

DRAFT OF MINUTES

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 20, 2012 WILDERNESS ROOM, COLONIAL BUILDING
HELENA, MONTANA**

Members Present: Robert Bushing, SILC Chairperson, Troy Spang, Dick Trerise, Monica Garrahan, Chris Cragwick, Jim Brown, Michelle Williamson

Members Absent: Bob Maffit, Donell Neiss, Peggy Williams, June Hermanson, and Gerald Hutch

Staff and Visitors present: Mike Mayer, Tom Osborn, Joe Burst, Tami Hoar, Jim Marks, Julie Clay, Kathy Brook, Scott Williamson, and Mike Mayer's driver

Introductions and Welcome: Mr. Bob Bushing, SILC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30am. The minutes of the previous meeting, on March 23, 2012, were distributed before the July meeting for review. Ms. Garrahan made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Trerise. The minutes were approved.

Update of Disability Employment and Transitions Division:

- Jim Marks reported that Disability Employment and Transitions Division is the new name of the division. It is one of twelve divisions in the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and it includes the IL program, Blind and Low Vision, Vocational Rehabilitation, Montana Telecommunications Access Program, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, and Transportation Coordinator.
- The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program makes an immediate difference in the lives of people with disabilities. This program provided benefits planning to people on Social Security to help them understand the impact of employment on their Social Security benefits. VR and IL need to work together to help sustain this program.
- In Congress, Tom Harkin, a friend of the disability community, has presented a bill to support the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant requests are due August 8, 2012. These monies will help people move out of nursing homes and institutions and into their own communities. Montana is applying for a MFP grant.

- The Executive Planning Process (EPP) has started. DPHHS has submitted recommendations to the Governor's office for items to be included in the Governor's budget to be considered by the 2013 Legislature. The areas that affect people with disabilities are: funding to continue the MYTransitions Program, providing an IL Symposium, funding the Montana Telecommunications Program, and expanding the Older Blind and Low Vision program due to population increase.

Old Business:

Nominations: A motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Spang to recommend Mr. Tom Osborn serve as the Centers for Independent Living Directors' representative to the SILC. All were in favor. A letter will be sent to Mr. Jim Marks then forwarded to Ms Anna Whiting Sorrell and then on to the Governor's Office for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Garrahan and seconded by Mr. Spang to recommend the following SILC members serve a second term on the SILC: Ms June Hermanson, Mr. Jim Brown and Ms. Michelle Williamson. These members need to complete and submit applications on the Governor's website.

Mr. Brown suggested that the SILC hold their meetings in the evening, so those who can't take time off from work to attend SILC meeting could become involved.

New Business:

Self-Advocacy Training: Mr. Cragwick spoke regarding a self-advocacy training he had attended in Seattle during May regarding people moving out of institutions.

CIL Director Reports:

- Mr. Osborn, NCILS, reported on funding for the WIPA program that has been discontinued. The centers are working with Vocational Rehabilitation which will fund benefits analysis for its clients.
- Ms. Hoar, MILP, reported on transportation training to be presented by Billy Alton, August 1, 2012. MILP will be launching a Certified Deaf Services Program with Kryss Kuntz, MILP IL Specialist taking the lead.
- Mr. Mayer, SUMMIT, reported that Mike Beers, youth coordinator for Summit, is looking to have high school students receive school credit for taking the "Living Well with Disabilities" class. Justyn Field has completed the DPHHS website pages.
- Mr. Burst, LIFTT, is the newest CIL director in Montana with a strong background in housing. He is working on building collaboration with other

CILS around the state and looking at improving LIFTT's outreach to Eastern Montana.

Governor's Report: Ms. Clay reported on the 2011 Governor's Report.

Legislative Update: Legislative Day is January 25, 2012 and Poster/Rally Day is March 8, 2013. We need to educate candidates regarding the issues: Community First Choice, Money Follows the Person and Task Force issues.

Public Hearing: Jim Marks and Mike Hermanson have been traveling around the state visiting reservations and holding public hearings on Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living.

Summary of MYLF: Ms. Hermanson was unable to attend the SILC meeting. A request will be made to have her email her report to the SILC members.

Guest Speaker- David Spaad, FEMA Region VIII Disabilities Integration Specialist/Advisor, gave a presentation on "Focus on the Inclusive Emergency Management" during lunch. He was accompanied by Ms. Meg Tracy from Missoula. Mr. Spade gave an informative talk regarding preparing for an emergency disaster. He suggested everyone put together two separate containers: one, a quick, "grab and go" with items for 2-3 days, and secondly, a larger container for a month or longer evacuation. Items should include: medications, water, clothing, money, flashlights, non perishable food etc. Community planning needs to be inclusive and accessible for all. Transportation is a key part of this planning, and Mr. Spaad recommended that the disability community become actively involved in this planning. He suggested that the SILC could help lead the way.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Board Involvement Reports and Other Updates:

- Collaboration with the SILC- Mr. Trerise suggested that the SILC and VR Council have a combined ½ day meeting with a shared guest speaker. A suggestion was made that the VR and SILC could work together on transportation issues.
- Montana Association of the Blind- Mr. Marks mentioned that a convention is being planned for November in Missoula.

- CANAR – Mr. Spang reported that a new website was providing better training for the 121 involving 6 of the 7 Montana reservations. Mr. Spang also gave an update regarding the fires in Ashland, MT.
- APRIL- Mr. Maffit's report stated that the conference would be held during the 2nd week of October.
- NCIL- Ms. Hoar reported that some SILC members had attended the conference in June. There was discussion regarding swimming pool accessibility and some discussion about RSA moving out of the Department of Education.
- MAR – Ms. Hoar reported that this conference would be held in West Yellowstone during October 2012.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees: Mr. Bushing reported that each member is encouraged to serve on two SILC committees.

- Bylaws/Budget Committee- Monica Garrahan volunteered to serve on this committee. This committee needs to meet and update the bylaws before the end of the year.
- Ms Clay reported that the SILC had money that needed to be spent by September 30, 2012. An idea was suggested to provide scholarships for youth attending the MYTransitions Conference.
- Executive Committee- Mr. Bushing reported that new members are needed on all SILC committees since some SILC members terms will be ending December 1, 2012.
- SPIL Evaluation Committee- Mr. Bushing reported that this committee needs to meet and begin writing a new three year plan.

Special Committees:

- Autonomy- Mr. Bushing requested that the history of this issue be disseminated to all SILC members for review and a decision needs to be made by September 2012 to bring closure to the issue. Mr. Osborn suggested the SILC hire a person to help with this process.
- Unserved and Underserved Committee- Mr. Spang reported that there was some discussion regarding building a nursing home on the reservation in the Ashland/ Lame Deer area.
- Youth Committee- Mr. Bushing reported that the MYLF banquet was attended by approximately 80 people including parents, delegates and guests. Fifteen delegates attended the Forum this year held at Carroll College in Helena.

Task Force Reports

- Mr. Mayer reported that the Housing Task Force has been working on visitability issues, building codes, parking and curb cuts.
- The Self Determination Task Force has been following the “Money Follows the Person”.
- The Youth Task Force is working on finding ways to restore funding for MYTransitions.
- Ms. Williamson reported that the Native American Task Force is working on getting the various Montana tribes involved. They need to have elder support to start the process. Mr. Burst commented that materials translated into native languages are needed but hard to find. Mr. Trerise mentioned that the Office of Public Instruction is working on a program, Indian Education for All with Mr. Jetti as the contact person.
- Ms. Hoar reported that the Education Task Force was working with the Department of Transportation to remove the word “handicapped” from signs and replace it with “accessible or reserved” both in the private and public sector.

Mr. Bushing, SILC chairperson, encouraged the new SILC members, Dick Trerise and Monica Garrahan, to sign up for the SILC webinar training entitled: “Smooth as SILC”.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Garrahan. All were in favor.