



SILC Meeting August 25-26, 2016 Helena, MT

Thursday, August 25

The meeting was preceded by new member training from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Mary Olson called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM

Members Present: Mary Olson, Monique Casbeer, Michelle Williamson, Rosemary Hughes, Joe Moll, Trinity Martel, and Tom Osborn (via phone)

Members Absent: Lori Gaustad, Tracy Carlyon, Allison Smith, Karen Underwood

Guests: Tami Hoar, Mike Mayer, Bob Maffit

DSE Staff: Bill Harant, Jim Marks

Mary opened the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members. A sympathy card was passed around for Lori whose Father-in-law passed away and a get well card was passed around for Tracy Carlyon's son who is hospitalized. The minutes were moved to be approved by Monique and seconded by Rosemary. They were approved unanimously.

DSE Update:

Jim Marks, Disability Employment and Transitions Division (DETD) Administrator provided an overview of the designated state entity (DSE).

The state is currently involved in the Executive Planning Process (EPP) to help plan the budget for the next biennium. There were two independent living (IL) related submissions; one for telecommunication funding and one for additional FTEs for Disability Determination Services (DDS). Both requests were tabled. Budget wise the best that can be hoped for is a flat or even session though, depending on the election outcome, there may be cuts in the budget.

Most of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) final rules have been published. The final rules for IL may not be published before December. The final rules made over 100 changes in VR. The rules become effective September 19, 2016. There are 3 WIOA themes:

1. Focus on services to youth.
2. Focus on Competitive Integrated Employment
3. Alignment with workforce development
 - a. shared with Labor and Industry, Adult Basic Education and



- b. Employers as full partner
- c. Pre-ETS connection
 - 1) services to individuals not groups (can be done in groups but must be individually tracked.
 - 2) not exempt from Order of Selection (OOS)
 - 3) youth should sign up for Pre-ETS and then VR. If they sign up for VR first they can't get Pre-ETS.
 - 4) the process is confusing and complex.

Section 511 Contracts: Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) are being set up WINTAC is providing coaching on creating these. Contracts are being developed for the CILs to conduct the reviews.

Members asked Jim to explain OOS.

SILC Business: Bill spoke about the conferences and meetings he had attended representing the SILC. The Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN) holds monthly meetings and sponsored a Disability Employability Conference in May that was well attended and received. He has also been attending Money Follows the Person (MFP) and Joining Community Forces (JCF) meetings as well. He recently participated in the JCF Partnership Symposium and Resource Fair for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.

Word was received Monday that the SPIL has been approved by ACL.

The Facebook account needs to be taken over by someone other than Bill. Mary suggested that the Education and Public Relations Committee take on the task of developing a social media manager. To set up the account as an organizational account the SILC will need to get a separate email account, not on the state web.

Rehabilitation Council: Tom's membership on the council has expired. A SILC representative will need to be nominated to replace him.

Additionally Tom's SILC term is up in December. Tami Hoar from LIFTT (Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow) was selected by the CIL directors to replace Tom as the CIL Director Representative. Bill will provide application materials and contact the governor's office of boards and councils to inform them.

APRIL: Mary reported that the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) conference will be held October 21-23 in Reno, NV. Some focus will be on voting registration. There will be lots of workshops for the participants. Bob Williams from ACL will be the keynote speaker. Mary has been helping to put on lots of webinars for APRIL. She spoke about several youth focused webinars which Montana played a prominent role. Montana is seen as a national leader in youth programs. APRIL is continuing its primary work on rural access issues.



NCIL: The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) held its annual conference in July in Washington D.C. Tami reported on the day of their march to the Capitol it was very hot. The conference happened during the Democratic National Convention so D.C was very quiet. John Paveo an ADA/Employment Specialist from Montana was presented with an award for his work. There was a shortfall in funding during the shift from RSA to ACL resulting in some CILs receiving cuts in their grant funding. NACL advocated for the restoration of the funds since it was not a mistake on the part of the CILs but rather a miss-communication from ACL. NACL is also advocating for the reauthorization of MFP and for the inclusion of CILs in MFP. Aging Disability Resource Centers have focused on the aging part of their mandate but have neglected the disability part. NACL has advocated that they need to focus on disability as well. Tami was re-elected to NCIL as the Region 8 Representative.

Mary reminded everyone that APRIL has a Thursday call in program and encourage everyone to take part. Surveys are sent out by APRIL and SILC members were asked to respond to them.

MYLF/MYT: The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) was held in July. There were 20 delegates plus guests from Mexico and Iraq. Tom explained the new MYLF Step 2 and Mini programs. Step 2 is a follow-on program for delegates to learn more about leadership principles. The Mini program is 11/2 days and will be held in 4 rural communities (1 per quarter). Minis will expose youth who may not have the opportunity to easily get out of their community to the history and culture of IL and to self-determination principles. The Minis will take place in Glendive on Sept. 29, 2016, Havre Dec. 8, 2016, and Poulson Feb. 2, 2017, and Dillon May 4, 2017.

CIL REPORTS

NCILS: North Central Independent Living Services has presented its history and culture of disability seminar to 112 students in 5 schools as well as giving the students additional info about transitions. They hope to be able to reach out to 8 schools a quarter with this program.

They have met with the new Great Falls Mayor about various disability issues in the community and felt it was a positive beginning. They will be opening up their monthly Meet you Legislator meetings to local officials.

Work is ongoing in local communities with the Universal Building Codes (UBC). Great Falls is working on a UBC proclamation. NCILS along with the other CILS has set up an Action Alert web based system to promote system change.

NCILS is also developing consumer stories to present to legislators in the upcoming session.

Summit: Worked with Missoula City Council to develop a visitability resolution. UBC presents some conflicts with the state over building codes. Summit continues to provide many other services, especially focused on advocacy. Missoula has issues with the new parking meters.



Summit is working with the city on an inventory of accessible parking spaces. They are also involved with the city in the transportation plan development.

In Hamilton they met with the city to work on parking issues.

In Whitefish they have been involved with the Community Engagement Initiative where they have found that access continues to be an issue.

Summit is also working with schools on transition issues for students with disabilities. In Hamilton and St. Ignatius they helped develop semester long transition classes. In other schools they have been presenting their BALLS classes. They received a grant from Walmart in May for \$18,000 for outreach to schools to produce youth lead programming and other transition programming with Mike Beers, APRIL and the Rural Institute.

Summit has renewed its office lease and has increased self-direction office space. They have been experiencing some staff turnover lately.

LIFTT: Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow is continuing to rebuild. Outreach has been made to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. They are also collaborating with Troy Spang and working with Isaac Baldry in Miles City in schools.

Continuing their work with youth LIFTT is doing job shadowing, especially at the zoo. In other events Jeff Ewalt will speak at a Lunch and Learn employer gathering about disability employment and collaboration with Job Service. SHERM and other employment related topics will also be covered. LIFTT also hosted an ADA anniversary event which included local and tribal representatives.

Tami Hoar participated in Operation Moonshot and was the only non-medical provider to do so. Operation Moonshot is affiliated with the Cancer Coalition. She said that the other participants hadn't considered the disability aspect of post treatment.

Staff has been moved around and there have also been changes to the peer program.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The schedule for the 2017 meetings was set.

November 2, 2016 will be a phone in meeting from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a ½ hour break for lunch.

January 17, 2017 Legislative Day will follow on January 18 at the State Capitol rotunda.

March 21, 2017 Rally Day will follow on March 22 at the State Capitol rotunda

August 16, 2017

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:12 PM

Mary reopened the meeting at 9:05 AM.



Joel Pedan from MILP and lobbyist for the Montana CIL Network presented a legislative update.

There probably won't be any budget cuts in this biennium, but there won't be any increases either. Some of the issues that will be focused on include Alzheimer and Mental Health concerns, and the Medicaid Spend Down gap. Joel also explained the Montana CIL Network Action Alert web program and encouraged members to sign up to receive action alerts.

Mary commented about some of the issues the SILC committees are also involved with including moving student graduation age limits from 19 to 21 and competitive integrated employment.

Bill provided information on the status of the Mental Health bills, HR 2646 and S 2680 moving through congress.

Competitive Integrated Employment Committee:

Tom spoke about the committee's meeting with Beth Brennan at Disability Rights Montana regarding the survey DRM conducted and other issues regarding sub-minimum wages and the Sec. 14c certificate holders in the state. On October 1 a meeting is planned with MCDD to develop better communication links. DRM asked whether the SILC will take on the community settings issue. The community settings requirements information will need to be presented at the next SILC meeting. Tom also invited SILC members to participate in the Self-determination Task Force.

Green Corps:

Joel spoke about the Green Corps program that MILP has begun with youth to teach job skills related to agriculture and landscaping. Those involved have been working on a beautification project at the Great Northern Town Center in Helena. The program is paying competitive wages for the work being done. The program is being funded through Pre-ETS.

Self Determination Task Force:

Mike Mayer explained what the task force was and when it meets. The task force is looking ahead to the 2017 legislative session. Issues they will be monitoring and putting forth include care giver wages, waiver services, and other self-determination issues. Some of the issues they have been meeting with various other agencies have been access to personal care attendants (PCA) and wages for PCAs. They are also concerned about Medicaid Spend Down. Mike also noted that the comment period for the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) transition plan closes September 2nd. Conversations have been taking place with DPHHS Director Richard Oppen about better communications between the state and partners as well as access to services.

Following Mike's report discussion was held about SILC action in advocacy issue. Jim in addressing SILC involvement suggested that the SILC be very clear about communicating with the



governor's office their stance on the issues to avoid and fights. Meetings can be set up with the governor's office to advise him on the various IL issues.

Transportation Task Force:

Shyla Patera from NCILS reported that the task force has been on hiatus for the summer though members have actively been involved in TRANS Aid issues along with accessibility issues. They are monitoring the UBER start up in the state as well. Meetings will begin again in September with the dates to be announced. Shyla encouraged everyone to get involved in their local TACs. There are lots of 5 and 10 year transportation plans coming up for renewal to comment on. The State Transportation Plan is one of those. MDT will be holding training in Helena, October 4-5 and the Fall Transportation Management meeting will be held in Butte September 16th. Info will be sent to Bill for forwarding to the SILC. The task force will also be watching any revenue and transportations bills as they head into the legislative session.

Youth and Employment Task Force:

The focus right now is on increasing the graduation age limit from 19 to 21.

Community Living Task Force:

The task force is in the process of reorganizing. Since Justice Ender has left Summit, MILP will be taking up the leadership of the task force.

Native American Task Force:

Michelle Williamson, Chris Clasby and Mitch McCabe are working on reorganizing the task force. They are crafting a letter to tribal councils. A meeting is planned to be held soon and information will be sent to Bill for dissemination to the SILC. Initially meetings will be held bi-weekly on Mondays. Michelle continues to work on the Native American focused SILC Brochure. It needs a watermark that has greetings and thank you in the languages of the Montana tribes.

Public Comments:

Monique commented on benefits issues. She spoke of difficulties she had when she didn't complete the LEAP application because of confusing information. This caused a reduction in her benefits. She filled an appeal and was able to get her benefits restored. She encouraged others to remember to file the LEAP paperwork to avoid lost benefits.

Education and Public Relations Committee:

The committee needs new members as they are down to 2. Those members explained what the committee does. Joe volunteered to be on the committee. He said he will look into creating a PSA for the SILC. The committee is going to look into purchasing a banner or table cover for conferences.

Consumer Satisfaction/Needs Assessment Committee:



They plan on holding listening sessions around the state. The Survey Monkey account has been renewed. They will begin working on the 2016 survey soon. Monique presented the Madison County, MT Mental Health survey as an example. Bill will scan and email it to the committee. The survey will need some adjustment to increase SILC specific information in it.

SPIL Evaluation Committee:

Mary explained what the committee does. The committee has not met since the SPIL was submitted. Now that it has been approved by ACL they will begin meeting again.

Mary suggested that since the SPIL has now been approved an *ad hoc* committee to work on the 501(c)3 goal needs to be formed.

Executive Committee:

Mary provided an explanation of this committee's functions. Their last meeting had to be canceled because only one member called in.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There was some discussion on how the election should take place. The By-laws on elections were read out to the council. Nominations then took place.

Joe Moll and Monique nominated themselves as candidates for Chair. No other nominations were submitted.

Joe also nominated himself for Vice Chair. Monique nominated Rosemary Hughes. No other nominations were submitted.

Since the Secretary position was filled earlier this year by Lori Gaustad it was decided that since her election took place during an even numbered year it met the By-Law requirement and so did not require a new election.

A vote was then called and private ballots were submitted. Monique was elected Chair and Rosemary was elected Vice Chair.

Additional Business:

A discussion was held regarding budget spend down with items being submitted and prioritized. The purchase of promotional items was selected as the first priority with distribution of remaining funds to the CILs as the second. Training attendance was also suggested but since it is already a line item in the budget it was not accepted. Prices for promotional items need to be gathered by Sept. 9. The Education and Public Relations Committee will decide on which items to purchase. CIL directors were queried about whether they had projects or items in mind for any funds they would receive and all responded that they did.

Discussion was held regarding the Transformation: Barriers to Bridges Conference on WIOA that was held earlier in the week. The members who attended found it very informative and will be



able to take what they learned back to their organizations. The principal take out from the conference is that WIOA is forcing partnerships between agencies and providers.

Additions upcoming training includes Work Based Learning Governor's Conference in October and the Rehabilitation Council as well.

Bill was asked to provide links to the National Disability Institute LEAD Center, Department of Labor ODEP and WIOA sites.

Bill informed everyone that registration for the SILC congress is now opened. At least one SILC member would be encouraged to attend. Bill will forward the link to the registration site.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.