

## Montana Statewide Independent Living Council

### Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2019

Present: Members: Scott Birkenbuel, Carlos Ramahlo, Beverly Berg, Scott Williamson, Leann Beers (called in on Wednesday, Barbara Davis, Julie Lane Tudor)

Staff: Bill Harant, Anna Gibbs, Chanda Hermanson-Dudley

CIL Directors: Tom Osborn, Mike Mayer, Bob Maffit, Carlos Ramhalo

Guests: June Hermanson, Brent Morris, Michelle Williamson, David Hood

#### 1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. Scott welcomed everyone. Carlos noted that the month on the minutes needed to be changed from May to August and that Jim Haney needed to be added to the guests present. Approval of the minutes was delayed until it could be determined whether a quorum was present.

**DETD Report:** Chanda reported on the Order of Selection (OOS) status. Through October 252 applicants have been invited off the waiting list into the VR program. She did not have the number who began an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE). Bob asked about changes needed for OOS to open fully. Chanda stated that the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) partially determines this. The MOE requires 2-year stability of the VR budget. Because of the overspending in FFY 2016 & 2017, the 1<sup>st</sup> penalty year VR had \$1.5 million held back in August 2019. In 2020 the VR grant will be \$3 million less than in previous years. VR is carrying forward \$1.5 – 2 million to cover a part of this. The 2<sup>nd</sup> penalty will hit in 2022 and will be bigger. By October 2020 all penalties will be done. Scott B. asked about projected numbers of applicants coming off of OOS. Chanda replied that there are too many variables to be able to give a number.

Pre-ETS has been set up as a separate bureau. Tammy Hogan has been named the Bureau Chief. A data tech and 3 Pre-ETS specialists are yet to be hired.

DDS has started a Cooperative Ability Investigative Unit in combination with several state agencies including Department of Justice and several law enforcement agencies to look at fraud in their system.

Central Office has hired Joe Weber as the new senior business analyst. Karie Whitlock has been called back as a temporary hire to help with budgeting issues. Interviews have taken place for a second budget analyst. Candidates for Mike Hermanson's Program Manager position were interviewed on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Chief of Field Services position will be posted soon. Sue Anderson retired from her position as admin assistant and Tanya Getz was hired to replace her. Cindy Logan has been hired as a part time admin assistant.

Brent asked about the percentage of people invited off the OOS waiting list who don't initiate an IEP. Chanda stated that about 20% do not go forward with an IEP for a variety of reasons.

**SILC Business Report:** Bill has been working on the Part B contracts for the Centers. Because of the Continuing Resolution we are still waiting on the Notice of Award (NOA) for the Part B grant. He participated in the Joining Community Forces Resource Fair at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. He was able to network with and explain what the SILC is to several dozen people and a number of resource providers. While the rest of the Disability Employment and Transitions staff attended All Staff, Bill attended Wood Badge, a leadership development course offered by Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts) which will benefit him in his SILC program manager position. He will begin working on several annual reports due the end of December, such as the Program Progress Report (PPR) formerly called the 704 Report, and the Governor's Report.

**SILC Budget Report:** The Budget Report is attached to the minutes. There are some underspent funds remaining in the SILC budget. The funds allotted to the CILs are expected to be entirely spent down. The budget analysts will be working to determine exactly how much remains to be spent.

**Public Comments:** LIFTT has hired a new Finance Director who will begin work November 10<sup>th</sup>. A conversation began about membership and quorums and doing SILC business with such low membership. The Bylaws need to be looked at regarding this. A question asked was do the Bylaws need an amendment to cover extraordinary measures when there is a shortage of voting members on the Council. It was decided that at the next SILC meeting an amendment to change the Bylaws to allow for voting in extraordinary measures would be put forth. Article 11 of the Bylaws states how to do this. There needs to be at least 10 days' notice before the next meeting to make the requested changes to the Bylaws.

After a review of the Bylaws it was decided that a quorum does exist for this meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the August minutes with corrections. The August Minutes were approved unanimously.

Brent asked about gathering together for a symposium. There has been one in the past. There was a separate meeting for SPIL Development. Julie moved to contribute SILC funds to a one-day workshop to begin working on the SPIL. Barbara seconded the motion. Chanda stated that if there were carry over funds from this year's budget that they needed to be spent prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>. If a SPIL workshop were to happen it would have to take place before December 31, 2019. The motion was amended to state that, pending budget clarification as to funding availability and time constraints, the SILC would contribute 50% of the cost of a SPIL workshop. Scott W. seconded the motion amendment. The motion was passed. Scott B and Bill will work on setting up the workshop.

## 2. CIL Reports

**Summit:** Continuing to teach building advocacy skills at two schools in Missoula. They have also been getting Pre-ETS referrals from their satellite offices. Living Well with a Disability classes have been taking place three times a year. Other IL classes rotate. Summit has presented a grant proposal for expanding youth transition services through BASE. They continue to work on their goal to build a new building in Missoula through grants, fundraisers and a capital campaign. Summit continues to participate in the various Task Forces of the CILs. They are advocating with Missoula for increased accessibility as the city updates its Master Plan. They continue to collaborate with the other CILs and the Rural Institute on building community advocacy in rural areas. They are also working on their PPR.

**mILp:** They are doing things similar to what Summit is doing. Operationally they are nearly fully staffed. mILp is also working on their PPR. The goal is to finish by mid-November. The financial department is being rebuilt. Program wise they are working on access to leisure activities, especially sport. They have developed an adaptive hockey program in Helena, adaptive fishing in Ennis, and are also working on adaptive hunting. The Pre-ETS contract is in place and a Pre-ETS specialist has been hired. A Veteran has been hired to work more with Veterans with disabilities. O&M services continue to be provided though there is more demand than availability of O&M specialists for this program. A 501(c) 3 is being developed to specialize in working with students having low vision and blindness in the schools.

**Lunch:** 12:00-1:00

**Jim Haney:** At this time Jim Haney with the Montana Peer Network, a recovery organization out of Livingston presented on Behavioral Health Peer Support. He distributed some materials to the Council covering this subject.

**NCILS:** Submitting agreement for Pre-ETS services to VR. They have also submitted a draft for CRP discovery (?). NCILS participated in emergency preparedness program and is conducting inclusivity walks for the park service and suggested improvements. 5 walks were conducted in summer and fall. They were also continuing their work with the ITC program out of the UM campus in Missoula. Day to day consumer service activities continue. All of Us Campaign was presented at the Farmer's Market and State Fair in Great Falls. Tamera has taken over the Youth and Employment Task Force and is working on getting it started again.

**LIFTT:** Carlos has been hired as the new Executive Director and is still familiarizing with their operations and is trying to get things back in order. He gave thanks to SILC members for their assistance and support. A new finance officer has been hired. They are working with employees to make sure everyone is on the same page. They are using a book titled Strength Finder by Steve Rath to help instill a more positive attitude about themselves. Otherwise LIFTT is in pretty good shape. They will have a representative at the MET Conference November 17-19. Carlos has attended his first board meeting which went well. Walk audits have been done with the city planner and engineer. Living Well with a Disability class is currently going on. LIFTT has received grant awards for home modifications and improvements.

### **3. Task Force Reports:**

**Legislative Advocacy:** LIFTT will be hosting the Olmsted Celebration. Testimony has been provided on the Medically Needy Spend Down Program before the Children and Families Interim Legislative Committee. Testimony has also been given on HJ50 regarding subminimum wage. They have responded to EVV request for an extension. The State will have a one-year extension for implementation. The State may go beyond this and incur a 3% penalty.

**Self-Determination:** They are also providing testimony on HJ50 and are working with a local legislator on this subminimum wage bill. Representative Barr is working on coordination of effort between departments. The bill was damaged by a family member and OPI wanting a \$100,000 fiscal note attached. Another Great Falls Legislator will be working with Rep. Barr on this. The number of 14c Certificate holders have been giving

up their certificates, however while this addresses the wage issue it does not address the segregated/integration issue.

**Native American:** The task force will meet today at 3:00 PM. Cherise Smith presented to the Task Force on diabetes. They will be discussing this further at today's meeting. Tom is working on a grant for the Little Shell Tribe. Eight tribal schools have participated in this program. They are continuing with their suicide prevention education and developing their mission statement. They are looking for more Native American members on the task force.

**Youth and Employment:** This task force is restructuring. Tamara Warlick has taken over as chair and has conducted her first meeting. She is looking for more members. They will be working on increasing the graduation age and on competitive integrated employment for youth.

**Transportation:** Shyla has been working on a transportation survey which will be sent to SILC members. Their next meeting is November 21 at 1:00 PM

**Community Living:** No report

**Break:** 3:00-3:15 PM

4. **Nominations:** 2 Nominations have been forwarded to the Governor. We are waiting on the appointment of 4 new members now. The CIL Directors have decided that Carlos should be their representative on the SILC. His position in the SILC will change and the current one will become vacant.
5. **NCIL Conference:** As a result of visits by several representatives from MILP, Sen. Daines has signed on as a sponsor of the DIA. All Montana Congressional Representatives have now signed on as sponsors.
6. **APRIL:** Several representatives from MILP attended the conference. NCIL had several youths attend from MYLF. ACL leadership was there and spoke with grantees. They said that a dashboard will be set up for desk audits. Paula MacElwee presented on operational and risk management. Another session was about ACL and the continuation of the quarterly conference calls. Another speaker talked about plans for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA. The next APRIL Conference will be in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Center, October 20-24, 2020.

7. **SILC Congress:** Julie, Barbara and Scott are interested in going. It will be held February 25-27 in San Diego.
8. **Other Events:** Joining Community Forces will be holding their annual Christmas Party for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) at the 6<sup>th</sup> St. LDS Church in Helena.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 4:15 PM

## **November 6, 2019**

The meeting was reopened at 9:30 AM by Scott Birkenbuel. New member David Hood introduced himself and each of the council member introduced themselves.

9. **Unfinished Business:** Scott B wanted to know whether any carry over money could be spent on SILC Congress. Bill will check with the budget analyst.
10. **New Officers:** Nominations were held for new officers. Scott Birkenbuel stated that he would like to continue as Chair. He nominated Julie Lane Tudor as Vice Chair. Barbara Davis was nominated as Secretary. As there were no other nominations a vote was called, and the candidates were elected unanimously.
11. **New Business:** The new SPIL and PPR instruments were discussed as was the status of the 501c3 progress. The bylaw and policies and procedures are complete. The articles are being written. The IRS 1023 form needs to be completed. Fund raising needs to take place in order to pay for the incorporation and registration fees as they cannot be paid for with federal or state grant funds. There is still a lot of work to do. A packet of information needs to be developed and discussed at the next SILC meeting.
12. **Governor's Report:** Bill needs to send a request for stories to the CILs. Other information in the report is taken from the Quarterly Reports required in the CIL contracts. The Report is due December 30.
13. **Consumer Survey:** It needs to be sent out. CILs will need to send Bill their mailing lists. It also needs to be checked to be sure it is accessible. Leanne suggested using Qual Trax for screen readers. She also suggested using the Rural Institute to send it out. There would be no charge if this is done. UM has speech and language therapy students who may also help. State Print and Mail can print and stuff the envelopes.

Mike Mayer asked whether the survey could be sent to all served instead of just those who receive services under General Fund and Part B grant funds. David suggested using

UM resources including Health Informatics, Data Analytical, SAP, etc. The survey would need additional formatting and the mailing list for an estimate.

**14. Other Business:** Bill will be working with the Scouts BSA and Joel Pedan at MILP to conduct Disability Awareness training using sledge hockey.

Scott W. spoke about how the ADA is implemented on the Salish Kootenai Reservation. 1200 employees on the reservation work to ensure that all people with disabilities receive services. They have worked to make sure that accessibility is integrated fully in all buildings and housing. He and Michelle gave additional information about other efforts being made on the reservation.

Arlee Templer is working to reestablish the Sec. 121 program on the reservation. Steve Small had been named the Sec. 121 Director on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Brent is working with his contacts on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations for our August meeting.

Scott and Michelle W. said that they will work on getting parts of the SPIL that address Native Americans more culturally appropriate.

Julie spoke about her new consulting business. Her focus will be on making connections between communities.

David spoke about some of his experiences with PASS and ABLE with his son. He offered to share information with others.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

The next meeting will be a teleconference on February 5, 2020 beginning at 9:00 AM.