

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
April 20, 2006
Independence Resource Center (IRC)
Charlottesville Virginia

Membership Present:

Susan Prokop, Philip Sieck, Tim Edwards, Jenny McKenzie, Jeff Pittman, Marcia DuBois, Lewis Atkins, George Hubbs, Celestine Walker, Stephen Joseph, Doug Small, Alan Schlank

Ex-Officio Membership Present:

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

Membership Monitoring: Stan Feuerberg

Membership Absent: Sheila Cox-Combs, Bill Ward

Staff Present: Lisa Grubb

Scheduled Guests: Delegate David Toscano, Mayor David Brown, DRS Commissioner Jim Rothrock, IRC Executive Director Tom Vandever

Chairpersons Comments

Chair Susan Prokop opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

- Welcome to everyone
- Thank you to Tom Vandever and Independence Resource Center for hosting the SILC providing meeting space and morning refreshments for today meeting.
- All attendees introduced themselves.
- Prokop informed the Council of our scheduled guests and thanked Mayor David Brown for stopping by and addressing the Council prior to the Committee meetings.

Public Comment

Chair Susan Prokop opened the floor for public comment.

- David Broder from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Long Term Care Division addressed the Council. He stated that he attended this meeting to learn more about the SILC and is looking for ways that the Homecare Workers Union can work together with the Council. He commented on the Homecare Workers Union and he went over the wages, benefits, turnover rates, and the difference between home and consumer based services.

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

Guest Speaker

Chair Prokop welcomed and invited the honorable Delegate David Toscano to address the Council. Upon welcoming the Council to Charlottesville, the Delegate recognized the IRC and the accessibility advances made in Charlottesville and addressed the importance of continuing to advocate for Freedom and Independence in this community. He also stressed the importance of the Advocates on the state level.

Host Presentation

Executive Director Tom Vandever welcomed the Council to Charlottesville and the Independence Resource Center. All members were invited to tour the facility as time permits. IRS was the first Center for Independent Living (CIL) to receive all state funding in 1984. The initial interest for a CIL in Charlottesville was expressed by the Wheelchair Basketball team, which continues to educate the community. In 1997, the CIL procured this building and currently lease out to other tenants. Vandever expressed his appreciation of the SILC's support

Chair Prokop presented Vandever with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Council for their hospitality and continued support and work toward Independent Living

Designated State Unit Address

Chair Prokop welcomed and invited Jim Rothrock the Commissioner of DRS to address the Council.

- The Commissioner expressed his excitement about the SILC's upcoming plans for a strategic planning session and its plans for beginning the State Plan for Independent Living Plan (SPIL) process. Rothrock stated that he would be willing to discuss assisting the SILC with needed resources in these processes.
- The Commissioner encouraged to Council to continue to refine its focus in developing the next SPIL.
- General Assembly Update
 - Your advocacy efforts helped bring attention to unserved and underserved areas in Virginia
 - Additional money is being acknowledged for Service Employment and Brain Injury.
 - Internet Access is being recognized as being as important as building access. The concept was prompted by Governor Warner and is being continued by Governor Kaine.
- DRS still on order of selection

Council Secretary Lewis Atkins inquired about the possibility of the SILC having Innovative and Expansion (I & E) money reinstated. Commissioner Rothrock stated that he would be happy to discuss funding as the new SPIL develops into an I & E plan.

SILC Business Meeting

Chair Prokop opened the floor for the business meeting.

Executive Report

- Snapshot Strategic Plan Session has been tentatively moved to Harrisonburg in October. All members were encouraged to reserve a few days around the regular scheduled meeting until plans are confirmed.
- National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference was discussed. The Council has budgeted for three members to attend. Let Lisa know of your desire to attend by the end of today's meeting.
- Please refer to the Freedom of Information Action (FOIA) letter in your meeting packet, also previously e-mailed. The FOIA Council will meet in April and address our letter. FOIA guidelines will need to be kept in mind in the upcoming development of the SPIL.
- The Statewide Independent Living fund bill was passed into law. Our challenge now is to come up with ideas on how to get monies secured. We are unable to fund-raise. An inquiry was made if meeting reimbursements could be directed into the fund. Staff Grubb shared that reimbursements must be made to the individual; however, private donations may be accepted after July, 2006.

- The Center for Independent Living (CIL) Conference will be August 28-30, 2006. All Council members are encouraged to participate
- Seed fund with mileage reimbursement. Direct private donation-final after July

Secretary's Report

Secretary Lewis Atkins opened the floor to discuss draft minutes from January 2006 Council meeting. The following discussion occurred.

- Secretary Atkins will advise Grubb on clerical edits

Lewis Atkins moved to accept the minutes as presented. Susan Prokop 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 Council received a financial report electronically prior to the meeting and a hard copy was distributed.

- Part B 2005 must be expended by September 2005; anticipated to be expended following this meetings expenses.

- Part B 2006 funding reduced approximately 1%.

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 I&E Monies expended.

SILC Staff, Treasurer, and DRS staff are making plans for budget planning.

George Hubbs moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Lewis Atkins moved to second the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Chair Susan Prokop opened the floor for Committee Reports.

Youth Committee

Committee Chair Stephen Joseph shared the following:

- Joseph plans to attend and speak at the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) about the SILC, so the delegate would have an idea of what to expect if they appointed to the SILC.
- Our newest appointed youth resigned due to personal reasons. The Committee will be working on a replacement recommendation.

Detailed report may be found in the full Committee minutes.

Consumer Services Committee

Due to the absence of Committee Chair Bill Ward, George Hubbs chaired the Committee and along with Jeff Pittman shared the following:

- Committee approved minutes from last meeting
- Committee is addressing Goal 5 of the SPIL by monitoring order of selection
 - DBVI—No, not under order of selection
 - DRS—Yes, under order of selection
 - Initially referrals dropped (20 months ago)
 - Consumers are now back to being referred
 - Waiting list is kept
- SILC members are encouraged to stop by One-Stops. Bill Ward provided an accessibility checklist to all members. Reviews have occurred in the format of 'a Secret Shopper'.
 - VEC charters One-steps; however One-stops were created out of the Workforce Development Act and are contracted with different entities.
 - Non-mobility accessibility is being addressed

- DRS volunteered to supply geographical data with Jeff Pittman will request from Ben Blumenthal.
- Are one stops the same as the VEC's –created out of Workforce Development Act
- Committee is continually reviewing 704's.
- Transportation Alliance Report given.
- All legislators were visited during General Session
- Currently looking at physical transportation needs

Detailed report may be found in the full Committee minutes.

Consumer Education Committee

Committee Chair Marcia DuBois shared the following:

- Pleased to present the SILC's first Annual Report
 - Ways to improve
 - Distributed to CILs, Legislators, and other partners
- Committee is continuing to work on the SILC website. Accessibility and content is the focus.
- Plans were underway for a Newsletter to report General Assembly (GA) happenings, however, at this time it will need to be revisited once the GA is no longer in session, distributing in CIL newsletters

The Committee was commended for the Annual Report.

Detailed report may be found in the full Committee minutes.

Operations Committee

Due to the absence of Committee Chair Sheila Cox Combs, Susan Prokop chaired the Committee and shared the following:

- The Committee spent much time discussing the upcoming strategic plan scheduled for October.
 - Members have expressed concern over the Snapshot document not meeting the needs of the structure of our SILC.
 - The Committee deferred to Susan Prokop and Lisa Grubb to meet with the Snapshot sponsors and determine if this document is going to be a good fit for our SILC.
 - If it is determined not to be a good fit, Prokop and Grubb will communicate accordingly and seek out other resources. Marcia DuBois has also offered to assist in researching additional options
 - Location and resources were discussed.
 - Commissioner Rothrock offered DRS' assistance in the SILC's strategic and SPIL planning process.
 - Woodrow Wilson Rehab Clinic (WWRC) in Staunton was discussed as a possible location.
 - George Washington University was mentioned as a training resource.

Lewis Atkins moved to pursue alternative strategic plans and resources for the planning session in October if the New York project is unable to present a document in which Prokop and Grubb determine meet the needs of the Council. Marcia DuBois moved to second the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- The Committee derived a draft schedule for the SPIL planning process. The full schedule may be reviewed in the Committee minutes.
- A Nomination Task Force was created and will present a slate of officers for Nomination at the July Council meeting.
- SILC Committee Meeting arrangements were discussed due to conflict with overlapping meetings. A split scheduling format is proposed for July. The Committee deferred to Susan

Prokop and Lisa Grubb to set out a series of meeting times. Detailed report may be found in the full Committee minutes.

Special Reports

Chair Prokop opened the floor for Special Reports.

Virginia Assistive Technology Report (VATS)

SILC Council Representative Celestine Walker shared the following:

- Refer to the report included in the meeting packet
- FREE Foundation was created for recycling equipment. For more information, call 540-777-4929.

Fellow Council Member Jenny McKenzie shared that there is a similar program for deaf/hard of hearing products, called the TAPP program.

DBVI Rehabilitation Council

SILC Council Recommended Representative George Hubbs shared the following:

- His appointment is not official yet. Prior to the new administration, Staff Grubb communicated and supplied all documentation to the Secretary's office and the DBVI Chair. DBVI Ex-Officio Member Jane Ward Solomon welcomed George to begin attending Council meetings. She will send him meeting dates.

Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

SILC Council Representative Philip Sieck shared the following:

- Refer to the DRS website for full Council minutes.
- Met in January, next meeting will be in May.
- Getting familiar with regional offices.
- Discussions included a future meeting with the SILC, SRC, and the DBVI Rehab Council

CAS Report

CIL Representative Marcia DuBois was available for question and answer as the CAS Report prepared by CAS Coordinator Maureen Hollowell was reviewed. CAS Review Team Lead Tim Edwards shared the following:

- CAS Review Team met the night before and discussed and approved all reports for this quarter. Reports were informative and had wonderful ideas.
- CAS Bests Practices was discussed and it was recommended that Lisa Grubb and Maureen Hollowell pursue setting up best practice on the SILC website.

Olmstead Report

SILC Staff Lisa Grubb and DRS Ex-Officio Member Theresa Preda shared the following:

- Currently 23 state agencies involved
- Lisa currently began serving on the Olmstead Implementation Team
- Comprised of two groups that work together: Olmstead Implementation Team and Olmstead Advisory Board
- Lisa Grubb, Theresa Preda, and Susan Prokop will be participating in their upcoming Strategic Planning process

Consumer Family and Participation Fund

Staff Lisa Grubb shared the following:

- Program was extended until September 2006

- Approximately \$50,000 available for people with disabilities and their family members to attend training
- Fund may be a potential source for CAS advocacy group members to attend the CIL Conference
- Applications are approved on a first come basis

Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL) Report

CIL Representative Marcia DuBois shared the following:

- Thanked SILC for support of CIL Day
 - Over 100 members were there
 - February 7, 2007 IL date next year
 - Episcopal Church with a reception for legislators
- Plans for the upcoming CIL Conference are coming together. The last statewide conference was in 2001. All Council Members were encouraged to participate
 - Empowerment Bracelets are being promoted
 - There are four themes:
 - Developing
 - Dynamic
 - Disability
 - Leadership
- VACIL is working to improve a system of performance measures. They are attempting to anticipate change and streamline the data collection process.
- VACIL Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for May
- VACIL will provide the SILC with performance measures for use in planning if desired prior to the July quarterly Council meeting.

Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) Advisory Board

Staff Lisa Grubb shared that she was just appointed to the board and will be attending her first meeting and will be prepared to report at the next SILC meeting.

Old Business

- Lisa has been rehired under a new contract. Appreciation was expressed for her continued employment with the SILC.
- Terry Jones' and Theresa Preda were commended for assisting the SILC during Lisa's medical absence.
- Jeff Pittman is continuing to follow up on the Olmstead concern in his community.

New Business

- Piedmont CIL's CAS was featured in the April newspaper. Lisa will scan and electronic copies will be available upon request.
- Virginia Association of Consumer Service Boards (CSB) have been contracted with to address shrinking Medicaid dollars. Lisa will scan and electronic copies will be available upon request.
- Former SILC Council Member Hazel Moran was on the cover of a disability rights newsletter. Lisa will scan and electronic copies will be available upon request.
- A CSB article featuring Joshua Corner, *What do we call ourselves?* was discussed. Lisa will scan and electronic copies will be available upon request.
- Former SILC Chair Janet Dorsey retires and relocates to Phoenix and sends regards to SILC.
- Send nomination recommendations to Lisa as quickly as possible. If an individual is interested, have them contact Lisa and she will instruct them on the process.

- A suggestion was made to add a link to the SILC website for the Partners in Policy Making, Youth Leadership Forum, explaining expectations of youth appointees.
- Membership terms expiring and reappointment interest expressed
 - Susan Prokop – Yes
 - Celestine Walker –Yes
 - Sheila Cox-Combs – Pending
 - Marcia DuBois –Yes
 - Bill Ward – Not eligible for reappointment

Upcoming Events

- September 2006, Partnership In Policy Making Program. The deadline to apply is April 28. The class runs six to eight months and typically meets on Friday and Saturday. Everything is paid for. If interested, get with Council Member Jenny McKenzie.

Meeting Close

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM