

## **Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council**

January 19, 2006

Resources for Independent Living

Richmond Virginia

### Membership Present:

Susan Prokop, Philip Sieck, Tim Edwards, Jenny McKenzie, Jeff Pittman, Marcia DuBois, Lewis Atkins, Stan Seuerberg, George Hubbs, Celestine Walker, Bill Ward, Stephen Joseph, Doug Small

### Ex-Officio Membership Present:

Jane Ward Solomon - Department of Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), Theresa Preda - Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)

### Membership Absent:

Marisa Laios, Alan Schlank, Sheila Cox-Combs

### Staff Present:

Lisa Grubb

### Scheduled Guests:

Alan Gernhardt, Freedom of Information Advisory Council

### Chairpersons Comments

Chair Susan Prokop opened the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

### Welcome to everyone

Thank you to Resources for Independent Living for hosting the SILC meeting by providing meeting space for today meeting and yesterday's New Member Orientation. New members were welcomed to the Council meeting. New members in attendance were :

Stan Seuerberg, parent of a child with a disability

Doug Small, person with a disability

All attendees introduced themselves.

### Guest Speaker

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory (FOIA) Council Staff Attorney Alan Gernhardt presented the Council with updates on FOIA guidelines and provided the Council an opportunity for questions and answers. Many handouts were distributed and are available on the FOIA website at <http://dls.state.va.us/foiacouncil.htm>.

### Public Comment

Chair Susan Prokop opened the floor for public comment.

Michael Cooper, Executive Director of the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia, addressed the Council. Cooper gave the Council an update of activity within the General Assembly. For nearly twenty years, Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have received

no federal increase. The Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL) is hopeful if this administration sees fit to allocate moneys for new centers in unserved or underserved areas, the SILC will recognize unique ways to distribute the money. The current request is for \$2Million. This funding will allow Independent Living services to be provided to four additional communities. On behalf of VACIL, Cooper requested the SILC to write a letter to the Department of Health and Human Resources Finance Subcommittee giving support to disseminate the funding as proposed by VACIL. In closing, Cooper invited all SILC members to attend and participate in CIL Day at the General Assembly on January 25, 2006.

Council Member Philip Sieck shared with the Council that the Front Page of the Times Dispatch Today boasted an Associate Press story recognizing Community Action Specialists (CAS) from Centers for Independent Living making a presence at a meeting of the Appropriations Committee. Council Chair Susan Prokop encouraged all Council members to attend your local CAS meetings.

Mary Lopez new Executive Director of Empowerment Center in Manassas was introduced.

There being no additional public comment, Prokop closed the floor.

Commissioner Rothrock Address

Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) Commissioner Jim Rothrock addressed the Council, making the following comments.

SILC members were encouraged to:

Attend CAS meetings

Visit your CILs

Look at new opportunities to maximize your monies in the next SPIL

Focus on Olmstead

SILC is to be commended for:

Its Association with DRS

Relationship with the CILs

Traveling to and meeting in different areas of the state

Looking ahead at the next SPIL

Virginia is to be commended for:

Being one of the top ten/fifteen states that allocate more state funding than federal funding to CILs.

Disability Commission in considering the role of Independent Living in their work plan for the upcoming year.

General Comments:

The role of the SILC

The history of the SPIL

The history of I&E monies

Comments/Questions:

Concern was expressed for services provided by the Lynchburg CIL. CIL Director Cooper assisted the Commissioner in addressing this concern by sharing that all CILs have a responsibility to work together and the concern has been heard. Chair Prokop expressed the Council's frustration in attempting to operate effectively under the Freedom of Information Action (FOIA) and asked that Commissioner Rothrock pursue reasonable accommodation in this area. Rothrock accepted the comments as an area of concern. Interest was expressed in DRS', the CILs, and SILCs involvement in 'Get out the Vote'.

#### SILC Business Meeting

Chair Prokop opened the floor for the business meeting.

#### Executive Report

Council Chair Prokop shared the Executive Report.

Council Members were referred to Tab 1 in their meeting packet. The following documents were reviewed and discussed.

#### SILC 704 Report

##### VACIL's Legislative Agenda

Bill Ward moved to support VACIL's legislative agenda. Jeff Pittman seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion passed unanimously. VACIL will keep Lisa apprised of updates.

Section IAIV Other Funds Total was questioned. The total in the other funds column should be zero. Ex-Officio Member DRS Employee Theresa Preda will inquire with Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) about amending the error. Executive Order signed by Governor Kaine reestablishes the Community Integration Team. The SILC was recognized as one of its members. You may view executive orders at [www.governor.va.gov/initiatives](http://www.governor.va.gov/initiatives) Bill Ward moved that the SILC write a letter thanking and expressing support for Senate Bill 182, sponsored by Senator Toddy Puller. Philip Sieck moved to second the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Statewide Independent Living Fund: SB 744, HB743

These bills evolved from discussions that occurred over the past year due to the SILC struggling to inquire additional resources. The discussions began originating when Innovative and Expansion (I&E) monies were removed from the SILC's budget. At that time, the Council gave the Chair the authority to pursue opportunities for the SILC to acquire additional money. This bill will give the SILC a vehicle to receive monies if someone so decides to contribute. At present, the SILC cannot accept any monies other than those delegated through Federal funds and at the discretion of the designated state unit (DSU).

Verbal approval of the fund was given by Tom Kelly, Director of Independent Living, Rehab Service Administration. This department has given guidance to the SILC

throughout the past year.

Resource Development if adopted will be part of the Reauthorization of the Rehab Act. Susan was commended for her efforts and the method to obtain other monies was applauded. The SILC was encouraged not to give up on securing additional I&E monies, a traditional source of revenue for SILCs.

George Hubbs moved to support HB743 and SB182. Jeff Pittman seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### SILC Congress

Chair Prokop and Staff Grubb attended. Topics included the following:

#### SILC's autonomy

#### Reauthorization of the Rehab Act

Staff Grubb pleaded to the Council to showcase Virginia nationally next year when a call for Presenters is sent out.

#### Secretary's Report

Secretary Lewis Atkins opened the floor to discuss draft minutes from October 2005 Council meeting.

The following discussion occurred:

Chair Prokop inquired about the Olmstead compliance issue reference. Council member Jeff Pittman shared that he will communicate with the Council if additional advisement or action is needed on behalf of the Council

Lewis Atkins moved to accept the minutes as presented. Marcia DuBois moved to second the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jeff Pittman opened the floor to discuss the SILC budget. Pittman deferred to Staff Grubb to elaborate on DRS' financial summary.

The Executive Committee received a detailed ledger of the 006 budget. A summarized budget report will be requested from DRS. Preda assured the Council that the Council staff would receive detailed budget reports monthly.

2006 Part B Budget Report does not reflect the Carry Forward of \$20,650.22. This amount was budgeted under SILC Administration. Due to a change in staff at DRS, this could not be addressed at the Council meeting. Preda will research and communicate with Council staff.

Discussions occurred based upon the potential of not having the '05 Carry Forward to expend.

Marcia DuBois moved to revisit the location of the April meeting due to cost if the money is not available. Lewis Atkins moved to second the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Grubb will report to the Council.

DuBois requested the Council to consider asking DRS Commissioner to restore I&E monies. Many SILC's nationally receive I&E dollars for operating funds. Chair Prokop agreed and offered to seek a meeting with the Commissioner on this topic in the near future.

#### Committee Reports

Chair Susan Prokop opened the floor for Committee Reports.

#### Operations Committee

Council Staff Lisa Grubb led the Committee due to Committee Chair Sheila Cox Combs being absent due to illness.

This committee will lead the Council in the Snapshot Process. All members are requested to submit initial comments by February 17, 2006. This committee has developed an aggressive timeline and will be reaching out to other to assist. The Snapshot Retreat will be in Breaks, Virginia in April 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Council to assess where it is and where it wants to be.

#### Consumer Education Committee

Committee Chair Marcia DuBois shared the following:

The Consumer Education Committee is finalizing the annual report. A draft copy was distributed to all Council members. The report should be finalized prior to President's Day.

#### Consumer Services Committee

Committee Chair Bill Ward shared the following:

The committee gave an update on One-Stops. Accessibility goes beyond physical access; it also includes formats, etc. If anyone has any problems with One-Stops, please report it to Staff Grubb and she will share with Bill so he can report it to Blumenthal with DRS.

Committee Member Jeff Pittman shared that the committee has begun review of the CIL's 704 reports. Concern was expressed at the number of vocational goals not being met. Council Member and CIL Representative Marcia DuBois shared with the Council some of the challenges CILs face in reviewing the 704 Report. The SILC is willing to assist the CILs as needed.

#### Youth Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair Stephen Joseph shared the following:

The Youth Committee is working on ways to address the current transportation and attendance concerns with the newly appointed youth member. Several council members

volunteered to mentor the new youth member in these areas.

The Committee is pursuing a guest speaker from Together We Can for the July meeting

#### Special Reports

Chair Prokop opened the floor for Special Reports.

Chair's Report Prokop reported on the SILC Congress noting the presence of SILC representatives from 33 states and DC and considerable discussion about SILC relationships with CILs, DSUs and the autonomy of SILCs. Kelly Buckland with the Idaho SILC reported on provisions in the Senate bill reauthorizing the Rehab Act that would specifically direct SILCs to engage in resource development to carry out SPIL's. Director of IL for RSA Tom Kelley spoke at the Congress mentioning RSA's intention to review Rehab Act law and regulations governing SILC's. The next SILC Congress will take place in New Orleans in January 2007. Prokop alerted the council to the 704 Report as good background material about the SILC's activities in 2005. She also noted several legislative initiatives before the 2006 General Assembly.

On motion made and seconded, the Council also agreed to support Senate Bill 182 by Sen. Toddy Puller that would codify Gov. Kaine's executive order #2 reestablishing the Community Integration Team, creating an Olmstead Advisory Board and establishing an Office of Community Integration in the Governor's Office.

On motion made and seconded, the Council further agreed to support House Bill 743 by Delegate Adam Ebbin and Senate Bill 244 by Sen. Patsy Ticer to create a Statewide Independent Living Fund.

Chair Prokop gave the reports fund in the packet of materials under tab 5 submitted by Celestine Walker

#### CAS Report

Tim Edwards, Vice-Chair gave a report of the CAS Review Team. Several recommendations were given to CAS Coordinator Maureen Hollowell to direct to the CILs. Some of those recommendations included changing the report due date along with a few specific requests to targeted CILs. Two CAS reports were not received and were not approved for payment.

Leadership Development training is a focus of the current CAS contract. The goal in this training is that leaders will develop out of the existing CAS teams. The CILs are planning a conference in Fall 2006 and feel that they can offer this training as part of that conference. In doing so, they have requested that we contribute monies to assist with the conference.

Philip Sieck moved that the SILC contribute \$1,500 to the CIL conference, contingent on availability of funding. Tim Edwards moved to second the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion passed unanimously. CIL Representative DuBois shared that

there would be no registration fee and SILC members would be invited to attend.

#### DBVI Rehabilitation Council Meeting

Council Member David Benjamin has resigned and the SILC Council has put forth a name for appointment. No appointment has been secured as of this date. No report was given.

#### Rehabilitative Council (SRC)

Council Member Philip Sieck did not report

#### Olmstead Report

Ex Officio Member DRS Staff Theresa Preda did not report.

#### VACIL Report

CIL Representative DuBois asked the Council to support the VACIL legislative agenda including a request for \$2,000,000 to expand outreach and transition services to individuals with disabilities wishing to leave nursing homes. Distribution of these funds would go to support efforts at the 16 existing CILs and four additional CILs to be established in unserved and underserved areas include New River Valley, Middle Peninsula, New River, Loudoun, Petersburg and Middle Peninsula.

Lewis Atkins moved that the SILC support VACIL's recommendation of unserved and underserved areas in the state and advocate for funding for CILs in those areas. Doug Small moved to second the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

DuBois offered the CILs assistance to the SILC as they begin their Snapshot process. Staff Grubb will convey the interest with the New York project and ask their advisement on how they may assist.

#### Old Business

Council Chairperson Susan Prokop opened the floor to discuss old business. There being no discussion, the floor was closed.

#### New Business

Council Chair Prokop opened the floor to discuss new business. Discussion included the following:

Secretary Lewis Atkins requested that the Council had a standard agenda for Council meeting and also be place on the website.

Lewis Atkins moved that the Council adopt a standard agenda for Council meetings. Jeff Pittman moved to second the motion. The floor was open for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Chairperson called the Council into Executive Session to discuss the Request for

Proposal (RFP) for the staff contract citing Virginia Code sections 2.2--3711 A1 and A7 and requested that all Non- Council members exit the room. The Council entered Executive Session at 4:25pm. Chair Prokop opened the meeting at 4:45pm and requested that the minutes reflect that the items discussed in Executive Session were covered under FOIA for which the Executive Session was convened. No action can come out of the Executive Committee.

Doug Small moved that the Executive Committee handle all business and make all decisions on the RFP and hiring of Council staff. Stan Feuerberg moved to second the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Council Chairperson Susan Prokop opened the floor to discuss upcoming events.

National Council for Independent Living Conference, May 22-25, 2006

Meeting Close

Council Chair Susan Prokop closed the meeting at 4:45pm