



SILC Meeting

January 17, 2016

Helena, MT

The meeting was opened at 9:10 AM by the Chair, Monique Casbeer.

Members present: Tami Hoar, Rosemary Hughes, Trinity Martel, Michelle Williamson. Via phone Joe Moll

Members Excused: Mary Olson was at SILC Congress. Allison Smith was at a MYLF Mini conference.

Staff Present: Jim Marks, Bill Harant

Guests: Via phone; Tom Osborn, Mike Mayer

DETD Update: Jim Marks began his remarks by stating that a continuing resolution is in place at the federal level for the budget until February, after the new administration is seated. At the state level lots of cuts to the state budget are proposed, including to Independent Living, Vocational Rehabilitation, Orientation and Mobility, Long Term Care, etc. Since the Governor's budget was presented, an additional \$40 million was found in the state coffers. Most of the funding for DETD is federal money. While state General Fund may be cut, the Federal Part B and 110 grants should be OK. The Orientation and Mobility grant from the General Fund is likely to be eliminated. Extended Employment is expected to be reduced by \$300,000. VR expenses have climbed due to WIOA requirements, Pre-ETS, contracts, the new case management system (MACS), etc. MACs for 2016 has cost \$700,000 and will probably cost as much in 2017. In FY 16 VR applications have more than doubled. Youth services bring additional service needs. In FY16 the Division budget was overspent by \$3.5 million, approximately 30%.

The Order of Selection (OOS) is being implemented. Categories 3 and 2 have been closed and Category 1 is likely to be closed in the near future. OOS is required by federal law and is based on the availability of resources, both financial and human. In addition to OOS, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) may need to be reduced except in the schools.

WIOA requires a rebalancing of VR in the following ways:

1. Services to youth are increased
2. Competitive Integrated Employment
 - a. Section 511 mandates that



- i. No one under age 25 can work at sub-minimum wage unless a number of criteria have been met and VR has signed off (which is unlikely)
- ii. Sheltered Employment, Crew/enclave work will be phased out
- iii. VR is obligated to go to sub-minimum wage workers and offer them the opportunity to move out of segregated, sub-minimum wage employment.

3. Alignment and Workforce development

- a. Direct services to employers
- b. Provide workers to meet employer needs
- c. Assistance for assistive technology
- d. Help make businesses accessible

Trinity asked how OOS Categories are determined. Jim provided examples and explained how VR is changing from a medical one-to-one model to one which is more open.

Currently 80% of state VR agencies or OOS closed. In Montana currently there are about 700 people on the waiting list for VR services.

Jim reminded the council that we will not know for sure where all the cuts will be made until the final gavel comes down on the legislature in April.

DETD will present to the Joint Committee for Appropriations on Health and Human Services on January 27. The public hearing will be on January 30th at 10 AM.

VR has been meeting with WINTAC. They have said the 75% of the states are taking a wait and see attitude with WIOA until states like Montana have fully implemented WIOA. By 2025 Montana unemployment is expected to be at 2%. Montana also has a greying population.

Budget: The budget analyst for DETD resigned at the end of December. The new senior budget analyst began work at the beginning of January and is still getting settled into the job so no budget spreadsheet is available. Otherwise there have been few expenses other than administrative and the brochure printing (\$570).

SILC Business: Due to the holiday season business has been fairly slow. Bill has attended meetings with Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN), Money Follows the Person (MFP), and Joining Community Forces (JCF). The SELN is planning its second annual "Disability Employability Conference" which is scheduled to be held in Helena in May. They are currently looking at several possibilities for key-note speakers as well as the logistics of putting on the event. MFP continues to take referrals but is looking towards the end of the grant period. Efforts are being made at both the state and federal level to extend the MFP grant past its end date of 2019. JCF is continuing its partnership with the VA and other local and state agencies. They are updating the resource card which they provide to Veterans, Service Members and their Families. JCF is also planning for a Resource Fair and the annual Gala, both of which will be held May 20, 2017. They are also planning the annual symposium for some time in August.



The Consumer Satisfaction Needs Assessment Survey has been sent out and an update on the results will be presented later in this meeting.

Organization Reports

APRIL: No report. Mary is at SILC Congress

NCIL: Lots of Action Alerts are being sent out regarding possible legislation including; ACA repeal, Medicare Expansion, ADA issues, etc. During the Fall Board meeting they worked on strategic planning and had the opportunity to tour the Ed Roberts Building at UC Berkley. The building was constructed using universal design features.

MYLF and MY Transitions

The Montana Youth Transitions (MYT) Conference was held in November. About 320 persons attended, 80 of which were youth from a number of schools throughout the state. This was the most attended conference to date. Work has already begun on next year's conference. Those who attended from the SILC concurred that the conference was very good and was run smoothly.

Family training is going well. There have been 2 MYLF Mini events, one in Glendive and one in Havre. Both had 9-12 participants. The next MYLF Mini will be held in Polson. MYLF is scheduled for July as usual. Recruitment has begun and is expected to close by the end of April. Tom described how the MYLF Mini's are organized and presented.

CIL Reports

LIFTT: One IL specialist has been certified to teach financial readiness. She will be working with youth, tribal members, and bank referrals. The IL specialist has also taught wellness based arthritis classes. LIFTT continues to provide Living Well and Working Well with a Disability classes. Peer Support Groups are involved in a number of community events. LIFTT has also been providing Pre-ETS in area schools. Two new board members have been recruited and have been provided with training.

NCILS: They have been busy with ASPIRE activities including training in self-determination. A couple of Living Well with a Disability classes have taken place. Also travel training, VR referrals, Benefits Planning and other activities have taken place. A recently held "Meet Your Legislator" event was attended by 35 consumers and 5 local and state officials.

NCILS has been fairly busy with the new Section 511 contract. They have reached out to 14(c) Certificate holders to prepare them for the interviews. A PowerPoint presentation has been developed to show to workers employed at sub-minimum wage during the Career Counseling Information and Referral (CCIR) interviews. They will be in Havre later this week to make their first presentations and conduct the interviews. There have been some issues with some provider's cooperation. One claims their 14(c)



Certificate will expire in February and will not be renewed. One difficulty in Havre has been getting guardian participation.

Bill asked what Travel Training was. Tom said that it was about transportation options in the community.

Summit: They will be starting an adaptive yoga class at their BASE office. They are working on youth services teaching BALLS classes in 2 Missoula schools as well as in Frenchtown. In Hamilton they will again be teaching semester long classes in transitions including teaching communication skills through improv. BALLS is also being taught at Eagle River School in Lake County. BALLS will also be taught in some Flathead County schools soon. Kalispell has opened the school doors to them and is expected to begin activities soon. There is new staff in Hamilton who will be working in youth transitions. Summit has been working on CRP status to provide more employment services. There have been lots of requests for benefits assistance, especially with SSI. Summit has around 210 consumers in 7 counties.

In advocacy they have been busy with legislative issues. This will be more important than usual because of proposed budget cuts. Summit has been working with Missoula on parking issues. Going forward business will need a permit when resealing/restriping parking lots to ensure that adequate spaces are created for accessible parking. In Hamilton they worked with the city to audit existing accessible parking. Back in Missoula they are working on concerns with roundabouts for those with blind and low vision. A draft document had been created for presentation to the city council regarding these concerns. Parking meter accessibility continues to be another issue they are working on.

A staff member is going to WIPA classes for certification. New staff member, Jessica Vaca is a work readiness and benefits planning specialist.

Summit is just getting off the ground with their Sec. 511 contract and is looking forward to the upcoming training on CCIR that VR will be presenting.

The Women on the Move group is only in Hamilton at this time but is looking at expanding to other locations in Summit's service area.

MILP: No report. Bob is at SILC Congress.

Committee Reports

Competitive Integrated Employment: Has drafted a letter to send out to CRPs, 14(c) Certificate holders, Disability Rights Montana and other interested parties. There is some logistical language that needs to be added to the letter before it is ready to send out. They hope to have a WebEx meeting with these groups and a possible in-person meet sometime in the future to discuss competitive integrated employment. They hope to develop a model such as the one from Vermont as they move forward. In Montana there are 27 or 28 14(c) Certificate holders employing approximately 1202 workers as sub-minimum wage. All of these will receive CCIR interviews under the Sec. 511 contracts. Monique asked



for a motion to authorize the committee to move forward with their plan. The motion was 2nd and passed.

Education Committee: The committee hasn't met recently. The SILC brochures have been reprinted (2000 copies). The Native American version is still in development.

Lunch from 11:10 – 11:45

Public Comments: There were no public comments, however a lively discussion took place regarding struggles with SSI and SSDI applications and continued benefits among those present.

Consumer Satisfaction – Needs Assessment Survey Committee: Rosemary reviewed the survey results with the group and a discussion took place over possible ways to continue improving the survey. In addition the CIL directors spoke about wanting the survey to be sent to more than just those receiving services under the General Fund and Part B grants. In 2016 Summit served 940 total, much more than the number of surveys sent out. Mike said that they would be willing to pay for surveys sent out to those receiving services from other than the General Fund or Part B. Tom agreed with Mike. NCILS had around 800 consumers. We are leaving out half the state by only surveying the GF and B consumers. He suggested the New York model of sampling if sending surveys out to everyone served by the CILs was too much. The committee will need to examine possible alternatives.

SPIL Evaluation Committee: Has not met since October. There has been difficulty getting members on the call. It was suggested that meeting notices with call in information be sent out earlier. The time for the meeting is ok; it's just that folks want to get it on their calendars earlier so they don't make other plans for the time period of the meeting.

Nominations Committee: Monique nominated Trinity as Secretary to replace Lori Gaustad who ended her term in December. There being no other nominations for the position, Trinity was elected to the position.

A discussion was held regarding the recruitment of new members. Two additional members are still needed plus one from a state agency that is not VR. There is a need to review the bylaws for the makeup of the membership. In addition, Allison has yet to make it to a meeting. A letter will need to be drafted to send to her reminding her of attendance requirements. It was suggested that June Hermanson from MYLF could be contacted for help as she mentors Allison. Changes need to be made to the SILC application to more clearly state where to submit the application. Suggestions were made to recruit youth, business members, PCAs and other agencies.

Task Forces

Self-Determination Task Force: Meets every other Wednesday. They are focused on the legislative session. In addition to representative from the SILC and CILs, usually 2-4 representatives from the waiver



programs participate. It is expected that many of the things they have pushed for will not go forward during this legislative session. They are working to reduce the impact of the proposed cuts. They are also working on the Medicaid spend down. The housing bridge fund needs to be re-established. MFP got 1 person transferred into the community under housing bridge. DPHHS did not push for housing bridge during the 2015 session and it was dropped.

Legislative Advocacy Task Force: Meets on Wednesdays opposite Self-Determination Task Force. They provide a point of communication for all the other task forces. Legislative Day activities will take place tomorrow beginning at 9:00 AM at the Hampton Inn before moving to the Capitol Rotunda. Introductions will take place and packets with talking points will be given out. There will also be some role playing to help prepare for interactions with legislators. There will be busses available to transport people to the Capitol beginning around 11:30 AM. The Capitol Shuttle will also be running from the Capitol Hill Mall to the Capitol on a 15 minute rotation. Numerous issues to be covered include HCBS, Mobility and Education cuts, Transportation, IL cuts and more. On January 19th there will be a hearing on HCBS. A number of people will be staying over to participate in that hearing.

Transportation Task Force: Their last meeting was before Christmas. They are working on tax issues, walkability, and other accessibility issues in communities. They will be following any transportation issues that arise during the legislature. NICLS has a peer working on the proposed helmet law. They are working with the Community Living Task Force on walkability and the housing conference in May. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 9:00 AM. Shyla will send Bill the call in info.

Community Living Task Force: No report. They are still trying to re-establish themselves. Some members participated in the housing rally at the Capitol a couple of weeks ago.

Youth and Employment Task Force: In 2015 the MT IL YETF created a work plan with 19 goals. The work plan was drafted as a 3 year plan. Now we have one year left. As the co-chairperson of the MT IL YETF I am pleased to report that the majority of goals have been met or are ongoing. We haven't worked on one project as a task force but each Center for Independent Living and Montana Youth Transition regional group have come together as the MT IL YETF for the work plan goals. The task force meets over conference call on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00a.m.

Goals that are ongoing in the 2015-2018 MT IL YETF include, each Montana Youth Transitional group representative still collaborates with their Community Management Team regarding WIOA and the regional transition groups continue to meet. Two of the CIL's offer benefits planning at a fee for service. Benefits planning is free of charge at MSU Billings now. Another goal is to continue to implement strategies to get more parents and youth engaged and educated in transition and employment. Ways that have been done include the PRE-ETS funding, Open Houses in the school, and Real Life Fairs.

It is a goal of the task force to recruit youth for MYLF, the Transition Conference, and APRIL. In October one youth from Missoula went to the APRIL conference in Reno. The Transition conference that was



held in November at the Radisson in Helena saw a record number of attendee's and youth. A current goal is to support legislation at the 2017 Montana state legislature that would provide ANB funding towards youth with disabilities staying in school until the age of 22. There is a Rep. Kathy Kelker who is going to carry LC164 which will hopefully get turned into a bill. The task force will support LC164. If it becomes a bill it would provide funding to keep the students with disabilities in school until age 22.

Native American Task Force: Has met informally. They have talked with Chris Claspy about recruitment letters and the Native American SILC brochures. Mitch McCabe has expressed interest in the committee. They will need to work some more on the letter before attempting to recruit new members.

Survey Drawing: Names were drawn from each of the CIL regions for a \$25.00 Walmart Gift Card.

NCILS: Lynda Reeve, Great Falls

MILP: Lonnie Howell, Livingston

Summit: Dusty Schrock, Stevensville

LIFTT: Larry Nelson, Billings

Bill will draft a letter and mail the cards to the lucky winners.

Other Business: The legislative calendar was discussed. Rally Day will be held March 22, the day after the next SILC meeting. There are a number of other legislative events coming up that people will want to be aware of. It was suggested that everyone sign up for the Action Alerts put out by the MT CIL Network via email. Legislative hearing and other events can be found on the 2017 Legislature Website. Most of the hearings can be listened to on the web via this site. NCIL also sends out Action Alerts related to National Congressional issues of importance to the disability community. People can sign up to receive these as well.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3:10 PM.