shannon Binstock, Scott Burlingame, Melvin Erdmann, Rodney Gillund, Brittney Hogan, Emma-Leigh Kotzer, Dennis Lyon, Royce Shultze, Diane Siekaniec, Larry Thiele, Trevor Vannett, Erik Williamson, Peter Yung

Members Absent: Bill Willis

Others Present: Nate Aalgaard, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen, Rebecca Haas

Agenda: Royce Shultze made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Melvin Erdmann. Motion passed.

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

Correspondence: Elizabeth Akinola, the regional representative from the Administration of Community Living (ACL), has reached out to the SILCs within the region and noted that she is open to questions or communication from the SILC. The SPIL has been approved. ACL awarded three grants for the Native American Independent Living Demonstration Project. Bob Williams with the Independent Living Administration has e-mailed Chairperson Rodney Gillund to notify Independent Living grantees that ACL Reporting will soon be available for submission of plans and performance reports.

Treasurer's Report: Melvin Erdmann reviewed the treasurer's report. He is tracking the expenses for the quarterly meetings.

Erik Williamson motioned to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Emma-Leigh Kotzer. Motion passed.

Future expenses will include sending a member to SILC Congress and the ongoing quarterly meetings.

Brittney Hogan made a motion to send one SILC member to SILC Congress which is scheduled for January 17-20, 2017. Royce Schultze seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brittney Hogan and Shannon Binstock expressed interest in attending. No other members expressed interest.

Erik Williamson motioned to send Brittney Hogan and Shannon Binstock to SILC Congress. Emma-Leigh Kotzer seconded the motion. Royce Schultze recommended a change to the motion to have Brittney Hogan to be the first choice if the budget only

allows one member to attend and Erik Williamson seconded the motion change. Motion change passed. Motion passed as changed.

Randy Sorensen mentioned that most states bring a basket of state goods for a raffle that is held during the training. Interested SILC members can contribute funds up to \$5.00 each for the purchase of Pride of Dakota goods.

Training Needs Assessment and Council Member Self-Assessment Report: The training needs assessment and council member self-assessment were e-mailed to members last week. Copies of the training needs assessment were available at the meeting and members completed the assessment. The Governance Committee will provide a short report tomorrow and further analyze the results at a later date. The Council Member Self-Assessment is utilized for the 704 report and it is requested the report be returned to Nate Aalgaard in the next few weeks.

Defining Nursing Home Transition and Prevention: Scott Burlingame provided copies of the definitions that have been previously used for relocation/transition, diversion, and prevention. The External Affairs Committee will review the definitions during committee breakouts and provide further information during the committee reports tomorrow.

Scott Burlingame motioned to start the quarterly directors' reports early as the meeting was ahead of schedule. Trevor Vannett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Quarterly Directors' Reports:

Randy Sorensen for Options Resource Center: See attached.

Scott Burlingame for Independence, Inc.: See attached.

Royce Schultze for Dakota Center for Independent Living: See attached.

Ms. man transit are proposing making changes in their fixed route and paratransit system. On the paratransit side they are proposing doing away with the 24/7 service because of a loss in federal funds. The current proposal is from 5:30 AM until midnight with extended services from 7 PM till midnight Monday through Saturday in this would also include availability to the public. Sunday hours would be 7:30 AM until 2:30 PM and limited hours on holidays. DCIL along with other providers and consumers have attended three public forums to give input on the proposed changes. We have also hosted meetings at our office with providers and consumers to talk about the changes and how they would affect riders. Consumers wrote letters to the city commission opposing the changes. As of the time of the SILC meeting no changes have went into effect.

We're trying to work with the Department of Transportation to see if they would include an insert with the parking placards that would show there is no parking in the diagonal striping of accessible parking spots.

We have transitioned 15 individuals from nursing facilities through Money Follows the Person.

Our Empowerment Committee made up of our consumers along with staff planned our consumer appreciation supper.

Staff participated in the Veterans Stand Down to talk about our services.

Staff participated in the Legislative Training Institute. This training taught the process of how a bill becomes law, the legislative process – participants were senators, representatives and governor. Staff also sat on a legislative panel to share experiences working with the legislature and different committees.

Staff continue going out with our assistive technology display to senior centers and any other place I would like to have it.

Nate Aalgaard for Freedom Resource Center: See attached.

Due to new funding from Minnesota, Freedom is in the process of adding four new employees. One will be the Resource Specialist and work out of the Fargo office. Six staff members attended the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living national conference in October. The lease is coming up for the Fargo office at the end of December. Freedom will most likely stay at the current location. Accessibility advocacy continues with the Fargodome. Their parking and accessible seating are not up to ADA standards. Freedom held its annual art show with over 60 contributors. It was once again well-received by those in attendance. The organization has experienced quite a bit of trouble with its phone service in the past few months. They are trying to remedy the situation. Four new Board members recently joined Freedom. That brings the total up to 14. Freedom has been involved in numerous community activities including the Aging and Disability Conference, training for businesses on the ADA and aging in place issues, disaster preparedness, and ongoing collaboration and networking. Freedom's next big event will be the annual Giving Hearts Day fund-raiser on February 9.

Vocational Rehabilitation Report: Peter Yung discussed changes with vocational rehabilitation as a result of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). One mandate within WIOA is that 15% of the federal budget must be spent on services for transition students, defined as high-school or post-secondary students between the ages of 14 and 21. The Minot region has seven vocational rehabilitation counselors who serve 35 schools. In order to provide adequate services to all of the students, there are contracts with some of the schools within the region. Independence, Inc. provides pre-employment transition services to some of the rural schools and Rehab Services, Inc. is providing services to the Minot schools. Peter expanded on the Section 511 subminimum wage reviews. Most of the individuals interviewed have expressed a desire to stay working at their current place of employment; a few have expressed interest in exploring alternative options and have been referred to VR. Individuals under the age of 24 who are not already working in subminimum wage will not be able to go directly into subminimum wage employment without being determined too severe for competitive employment by DVR. Another change implemented as part of WIOA is the requirement to assist individuals in writing an employment plan within 90 days of the eligibility determination. Peter explained that ND continues to be on order of selection, but has all categories open.

Committee Breakouts: All committees had breakout sessions.

The meeting recessed for the day following the committee breakouts.

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

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 Kotzer, Dennis Lyon, Royce Shultze, Diane Siekaniec, Larry Thiele, Trevor Vannett, Erik Williamson, Peter Yung

Members Absent: Bill Willis

Others Present: Nate Aalgaard, Russ Cusack, LaRae Gustafson, Randy Sorensen

APRIL Membership Application: Rebecca Haas reviewed the APRIL application. Scott Burlingame has volunteered to assist with the application.

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs: Brittney Hogan provided a report. Chairperson Rodney Gillund serves on the SRC and his term with the SILC will end on 4/30/2017. A new member will need to be appointed at the next meeting. Trevor Vannet expressed interest in serving on the SRC. Brittney also reported on the 2014-2016 SPIL goal two, objective B1. Reports on accessible housing will be provided from Scott Burlingame and an employee from Options, Inc. Royce Schultze will provide a report on the transportation meetings he has been attending.

External Affairs: Scott Burlingame provided a report. The committee discussed the definitions of relocation and transition. They will put together a written document with definitions to be voted on at the next meeting. Scott also discussed the 704 report that is due at the end of January. The committee chairs will work with the SILC Liaison to complete the report.

Future planning was also discussed based on the new SPIL. In future meetings representatives from culturally diverse groups will be invited to speak to the group about their needs and concerns. Shannon Binstock will make a request to various related listserv groups and notify the council about upcoming meetings regarding housing, transportation, and employment. During the upcoming SPIL cycle, each CIL should be visited once. Nate asked the group if the SILC would put together information to distribute during the upcoming legislative session. The CIL Directors and Brittney Hogan will put some information together. The committee will put together a press release summarizing the number of individuals served (based on the 704 report) and the information will be shared in a press release or fact sheet. Sharing personal stories in addition to numbers served and direct service numbers are an important part of educating the legislators. Sharing information on cost saving programs such as equipment programs and Medicare D is also important. The CIL Directors and External Affairs will develop a fact sheet. Scott Burlingame will put together a press release and submit to Rebecca Haas to announce Shannon Binstock's addition to the SILC.

Governance: Royce Shultze provided a report. The SILC is looking for representatives from the Fargo region and an individual who represents a reservation. The individual representing

the reservation does not have to be a 121 director. P&A was going to distribute information to the reservations to see if any individuals were interested in applying. Four members (Scott Burlingame, Rodney Gillund, Emma-Leigh Kotzer, and Peter Yung) will be ending their second term in March or April 2017. As the directors of Options and Freedom live in Minnesota, they can appoint an employee from their CIL who lives in ND to serve in their role. Trevor Vannett's first term ends on 3/31/2017. He expressed a desire to serve a second term.

Royce Schultze made a motion to reappoint Trevor Vannett for a second term, seconded by Dennis Lyon. Motion carried.

Royce Shultze reported on the results of the SILC self-assessment. Royce will provide a written summary. Council members can submit ideas to Royce for updating the assessment in the future. Discussion was held regarding how to help new members learn about their roles and responsibilities. As there will be a significant number of new members joining the council in April, a new member training will be planned in August in coordination with the regularly scheduled meeting.

Current Disability Issues: Senator Tyler Axness has been serving in the Senate and on the Human Services Committee for the past 4 years. He was recently appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Interim Human Services Committee. If elected for another term he will be looking for ways to manage the current fiscal challenges. During the upcoming legislative cycle, he encouraged the SILC to share information about programs that save the state money and expressed the importance of advocating. In addition to sharing cost saving facts, it is important to share personal stories about how programs have benefited individuals. When testifying, individuals should also provide a written summary of their testimony. Protection and Advocacy shares important information about the status of current legislation and individuals are encouraged to follow this information.

Scott Burlingame asked how to address state law changes to comply with WIOA. Senator Axness encouraged the SILC to work with legislative council to draft bills regarding the necessary changes. If the SILC experiences challenges with this process, Senator Axness offered to assist.

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State Rehabilitation Council (SRC): Chairperson Rodney Gillund provided a report. The SRC met in September and the VR annual training was held October 26-28. Topics at the SRC meeting included a budget report, presentation by IPAT, a presentation on transition services, and an update on WIOA by Russ Cusack.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities: Trevor Vannett provided a report. The last meeting was in September and the council was awarded their federal grant. They are

changing the grant cycle of this year as the federal funding was delayed. Julie Horntvedt is the new executive director.

Monthly Region 8 Conference Call: Chairperson Rodney Gillund provided a report. Calls are held once per month and this is a safe place to ask questions of the group. Future meeting topics will include reports on the APRIL conference, SILC Congress, and the NCIL conference. At this time there haven't been any changes to the 704 report. The next call is November 17, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. central time. Trevor Vannett is interested in being informed of the meetings and receiving copies of the meeting minutes.

The next SILC meeting will be held February 1 and 2, 2017, in Grand Forks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Options ND Progress Report November 2016

ADA/Accessibility:

- Assisted 5 individuals with home accessibility design, contractor/vendor and/or funding information.
- Provide technical assistance for two individuals from area churches on accessibility resources
- Provide 8 individuals with information on Fair Housing and/or landlord tenant rights
- Provide 10 individuals or organizations with information on rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act including employment rights, effective communication responsibilities and general architectural accessibility requirements.

Trainings Provided:

- Heidi worked with the “Agency Roundtable Committee” in Devils Lake to sponsor the second annual Accessibility Workshop for agencies/businesses/programs. The attendance was doubled this year from last year with attendees with 25 participants from multiple agencies and self-advocates. Presentations were on the Updated ADA Guidelines by Corey from Options. Accommodating Consumers with Hearing or Visual Impairments and Service Animals vs. Emotional Support Animals also presented. The training is now going to be an annual event and may expand to an all day workshop.
- Provide training to approximately 64 individuals in Minot on Service Animal and Emotional Support Animal rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.
- Heidi presented on Emergency Preparedness to the Devils Lake TBI support group which continues to meet monthly.
- Mike presented to 35 New Americans at the Lutheran Social Services office in Grand Forks. Options services and philosophy were discussed with people from Bosnia, Somalia, and Nepal.

Outreach Activities:

- Options held a Focus Group in Harvey and Cavalier with individuals who have disabilities to see what we can plan for Options services within the community.
- Heather conducted a presentation on Options to the CDMA (Central Dakota Ministerial Association). They would like to work with Options and continue assisting as needed with funding if possible.
- Heidi continued collaboration with Spirit Lake Employment & Training Office to assist people with Social Security applications and questions. To date, ten applications for SSI or SSDI have been completed. Three individuals are now receiving Social Security Retirement, one individual has applied for Federal retirement benefits, five other general Social Security questions researched and answered, one vulnerable adult report filed & followed up with and one puppy rescued.
- Kate and Heidi are participating with the ASPIRE referrals providing the “Financial Readiness Program” training with transition youth and families. ASPIRE is the “Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment” program out of NDCPD in Minot.

- Heather participated in “Bullying Awareness” day at Harvey School educating 204 students on bullying prevention.
- Heather is serving on both Eddy and Wells County Emergency Planning committees. Each county comprised of fire, ambulance, police members, plus community providers to develop a strategic plan to handle a multitude of emergencies.

Recreation:

- Dave held his 30th “ Annual Dance” for individuals with disabilities, 175 attended and had a great time.
- Options sponsored the “21 Annual Deer Hunt” in October at Rydell National Refuge. Eighteen hunters with disabilities participated in the three day hunt with 4 deer harvested.

Community Involvement:

- ND Brain Injury Advisory Council meeting
- Brain Injury Providers Coalition meeting in Devils Lake
- Participate in Greenway Planning committee regarding accessibility issues.
- Participate in Housing Coalition group planning for Housing First project in Grand Forks
- Participate in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks MPO Pedestrian and Bike route meetings
- Participate in VA Resource Group Meeting
- Staff serve on High Plains Fair Housing Board meetings
- Staff participated in regional and State Transition Meetings
- Staff serve on Eddy and Wells Counties Emergency Planning Committees

Relocation/Diversions:

- ND: 25 relocations for fiscal year with 10 being MFP
- ND: 5 diversions
- MN: 18 relocations
- MN: 4 diversions

Independence Inc.

Directors Report-SILC

Scott Burlingame, Executive Director

Since July 1st, we have had 4 people resign, and one more who took maternity leave. This has led us to being in a “survival mode” for much of the past few months. Most of the people, who left, left for jobs out of our area. We have been working to fill the positions, but have struggled to find qualified people with the skill set we are looking for.

Community Services

We have recently hired Taylor Hiene as our new Community Relations Specialist. She is primarily responsible for our public relations, community education, outreach and systems advocacy.

We have been spending a lot of time trying to improve how we communicate with the people we serve and the community at large. Our goal is to develop a multi-system communication system that gets information to where people are at.

We will be holding our 7th annual Independent Living Fair on November 16th at the Holiday Inn Riverside.

Individual Services:

- During the past year, we assisted 15 people in transitioning from a nursing home into the community.
- We are currently providing Youth Transition Services through our BEYOND program in 6 schools as part of our partnership with our local Special Ed Co-ops and VR. We are looking forward to this program continuing to grow.
- Our staff continues to work with APRIL and the University of Montana on developing a new Healthy Community Living curriculum and replacing what was once known as Living Well with a Disability.
- Our youth group, YADA, has been working on a couple of different community projects for this fall. They are doing a toy drive and a food drive.
- We have had to change our consumer satisfaction system this year. In the past, we have found it most effective to call people and ask them the questions on our survey. However, this year, because we have been serving more people with mental health issues, we have found the numbers we have are often not reliable. For this year, we have sent out letters, however, we are going to continue to reevaluate what to do and how to better gather information from those we serve.

Other:

On Thursday, Oct. 27th, our board and staff held a strategic planning session to lay out our next 3-5 years. The overall feeling was we are doing some really good things as an organization; however, our good services are constantly at risk because of issues beyond our control. There were three basic themes that emerged from the session that we can do to minimize organizational risk and ensure that we are able to provide our services uninterrupted.

1. In order to remain a viable organization, we must find alternative funding sources that can help us to provide our core services.
2. We must do a better job at encouraging people with disabilities to become engaged in their communities. This included developing an effective Peer Mentoring program and consumer led advocacy movement. We feel this is our best tool to encourage real systems change.
3. We need to begin a capital fund in order to eventually purchase our own building.