

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**  
**September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Governor's Inn, Pierre**

**SILC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Margot Burton, Annette Gamber, Shelly Schock, Patrick Czerny, Isabel Trobaugh, Matt Cain, Lyle Cook, Grady Kickul and Sandy Neyhart, representing Gaye Mattke. **SILC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vona Johnson, Ann Fortin, Jenneil Watkins, Ken Rollman, Marilyn Kinsman, Monte Tschetter, and Larry Puthoff. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Denise White, DRS staff; Shelly Pfaff and Faith Ellis, SILC staff.

**OPENING ACTIONS:**

**Welcome & Introductions** – Margot Burton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. She welcomed everyone and asked for people to introduce themselves. Shelly reported that she had received notice from Ann, Monte, Larry, Vona, Jenneil, Marilyn and Ken – they were not able to attend but send their regrets. It was confirmed that a quorum was present. **Meeting Protocol** – Margot reminded members of the meeting protocol attached to the agenda. **Approval of Agenda** – After confirming that everyone had received a copy of today's agenda, Margot asked if there were changes/additions.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).**

**Approval of March 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting Minutes** – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy; Margot called for changes/additions. Upon hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.**

**Approval of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 DDN Meeting Minutes** – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy; Margot called for changes/additions. Upon hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Margot called for Public Comment at this time. Upon noting there was no additional public in attendance, she moved forward.

**CIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:** **Independent Living Choices (ILC)** – Matt Cain announced that Kellie Anderson is no longer with ILC. She has taken a position in Pierre with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). ILC will not be keeping her past position open as an administrative position, but will modify it into a direct service position.

Matt reported that the Aberdeen ILC office is going smoothly. It's come a long ways already, and he feels they're about 99% settled.

Matt said that they have a contract coming soon with Avera McKennan for ILC staff to conduct training on Apnea related equipment and services. They will receive \$250 an hour for staff to train people in and around NE SD.

Matt explained that in Aberdeen, there were about 300-400 ramp pieces. They've been cleaned up and re-distributed or simply given away. They have installed a total of 25 ramps refurbished through Springfield.

Matt reported that their recent Assisted Daily Living Services (ADLS) review went well. They received positive suggestions for changes, and are looking to implement those soon.

ILC has served 1,967 people this year to date, and that's higher than usual due to the merger in Aberdeen. He stressed that this is a very large number, and they're quite proud of it. He explained that ILC is the only CIL that does ADLS.

Matt said that of the four core services, Information and Referral is still one of their major functions, especially on accessibility issues. Other areas that keep them busy are the Telecommunication Adaptive Devices program (TAD) and the Home Modifications and

Assistive Devices program (HMAD). Another common focus area ILC staff works on is IL soft skills. Peer support groups are going strong. ILC currently has about 34 volunteers who do one-on-one peer support, and there are several groups based on a specific disability or age group.

Annette asked Matt about who is the ILC contact in the Watertown area. Matt replied that the Watertown ILC Coordinator is Beth Lollum. He invited Annette to stop in to their office any time to introduce herself.

Isabel Trobaugh asked if what ILC does is similar to SESDAC in Vermillion. Grady offered the explanation that SESDAC is a Community Support Provider and they focus on serving people with developmental disabilities; IL services are available to people with all types of disabilities and are not typically a long-term service.

**Native American Advocacy Program (NAAP)** – Neither Marla Bull Bear nor a representative was available. No written report was provided.

**Western Resources for dis-ABLED Independence (WRDI)** – Ann Van Loan provided a written report (See Attachment A) and Margot reviewed it at this time. WRDI has hired an IL Specialist, Cindy Girard, to take over the Southern Hills territory. This brings them to full staff. Through the Department of Labor (DOL) they also have a work-study employee working part-time hours; her name is Cheryl Heinemann.

Denise White recently conducted their State Review. It went fine and they received some good recommendations.

WRDI has secured a contract with the Pierre Indian Learning Center (PILC) for one of their students. Jen Red Bear will teach IL skills and provide some other IL services.

A Fair Housing meeting was held September 7<sup>th</sup> for the benefit of the Rapid City Community Development Director, Barb Garcia, to learn about hardships area folks have in securing decent housing. There have been many complaints received on that topic. WRDI was proud to have helped sponsor this event.

Since the end of August, the Pierre WRDI office is now located at 740 E. Sioux Avenue, Suite #106. This space is twice as large as our previous space and more accessible. Jen Red Bear is up and operational there.

**THIRD PARTY IL COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDY:** Matt explained for the benefit of newer members, that this was a study that had initially been contracted by OIL, WRDI and ILC over two years ago. The intent was to study the cost effectiveness of IL services, trying to get solid figures that substantiate how IL services positively affect people and have this information available when presenting to the Legislature or others. It was an agreement with the USD Government Research Bureau. Bill Anderson was the main point of contact at the USD Research Bureau, but he is no longer with them. There was additional turnover there that added to the delay in finalizing the finished product. Due to the severe lateness of this report, the WRDI Board has decided to withdraw and ask for a refund on their funds already contributed. The SILC also has already given \$1,500, and Matt has questioned if maybe they want their money back. He feels that it is important to not burn bridges with the USD Research Bureau, and that ILC will continue with this project even if they have to pay it entirely themselves. Much discussion followed. Grady asked if USD actually has something to provide. Matt explained that they've gathered information from the Eastern half of the state so far. Nothing's been gathered from the Western half or from NAAP, so it doesn't reflect the original intent of being a statewide picture. Consensus was that the SILC will still need to have statistical figures on need, cost benefits, and the economic impact of IL on communities, so maybe we should let them go

ahead and try to finish the study even if it's not a statewide effort. Members felt we invested that money in good faith.

**MOTION TO NOT ASK ILC FOR A REFUND OF THE \$1,500 ALREADY CONTRIBUTED BY THE SILC, AND LET MATT ATTEMPT TO RE-NEGOTIATE WITH USD TO GET A REPORT ON INFORMATION ALREADY GATHERED – MSC.**

Grady added that if, in the long run, there is a need for further funding, there's a chance that DRS could be of some assistance. He'll stay in touch with Matt on this study.

**DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director's Comments** - Grady started by welcoming Lyle Cook and Annette Gamber, new SILC members in attendance today. He added there will eventually be some New Member Orientation Training offered to help them become more familiar with the SILC. He asked staff to ensure they also get an acronym list for their reference. Staff indicated this had already been done.

Governor Daugaard has proclaimed October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), with this year's theme being, "Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities – Return on Investment means hiring the right talent." Staff shared a flyer sized NDEAM poster, copies of the proclamation and the calendar of events with SILC members (See Attachments B, C and D). Grady encouraged SILC members to attend an event in their area. For the first time ever, Pierre/Fort Pierre is hosting an NDEAM event this year featuring John Robinson. Like always, travel expenses or registration fees will be reimbursed to members by simply contacting staff. If you plan to attend, please let the organizers know you are a SILC member.

Grady announced that the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was approved on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. The ILC and OIL merger meant this this document took some reworking, and Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) made us jump through several extra

hoops to finalize this document. Grady said this will be reviewed in more detail under Denise White's report further down the agenda.

**Term Limits for State Agency Members** – Grady explained that it had been brought to their attention that the SILC has been out of compliance for some time regarding the length of time that representatives of state agencies could serve on the Council. RSA now says that state agencies' representatives also have to abide by the same term limits as others. That is not how we've been doing it for years now. We're going to take this opportunity to review what other state agencies may need to be represented on the SILC, such as Department of Transportation. Grady added that technically he is off the Council.

Staff suggested that the Chair send a letter of invitation to appropriate state agencies regarding nominating a representative to serve on the SILC. Grady agreed this was a good idea. He asked that he be allowed to review a copy of it prior to it going out. Staff and Margot agreed. Isabel commented that it's a shame the SILC will lose Grady's years of experience and knowledge. He thanked her for the kind words and noted that through Denise, staff and as DRS Director, he will always be available as a resource to the SILC.

**DHS Sunset Study Legislative Process** – Grady explained that it is in state codified law that the Legislature review state agencies every few years, and it was DHS's turn. This is a 13 member committee, with Senator Jean Hunhoff as Chair. DHS has already presented a ten year overview on the budget, personnel, procedures, etc. He explained that this was tricky due to the fact that three divisions had been moved from DHS to DSS and it caused a large staff reorganization. So it was hard to compare apples to apples. Grady explained that the committee was meeting today in Redfield at the SD Developmental Center to hear testimony and tour the facility. Then tomorrow they will be meeting in Pierre at the Capitol, and they will be taking public testimony. SD Achieve, Black Hills Workshop, ILC, and Children's Care

Hospital and School, are lined up to present. All SILC members are invited and encouraged to attend tomorrow, although it is not mandatory. That is why today's meeting will go a bit longer and not continue into Friday.

**DRS IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST REPORT: Ramp Report** – The center in Springfield uses funding through DRS to build ramps. In fiscal year 2011, approximately 50 ramps have been put up at a cost of \$3,000 each. As Matt mentioned earlier, they had a surplus of ramp parts in Aberdeen, and those have been refurbished and put into use now.

Lyle asked where his agency and their housing authority could find written guidelines on building ramps. Denise advised him to contact Steve Stewart at DRS. She offered to send out some information and cautioned that communities can have different guidelines.

**IL Services Report** – Denise reported that CIL figures on the four core services have remained at a similar level for several months now. CILs receive their Part B money from the State; and their Part C money directly from the federal government. They have to report all data regardless of payment source.

Denise also said that she had completed CIL reviews and no major issues came out of them. SD CILs provide the four core services; they also specialize in different areas and that's ok, too. She added that the sample case files reviewed were good; it proved we have a sound system in place for the provision of IL services. She stressed that documenting the work is very important.

Denise provided members a handout of the new updated SPIL - Statewide Plan for Independent Living (See Attachment E). She said this is the current copy that's been freshened up with a new look, more narrative, easy to read language, and with less confusing breaks strewn in everywhere. Feel free to contact her with questions you may have after you have a chance to review.

**BSBVI DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Older Blind IL Program** –Sandy Neyhart reported on behalf of Gaye Mattke. She began by explaining that the Older Blind Program is a separate IL program for persons 55 and older who are experiencing vision loss yet are trying to stay independent in their own home. Sandy noted that many of their consumers are well into their 80's and 90's. They can receive help on IL skills and assistive devices available to assist them. The program has IL staff located in different towns, and they cover the entire state. A popular project is the Computer Information Access project through DakotaLink that helps older people who need computer training. Many simply need to learn all the ways that computer settings, screens, free downloads, webcams, etc. can be used to aid their vision. It's only been going for about one year, and about 40 people have gone through this program. Our target is to hit 50 before long. The feedback from participants has been great.

The Closed Circuit TV Lease/Loan Program (CCTV) is going strong. This is funded mostly by estate donations and memorials, and it provides large magnification screen TV to persons in need who meet financial guidelines. In existence since 2006, there are currently 185 units in service - 68 of which are leased and 96 are loaned. Some people lease them for \$30 a month and some are simply loaned to them for free, again based on financial need. All persons must pay a \$50 deposit up front. There are demo models in local offices to test and DakotaLink does a great job handling these for SBVI.

Sandy said they are conducting consumer satisfaction surveys to see if any adjustments are needed in services. It's been noted already that over 30 people have said that without this training they would have been in a nursing home. SBVI is proud of that feedback.

Sandy noted that the Board of SBVI (BSBVI) has three new members that they are proud to welcome aboard - Julie Briggs, Joleen Schaffer, and Bruce Micheel.

**GOVERNOR'S AWARD JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE:** Shelly Schock reported that the Governor's Awards Ceremony and Luncheon was held July 26<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was in the Capitol Rotunda with an opening welcome given by DHS Secretary, Laurie Gill, who then introduced Governor Daugaard. The Governor presented each of the seven award recipients their plaque. There were approximately 75 people in attendance, including state staff and other business representatives. A luncheon honoring all recipients was then held at the Casey Tibb's Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre and a good time was had by all.

Grady added that there is always some learning curve with new administrations. Staff has to take time educating them on this overall process; but as in the past, it all went exceptionally well. He hears over and over that winners really enjoy the special feeling of having this event in the Capitol Rotunda and the honor of having their photos taken with the Governor. Grady also said that Governor Daugaard has already agreed to be there and do it again next year.

**NDEAM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT** – Ann Fortin was not able to attend today, so no report is available from her. But Grady said again, if anyone is interested in attending any of these events, please be in touch with staff and they can assist you.

Annette Gamber noted that this will be the second year in a row that her family-owned business, County Fair Foods in Watertown, will be hosting an NDEAM event. She added they are proud to be involved with this effort, and she is even more proud that they employ several persons with disabilities.

**CIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTING TEMPLATE SUB-COMMITTEE:** Shelly Schock reported that this came about because when she first joined the SILC, she was a bit confused on why the CIL Director Reports were so different. It was agreed that maybe it would work better to have a consistent reporting tool. So she volunteered to work with this sub-committee to discuss and create

such a tool. She then shared a handout of the sample template they created (See Attachment F). The members reviewed this and felt it seemed to encompass the categories they would like to have reported on at each quarterly SILC meeting. Matt added that it will also need to be required of all the CILs. Grady agreed and said they can incorporate it into their written contract agreements to stress its importance.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THIS CIL DIRECTOR REPORTING TEMPLATE FORM AS IS AND HAVE ALL DIRECTORS USE IT QUARTERLY – MSC.**

It was agreed that this will get sent out to all the CIL Director's, including a cover letter explaining its importance.

**SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:**

**SILC Budget Report** - Shelly shared a handout of the SILC Budget Report as of the end of August (See Attachment \_\_\_). She pointed out that under meeting expenses and strategic planning; expenses reflected are due to the public meeting held in Aberdeen and the ordering of "Creativity Unleashed" books for all council members.

**ADVOCACY ISSUES:**

**Disability Advocacy Network (DAN)** - Margot reported that this is a network of over twenty different disability organizations from around the state. The SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities is the main agent that has brought these groups together as one voice to increase the clout of all, especially during the Legislative session. Margot explained that the DAN met via a DDN video-conference on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Plus the group held its Fourth Annual Disability Policy Summit on September 15<sup>th</sup> in Oacoma. Margot asked Shelly Pfaff to review the groups that DAN members have been involved with this summer.

Shelly explained that there is the Behavioral Health Service Transition Workgroup. Both Terry Dosch, Executive Director of the

Council on Mental Health Centers and Robert Kean, SD Advocacy Services are on this group. Shelly has been involved with a Medicaid Solutions Workgroup Sub-Committee, the Legislative Sales Tax Exemption Reform committee, and the Revenue Adequacy Group. Terry Dosch, along with Robert Kean, has also been involved with the Health Insurance Exchange committee.

Margot asked Shelly to report a bit more on the Revenue Adequacy Group (RAG). Shelly asked permission to switch to her Coalition hat, and Margot agreed. Shelly explained that RAG was initially created by SD Voices for Children to look at both sides of trying to balance the budget – not only cutting expenses but also raising more revenue. Then another entirely separate group called, Move SD Forward, formed to drive a petition attempt to get an initiative on the ballot next year to raise sales tax for Medicaid and Education. This slightly derailed RAG a bit, but they're coming back together soon to refocus their efforts exploring other options and revenue.

Margot next asked Shelly to tell the council about her experience with the Sales Tax Exemption Legislative committee. Shelly reported that at first this group had a total of over \$500 million worth of sales tax exemptions written into state codified law to review for consideration to change. Right from the start, there was much pressure from many groups who all felt it's fine to change someone else's but not their own tax exemptions. At the first meeting, the list was whittled down to just \$70 million left to review for potential change. By the end of the next meeting it was whittled down to only \$300,000 in exemptions to be considered for change.

Margot said that Terry, Robert and Shelly have worked hard to stay abreast of these crucial areas - attending meetings, and reporting back to the Network regularly. It was noted by a few different council members that it is becoming apparent to many, especially to Legislators that this Network is becoming more well-known and is a powerful voice to contend with. It was also mentioned that the DAN was the only group that when meeting

with Governor Daugaard last spring was invited back to meet with him again this fall. This meeting date is not set yet, but it is being worked on at this time.

Shelly explained that she has already met with Deb Bowman, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, and it went quite well. Things are looking good to soon finalize the meeting with Governor Daugaard.

Margot added that this Network requires much planning on the issues coming to Session and commended the Coalition staff for their hard work, especially the daily email alerts that Shelly investigates and sends out.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Margot called for any other business to be brought forward. Grady mentioned that staff had updated the SILC bylaws and had done a nice job putting it in a more logical order. The SILC Executive Committee has already seen this draft and now it needs to go to all SILC members for their review. When you receive it, please do read it. There will be a deadline for you to forward any thoughts, questions or concerns to staff. A member asked if it's possible to send both the old and the new out together. Staff explained that yes, there is also a cheat sheet to assist you as you compare the two versions. A question was raised regarding whether we track all the different activities listed in the strategies and goals areas of the SPIL. Staff replied that yes, those are regularly tracked.

A question was asked if the Consumer Satisfaction Services Surveys that are going to IL consumers, are turned into a neutral location vs. back to the CIL that served them. It was agreed that was a good idea to explore a neutral party, i.e. SILC staff carrying out this activity. Grady added that DRS does quarterly surveys, which are only about five questions. They come into DRS vs. to the individual offices, so yes, IL could be worked that same way. Grady suggested Bernie could help SILC staff make those arrangements.

**CLOSING ACTIONS: Future Agenda Items** – Margot called for any items for inclusion on the next agenda. Upon hearing none at this time, she reminded members that if they do have an agenda item come up, please contact staff.

**Scheduling the Next Meeting** – After consulting calendars and discussing options, it was decided that the next meeting will be November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in the Pierre area. Staff will set up arrangements and let the group know. Chairperson Margot thanked everyone again for their attendance and wished them safe travels. Grady also thanked the group.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN - MSC.** Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.