

## Montana Statewide Independent Living Council

### Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2019

Present: Members: Scott Birkenbuel, Jen Cleland, Julie Lane Tudor, Leeanne Beers, Carlos Ramalho, Monique Casbeer, Michelle Williamson

Staff: Bill Harant,

CIL Directors: Mike Mayer, Bob Maffit, Jen Cleland

#### 1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:05. Scott welcomed everyone. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November minutes. They were approved unanimously.

**DETD Report:** Chanda Hermanson-Dudley was unable to make the meeting due to other commitments. Bill said that a few DETD positions have been posted for hire, including Division Administrator.

**SILC Budget Report:** Since October there have been no expenses. There remains \$24,956 in the budget. The budget worksheet is attached to these minutes.

**SILC Business Report:** Bill has been preparing the Program Progress Report (PPR) for ACL. Reservations have been made for Bill, Scott, and Carlos to attend SILC Congress, DPHHS has introduced its new Strategic Plan and posted it to the website.

**Public Comments:** None

#### 2. Task Force Reports

**The Self Determination Task Force:** Continues to meet biweekly on Wednesdays. They have identified a few bills that are priorities. Members of this task force will be testifying before the Senior and Long-Term Care (SLTC) Sub Committee tomorrow and the Health and Human Services sub Committee next week. They encourage SILC members to provide testimony as well. One bill that is being promoted concerns parking accessibility. They would like to see and increase in fines to include encroaching on the entry zone. Other priorities include Community First Choice (CFC), full restoration of funding cuts made during the last legislative session, and housing bridge funding. This

last one hasn't been funded since the 2013 Legislature. SLTC was slow to use the \$400,000 in this fund and didn't prioritize it at the time so it was not renewed. A TransAid revision will be requested to address the distribution of funds. They will also be testifying about the peer support bill.

Mike said that the challenge being faced is not with DETD but with SLTC and DPHHS administration communication or lack thereof. He also expressed concerns about the Order of Selection (OoS). Consumers who were VR clients some time ago are finding that VRBS can't access their records for past employment services, so they are unable to establish these services for other needed services.

**Legislative Advocacy Task Force:** Legislative and Rally Days are later in the session this year, March 27 and April 10 respectfully. They are finding that Legislators are well informed about independent living issues.

**Community Living Task Force:** No report

**The Transportation Task Force:** No Report

**Youth and Employment:** No member was present to provide a report; however, their report was sent in and is attached to these minutes.

**Native American Task Force:** They have been focusing on suicide prevention. Kim Spurzem spoke to the committee about suicide prevention efforts being taken by the state. They have also collected contact information for the Native American leaders and legislators in the state and have begun contacting them to participate in a NATF meeting.

### **3. CIL Reports:**

**Summit:** Some of the task force reports cover what Summit has been involved in lately. Since October they have been busy providing youth transition services in Missoula, Kalispell, and Hamilton. All three high schools in Missoula have been accessed. WRAP has been offered in one Missoula high school. In Hamilton they have done a one semester class offering transition resources. The high school there would like to see youth transition classes offered to Freshmen and Sophomores. BALLS has been taught in Columbia Falls. Outside of the schools in Missoula they have been involved in community groups and with the city on the master plan focusing on accessibility issues. Finally, a new IL specialist has been hired.

**MILP:** Like Summit MILP has been very busy. In November and December, they lost their fiscal staff, so they are rebuilding that section. They are involved in litigation with the Department of Transportation (MDOT) over TransAid, arguing that MDOT is not following legislative intent. MILP continues to work with local transportation services in Helena and Bozeman. In Butte they have received cooperation for a para-transit van. They have been very busy with O&M. Efforts will be made during this legislative session to encourage continued funding for O&M. Work is also being done in Kalispell. MILP has received a grant from NCIL to develop a sled hockey program. Traditional IL services continue as well. Proposals are being drafted for youth transition services in Bozeman. In Helena two part-time IL specialists have been hired who have experience. They are joining with the other CILs to develop a Montana Association of CILs. Joel Pedan is on administrative leave to lobby for IL during the legislative session. They've lost about \$500,000 in Medicaid changes which equates to about 2000 hours a pay period lost. Like the SILC they are working on completing their PPR which is due January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NCILS:** No report.

**LIFTT:** They have submitted their PPR. It was a struggle to complete. Even with a reduction in service hours they still were able to provide effective services in their communities. A couple of new board members have been recruited who have extensive IL experience. A Jingle and Mingle event was held in December. About 50 people participated, including 5 or 6 legislators. A young adult program has been started and family members are included. It has lots of peer support. An art group has also begun and is going well. LIFTT will be increasing staffing and space soon. The issues with the board have not changed. They're hoping the new board members will help bring about change.

**4. Legislative and Rally Days:** The dates for these events are March 27<sup>th</sup> for Legislative Day and April 10 for Rally day.

**5. Nominations:** Three people have applied for membership. The council reviewed their applications and recommend all three for membership.

Beverly Berg – will replace Tracey Carlyon-Sanders as the VR representative

Lisa Allensworth and Scott Williamson will also be recommended to the governor for appointment to the SILC.

- 6. Bylaws:** A discussion was held for updating the Bylaws. Carlos has submitted a draft with the updates in it. Most updates involve changing the language to reflect WIOA compliance. These include agency changes, DSU to DSE, etc. A motion to approve the updates was made and seconded. The new Bylaw updates were approved by unanimous vote.
- 7. Policies and Procedures:** Carlos had also written up a draft for the policies and procedures that the committee had been working on. After a review by the membership a motion was made and seconded to approve the Policies and Procedures as written. A vote was taken, and the Policies and Procedures were approved.

**8. Other Business:**

A 501c3 Committee was formed. Monique, Carlos, Scott and Bill will develop a plan for forming a 501c3 for the SILC. This will include costs, consulting a business plan, etc. While working on the SILC Policies and Procedures Carlos also drafted a Bylaws for the SILC as a 501c3. The committee will meet several times before the May SILC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM. There will be no meeting tomorrow.

**Next meeting: May 23-24 held in conjunction with the SRC in Helena.**