



**SILC Meeting
April 28-29, 2016
Helena, MT**

Thursday, April 28

The meeting was called to order by Mary Olson at 1:15.

Members present: Mary Olson, Karen Underwood, Monique Casbeer, Rosemary Hughes, Lori Gaustad, and Michelle Williamson.

CIL Directors: Tom Osborn, Mike Mayer, Tami Hoar

DETD Staff: Bill Harant, Jim Marks, Peggy Williams

Monique moved that the January Minutes be approved and Rosemary seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

DETD Update: Jim Marks provided an update on Disability Employment and Transition Division (DETD) activities. Peggy Williams is retiring after 37 years state employment. As a result there will be some minor reorganization within the division. Jim will become Bill's immediate supervisor. Jim went on to provide an explanation as to how DETD would be reorganized.

The 4 Centers for Independent Living (CIL) have requested \$75,000 each through the Executive Planning Process (EPP) during the next legislative biennium. DPHHS is expecting the next legislative budgeting process to be relatively flat and the CIL request will likely not be acted upon during the EPP. The CILs will likely dog and cat their request through the legislature.

At the federal level the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the independent living (IL) portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has been published and the commentary period closed in January. The SILC has commented on the NPRM. Federal guidance would be helpful in interpreting the NPRM. It is unknown at this time when the regulations will be published. Some discussion of the WIOA regulations took place after this part of Jim's presentation.

At Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Jim explained the order of selection process and that category 2 is expected to close soon due to a lack of resources. This will leave only category 1 (of 3) open for the most significantly disabled persons. Federal regulations mandate an order of selection procedure when resources are not sufficient to cover demand for services. Jim also spoke about how the 15% restriction on the VR budget for youth services impacts the order of selection. Most of this is directed toward pre-employment transitions services (Pre-ETS). At this time VR is not able to spend the entire 15% reserve. As more schools come on board through Pre-ETS contracts the full amount of the reserve should be spent. In the meantime the remaining 85% of the VR budget gets used up, resulting in the order of selection. With the changes of WIOA VR will be expected to serve much younger clients (beginning at age 14). Currently VR has a 70/30% adult to youth ratio. This will change as more Pre-ETS contracts are put in place. Currently about 70 of the 177 school districts in the state have signed Pre-ETS contracts. Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) and Montana Youth Transitions (MYT) are also supported through the budget reserve. VR is also continuing its efforts to work with tribal programs on the reservations. Currently 5 tribes have some sort of VR program in place. The Blackfeet tribe is trying to restart their program. The Crow tribe currently does not have a VR program.

WIOA also introduced Section 511 in the new regulations. Jim explained how Sec. 511 impacts sub-minimum wages and sheltered employment. The Competitive Integrated Employment committee has been working to address sub-minimum wage issues and the companies and organizations that hold 14c certificates permitting them to employ workers with disabilities at sub-minimum wages. Bill is developing contracts which will establish the interview/review process which will take place with individuals working at sub-minimum wage or other non-competitive integrated employment.

WIOA impacts workforce development in other ways which necessitates partnerships with other departments outside of DPHHS such as the Department of Labor and the Office of Public Instruction.

Budget: Bill presented the budget report. As of March 31 \$16,584 remained in the budget. Since there are meetings taking place for SPIL development some areas of the budget may see greater expenditures than during the last couple of years, however it is not expected that the budget will be overspent. Questions were asked regarding the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) audit expenses from last year which caused some budget issues. Those were a one-time expense to correct some issues at QAD and should not happen in the future.

SILC Business: Bill reported on various SILC activities and interactions with other groups with an interest in IL. Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN) will be hosting a Disability Employability Conference in Great Falls May 11-13 at the Holiday Inn. The conference will bring together people with disabilities and their families, service providers, employers and others to learn about employment opportunities and other employment related services. Money Follows the Person (MFP) will continue to place referrals until December, 2017. They are looking at ways the demonstration project can continue after the grant ends. They have also drafted a housing rental handbook. Joining Community Forces (JCF) continues to develop community partnerships to better serve Veterans, Servicemembers and Families. VA is pleased with the community partnerships already developed which places Helena and Montana ahead of many other states where the VA is trying to establish stronger community partnerships. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) meetings held in March were well attended and lots of useful feedback was given. The SPIL Development committee spent two days working on the draft of the SPIL. That draft is up on the SILC website and will be discussed later in the SILC meeting. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is holding firm to the June 30 deadline for submitting the SPIL, barring any issues with the MIS site for uploading the SPIL. ACL has also said that it is now the SILC's responsibility for completing the annual 704 report and not the Designated State Entity's (DSE). Mary added that NDLA is working on changes and updates to the 704 report. The form used for the report is due to expire in a year or two.

VR Council: Tom reported that a youth services team has been developed. VR is also working with schools and Native American Tribes on Pre-ETS. Several other teams have also been developed to address VR issues. These include: Quality Services, Technology, Employer Services, etc. The VR council is also working on a new strategic plan goal. A VRBS statement and priorities will be under that goal.

APRIL: April is preparing for its annual conference in Reno, NV, October 21-24. The Theme will be "Betting on the Youth _____ for Tomorrow. APRIL is also working with RTC partners and developing a curriculum on community living skills. At the pre-conference they will be working on social media activism. A new youth coordinator has been hired, youth advocacy is being promoted, and mentoring is being expanded.

NCIL: Tami Hoar will report when she attends tomorrow.

MYLF and MYT: They are working with the VR youth services team to possibly develop a MYLF 2 or mini-MYLF and locations for those events. There will likely be 1 session per quarter. Havre, Glendive, Lewistown, one other town are the suggested sites. They are also considering combining MYLF and MY Transitions in the next 1 1/2 years.

CIL Reports

NCILS: Several staff, peers and consumers participated in the SPIL listening sessions. Tom felt that the meeting was well attended and included providers. The Living Well with a Disability classes are growing all the time. They may need to hold 2 concurrent classes. NCILS is also putting together a “Get out the vote” promotion. In addition the community project they are working on with Havre is going well. Otherwise they are staying busy.

Summit: Mike reported that they continue to work on youth transitions with ASPIRE and the schools. They’ve had their first class with youth at Summit. The Hamilton office is also working with youth and the schools. Mike Beers has several other projects with youth going on and BASE and elsewhere. The Kalispell office is hosting BALLS classes. The Lake county office is getting more involved. Michelle says as more people learn about them, more people are using them. In addition to Mike Beers work, BASE has lots of other activities going on. Missoula Parks and Recreation has proposed collaboration with BASE. Summit has been fortunate to have Nina G do several workshops during which Summit was able to connect with over 1000 people. Summit continues to offer Living Well with a Disability and Working Well with a Disability and other classes. The Self Direct program has 210 people receiving services. The Man Cave in Hamilton continues to grow as does Women on the Move. They have commented on the Big Sky Waiver renewal. CFC training was conducted yesterday. All four CILS met with DPHHS Director Opper about issues important to people with disabilities as preparations are being made for the 2017 Legislature. Monique asked about Rev-Up activities for voting information. Summit has been working mostly one on one with consumers but is planning on sending out targeted mailers. Additionally they have done some work with the League of Women Voters.

MILP: No one was present from MILP to provide a report.

Tom mentioned that the History of Disability Tool is being distributed to area schools to facilitate connections.

Committee Reports

Prior to committee reports a short discussion took place regarding new SILC member orientation. Mary stated that if the proposed new standards and indicators are adopted they will help streamline new member orientation.

Executive Committee: Emphasized the promotion of public comments for the SPIL. Tom explained a pilot project that is being worked on that would more easily connect with such public hearings.

Competitive Integrated Employment: A survey was sent out to providers via Survey Monkey to gather information about WIOA changes impacting the providers and consumers. Not one survey was returned completed. The next step the committee will be working on is to develop programs with other providers and stakeholders to approach the shift from sheltered employment and sub-minimum wage to competitive integrated employment. Some brainstorming took place to consider other ways to promote surveys and gather data.

Education and Public Relations: Michelle has been working on the Native American version of the SILC Brochure. She spoke of how she developed it with Scotopic Sensitivity or Irlen Syndrome in mind. (Also called visual stress it is a perceptual processing disorder which affects the brain’s ability to process information. An example would be difficulty reading black letters on a white page under fluorescent lights). Two versions were provided, one on a light blue background and the other on a light beige background. Images need to be added to the brochure. Bill can work with the state print shop to get some added. Bill also stated that the brochures previously printed had all been distributed. Those brochures cost approximately \$460 to print 1000. After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded to reprint another 1000 copies of the brochure. The motion carried.

Following this report a discussion was held regarding the training of new members. How the training would be conducted was the principle discussion. It was determined that links to training (such as is found on the ILRU website) would be forwarded to the new members along with the location of the nearest CIL, the SILC manual

and any additional training materials. Current members will mentor new members. A brief orientation session prior to the new member's first SILC meeting will continue to be held.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey: A discussion was held about creating a more needs based survey. Mike talked about Summit's experience with its survey. The initial SPIL meetings were mostly about gathering information about needs. Perhaps similar meetings could be held annually. Other possible approaches to the survey were also discussed.

Nominations: Discussion and voting took place to select nominees for appointment to the SILC took place. Each applicants name was read and some brief information about them was supplied to the council; after which individual voting took place. Allison Smith, Joseph Moll, Tracey Carlyon, and Trinity Martel will have their names forwarded to the governor's office for appointment consideration.

Note: Monique and Michelle's requests for reappointment were voted on during the January SILC meeting. Their names will be forwarded to the governor as well. Rosemary's application will be considered tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned for the evening at 5:05 PM.

Friday, April 29, 2016

The meeting was reopened at 8:30 AM by Mary Olson.

Task Force Reports

Transportation: They are working on their strategic plan. During the past year they have focused on the shifting of funding for Trans Aid. These funds are coming from the taxi and rental car taxes. They will also target local transportation activities around the state.

Self Determination: They presented the EPP request to the department a couple of weeks ago. They are also watching the rebasing of the Big Sky waiver. One issue here is that Montana's cost plan is below the national average and should be brought up. Additionally the Medicaid spend down, housing bridge funds, transportation and other issues are also being followed and addressed as needed. They plan on meeting with the Department of Commerce to discuss housing bridge funds.

Legislative Advocacy: Beginning to work on items for the 2017 Legislature. The dates for Legislative Day and Rally Day are set. This task force is working with the CILs to watch emerging topics and other issues that develop or are brought forward by other task forces. The new action alert system has been activated and is accessible through the Summit web site. It will provide greater ability to integrate with other groups and aid in sharing legislative issues at the local, state, and national levels.

Native American: Nothing much is happening in this task force but Michelle is hoping that as more people become involved in IL issues it can be reinvigorated.

Monique suggested that in the future Task Force Chairs be invited to participate and report out at the SILC meetings.

Tami Hoar was present and able to give NCIL and LIFTT reports.

NCIL: It is time to submit names for the annual advocacy awards. They are due the end of May. Tami's position as the Region VIII representative on the NCIL board is up and she is running for re-election. She provided information on proxy voting at the NCIL conference. The SILC asked her to be the SILC proxy. Proxy voters need to be registered on the NCIL website. There are changes being made to the ILA staff. Tim Beatty is

moving to NIDLLR and will be replaced by Melisa Hobert from CMS. There is some concern about this as CMS is very policy driven and it may not be a good match for IL.

LIFTT: Restructuring is continuing at LIFTT. Policies are being updated as a part of this. They are coordinating with ASPIRE to serve youth, especially on the reservations.

A discussion and vote was held to recommend Rosemary Hughes for reappointment to the SILC. She was unanimously approved. Bill will forward all the recommendations to the governor's office through the department chain.

A discussion was held regarding committee meeting days and times. Bill provided information as it was approved at the meeting last year. He will update the committee list and send it out to the SILC members.

SPIL: The remainder of the meeting was taken up with a review and comment on the SPIL draft. These comments will be incorporated into the draft before the MET NET public meeting next Thursday, May 5th. Bill will summarize the SPIL and give a brief explanation about how the SPIL was developed and the process for submission. Additionally what the CILS, SILC and 5 core services are will be explained.

Monique questioned whether a bylaw change would need to be made in order for members to cast votes for new members via email. It was noted that due to open meeting laws this would not be permitted.

A brief discussion was held about orienting new members at the August meeting. Also the Education and Public Relations Committee is in need of additional members since it is down to two members.

Bill read Peggy Williams retirement email and will forward it to the council so that they have her contact info.

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