

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) MINUTES
April 30th, 2013
AmericInn, Ft. Pierre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margot Burton, Dave Miller, Isabel Trobaugh, Patrick Czerny, Steve Stewart, Sarah Rush, Larry Puthoff, Bernie Grimme, Sandy Neyhart and Tammy Kabris. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Matt Cain, Lyle Cook, Shelly Schock, Monte Tschetter, Vona Johnson and Annette Gamber. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Gaye Mattke, DRS and DSBVI; Denise White, DRS; Shelly Pfaff, SILC staff; Julie Paluch and Rachael Hatle, interpreters.

OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Margot, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:35, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. **Meeting Protocol** – Margot mentioned the meeting protocol attached to the agenda, and reminded members to follow protocol. **Approval of Agenda** – Margot confirmed members had copies and called for changes or additions. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED AGENDA – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy of the February 27, 2013 minutes; Margot called for changes/additions. Hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 27, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margot called for any public comments. No one asked for an opportunity to provide comments at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF AND COMMENTS FROM INTERIM DRS DIRECTOR: Margot welcomed and introduced Gaye Mattke, Interim Division Director for the Division of Rehabilitation Services and invited her to make any comments she would like to share with the SILC. Gaye thanked the SILC for their efforts over the past several months, especially as the two workgroups have tackled their respective assignments on behalf of the SILC. Gaye continued by stating the staff of both the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired are available to assist the SILC in any way they can support them in their work. She continued by sharing information about the upcoming public meeting in Mobridge next week co-sponsored by Standing Rock Vocational

Rehabilitation and several other partners. Gaye then addressed her response to a letter she received from the SILC seeking her assistance in getting information/data from CILs that will assist the SILC in carrying out their duties under the Rehabilitation Act. A question was asked if there was any timeline in place for when the Director position might be filled, and Gaye responded that the position is "open until filled". Margot thanked Gaye for her willingness to serve in this capacity, while also serving as Director for the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, and for being with the SILC today.

REVIEW OF "ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCILS – RSA TAC": Staff handed out (see attached) and reviewed a 'draft' document that addresses the SILC duties and responsibilities as noted in the RSA document. It was provided in response to a SILC request at their last meeting, and she invited any feedback in terms of this being a quick reference document for SILC members. No feedback was provided at this time.

SPIL CONSUMER SATISFACTION WORKGROUP REPORT: Bernie reviewed the previous work of this workgroup, as well as the members of the group. He also handed out the latest document prepared by the group, which had been sent out earlier to the SILC (see attached). He addressed that the contracts with the CILs will be routed within the department within the next couple of weeks, and if this document is going to be an attachment to the contracts that will start in June, it's time to move forward with the document. Two changes were suggested to the document:

- Question 3 was suggested to read, "I had choices in services to meet my independent living needs."
- The first bullet under "Requirements" would read, "CILs are to provide the survey to all cases with goals met and all cases with goals not met."

It was suggested that CILs be given the heads up that these requirements will be added to their contracts, so they can prepare and be ready to institute needed changes as of June 1st. Denise offered to do all that she can to ensure that these questions and the related process gets added to the CILs consumer satisfaction survey processes. Margot thanked Denise for her commitment to the implementation of these changes.

SPIL WORKGROUP REPORT: Dave reviewed the work of this group, the membership of the group and handed out a summary of the major input into the SPIL provided during calls with CIL directors and other CIL representatives. He indicated that the CILs were very willing to share information, and they were very grateful for the opportunity. He asked that staff send the call summaries to the full SILC once edits have been received from the last CIL director. Dave reviewed the summary of input (see attached). He indicated that it was his sense that the CILs see the SILC as more of a statewide advocate for IL services, programs and philosophy i.e., promoting available services; advocating for change on issues that affect people living independently; leveraging funding to support IL services; continue support of staff training, including development of core competency requirements for all IL staff; be a vehicle for information on new State level initiatives with potential to impact IL outcomes for South Dakotans with significant disabilities. Dave also spoke to the significant input received concerning the need for accessible, affordable and safe housing – both for those served and those providing services. There was also conversation about long-range planning vs. short-range planning for older adults, which are currently a large part of the population served by IL and expected to only increase with the state’s aging demographics. There was also conversation about services for Native Americans, people who are deaf and hard of hearing, growing cultural diversity in various portions of the state and the impact of all of these realities on the system, and more importantly, the ability of the system to meet these needs in equally timely and effective ways.

BREAK

Margot called the meeting to back to order and the conversation continued by looking at the four goals (see attached) that are in the current State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). A copy of the Department of Human Services strategic plan was provided as a reference document for this conversation (see attached). Dave led the conversation on this topic.

Goal 1: Improve the quality of independent living services, including the four core services – advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills training and peer support – to individuals with significant disabilities, including individuals who

are blind, that will allow them to fully participate in community life. This goal was established as part of an effort to refocus the IL system on the delivery of the four core services. At the time, it was felt that the delivery of other services i.e., HMA and TAD were taking more of the resources than the core services. Data would say that the effort to refocus on the core services has been successful. A large reason for the success is that the contracts for Part B funds provide 70% of the funding in support of the delivery of the core services, and it is not anticipated that this focus will be changed in the coming year. What is not known is whether or not the CILs have adopted the core services as the foundation for all that they do. There was also conversation about a need for ongoing technical assistance with CIL staff to ensure that they are coding all of the IL services they are providing, as well as the amount of services being provided so data accurately reflects what is being done. Consensus was to keep this goal with some changes – **“Improve the quality of independent living services, including the four core services, to eligible individuals with significant disabilities that will allow them to fully participate in community life.”**

Goal 2: Provide independent living services to individuals and populations who require these services and are underserved. Dave shared that directors from two CILs shared how they are seeing an increase in persons who are deaf or hard of hearing seeking their services due to the lessening presence of CSD in South Dakota. CILs have technology to assist them in effectively communicating with this population, and they initially received some training from CSD staff when the Division of Rehabilitation Services discontinued their funding of IL services with CSD. There was conversation about the willingness to serve people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The issue often becomes the lack of resources to pay for needed interpreter services in order to be able to equally have effective communication with them. There was conversation about training for CIL staff that might address some basic ability of staff to initially communicate effectively with members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. The conversation then turned to needs relating to Native Americans i.e., migration from reservations to ‘cities’ and back; requests for CILs other than NAAP to serve Native Americans on reservations. Denise explained what steps have been taken by the DSU in an effort to address the requests for CILs other than NAAP to serve Native Americans on reservations. There was also conversation about the need to ask Native people what they prefer in

terms of the delivery of IL services so we don't 'fix' a problem that isn't a problem. There was also some conversation about the growing diversity of ethnicities within communities, and the impact this is having on the IL service delivery system. Finally, under this goal there was conversation about the CILs efforts in the area of transition-age youth and whether there is a need for increased focus in this area within the SPIL. Consensus was that the language of this goal can remain the same, and objectives and activities under it can address the areas of services to people who are deaf and hard of hearing, people of differing ethnicities, Native Americans on and off the reservations and youth with disabilities. One idea concerning serving the needs of Native Americans was to study the best way to provide these services during the next three years, involving the SILC, the DSU and separate blind agency and NAAP.

Goal 3: Ensure that staff are qualified, as well as educated about the independent living philosophy, provides independent living services, including the four core services. The conversation on this goal led to eventual consensus that this goal should be deleted in total. It was agreed that Goal 4 needs to be reworked to focus on the role of the SILC, and that training of CIL staff will fit well under Goal 4 as an objective and/or activity.

Consensus was there is a need to write a new goal dealing with housing needs and related issues. The issues raised range from the lack of safe, affordable, accessible housing in larger communities, and people relocating to larger communities for medical and other supports, to the issues of long waiting lists, to that of newly injured individuals who receive rehabilitation services and are prepared to live independently but cannot because housing is not available, so they end up living with family or in a nursing facility and new ways these and other issues may be more effectively addressed to ensure successful IL outcomes.

There was also conversation about the need to have a goal relating to technology and its use in more efficiently providing needed IL services to people statewide, especially in very rural portions of the state. It was suggested that if we do not make use of technology to more efficiently deliver services – we'll provide less and less IL services due to the cost of providing them in the traditional ways. After lengthy conversation,

consensus was that rather than having a separate goal, this will be an objective under Goal 1.

Goal 4: Collaborate with other State, tribal and local agencies and organizations to identify issues impacting the ability of persons with significant disabilities to live independently and participate in systems advocacy activities designed to address these issues.

Consensus was that this goal can be reworked to focus on the SILC and its role. Within the language of the goal, objectives and activities suggested by the CILS were promoting IL services and philosophy; developing a core competence level for IL staff; providing individualized technical assistance to CILs; advocating with different groups to partner with CILs in meeting the needs of those served; exploring new ways to address needs unique to Native people accessing IL services and their role within their Native communities.

Dave indicated that he felt he had enough materials to work with the SPIL workgroup on further developing SPIL goals, objectives and activities.

LUNCH

SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: FY13 YTD BUDGET REPORT – Shelly briefly reviewed the report that had been mailed out to SILC members earlier (see attached). No questions were asked about the report at this time. 2013 CIL STAFF TRAINING EVENT: Shelly shared that the training will be tomorrow through Friday noon, and there are about 30 people registered to participate. Once evaluations have been completed, a report will be provided to the SILC, as well as a final expense report. No questions were asked at this time. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING – Support of Standing Rock VR Public Meeting: Information had been sent out earlier about the meeting. A request has been received for the SILC to provide \$500 in support of this event. The Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired are each providing \$500 in support of the event. **Motion to provide \$500 of strategic planning funds in support of the Standing Rock VR Public Meeting – MSC.** Support of 2013 Youth Leadership Forum: A Strategic Planning Funding Application has been received from Black Hills Special Services Cooperative for support of the 2013 Youth Leadership Forum. The SILC has provided financial support of this event in the past in the amount of \$1,000. This

year's request is for \$2,000. **Motion to provide \$2,000 of strategic planning funds in support of the 2013 Youth Leadership Forum – MSC.** **Support of 2013 NDEAM Activities:** The BVR Chairperson has contacted the SILC seeking \$3,000 in support of the 2013 NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) events planned for October. A total of eleven communities applied for funding in the total amount of \$19,655 and a committee with representation from the BVR, SILC and Board of SBVI approved a total of \$18,605 in support of these events. **Motion to provide \$3,000 of strategic planning funds in support of the 2013 NDEAM events – MS.** A question was asked what the SILC has contributed in the past. Staff indicated that the SILC has not provided financial support – yet they at times have been publicly recognized for doing so. A question was asked about the level of CIL and SILC involvement in these activities. A comment was also made in terms of whether this fits into the IL needs and priorities, as identified by the CILs and SILC. A vote was taken – **Motion C. Election of Officers:** Staff reported that the SILC has not held an election of officers for about 18 months. She indicated that they are to hold them on an annual basis. Due to term limits, Larry – the current vice chairperson – will be off the SILC after this meeting. Margot asked Larry to take over chairing of the meeting for nominations for chairperson. **Motion to nominate Margot Burton as chairperson – MS.** No further nominations were made and nominations were closed. **Motion to close nominations and elect Margot as chairperson – MSC.** Margot thanked Larry for leading this portion of the election. She then took back the gavel and sought nominations for the position of vice-chairperson. **Motion to nominate Dave Miller as vice-chairperson – MS.** No further nominations were made. **Motion to close nominations and elect Dave as vice-chairperson – MSC.** The member-at-large position will not be elected today, as the chair wishes to check with the current member filling that position to see if he is interested in continuing to serve in that position. The election for this position will take place at the next meeting.

CIL DIRECTORS' REPORTS: No CIL directors were present at the beginning of this portion of the meeting. Some conversation followed on the report format used by them, its development and how to get greater consistency in what is reported to the SILC. Consensus was that once new goals have been established in the new SPIL, the SILC will revisit the report format and explore changes designed to lead to greater consistency.

Marla, NAAP Director, joined the meeting, and she was invited to go over her report with the SILC. She addressed some of the challenges they continue to face in delivering services i.e., distance, weather delays this time of year; as well as the partnerships which they have forged which have enabled them to more fully meet the needs of those they serve. She spoke to a story about NAAP's IL services recently run on KELO TV. Marla also spoke to the benefit of relationships with faith-based organizations such as the Tree of Life Ministry, and other relief organizations such as Peddler's Three out of Brookings and Feeding South Dakota in helping them meet the basic needs of those served and then being able to meet IL needs that might otherwise never been known or addressed.

DRS REPORT: Bernie Grimme provided this report, starting by inviting the SILC to let him know of any topics they would like him to cover at upcoming meetings and his commitment to do so. **BOARD OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:** Bernie spoke of the Board's role, and he shared that their last meeting was March 25/26. At that meeting they had a presentation from the Veteran's Administration vocational rehabilitation program – from staff and someone receiving services from the program. The Fall Conference, which is scheduled for October 15 – 17 in Pierre, will have a track focusing on meeting the vocational rehabilitation needs of veterans. The Board also heard about the Division's 'Futures Initiative' – an internal leadership development initiative, and a major staff training effort in the area of motivational/behavioral change counseling focus of rehabilitation counseling services. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for June 6/7 in Aberdeen and a major focus will be the submission of the VR State Plan. **STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT:** The Rehabilitation Act requires a statewide needs assessment be completed every three years. The last one was completed in 2011, so they are looking at the next one being done in 2014. The SILC has been involved in past meetings of the Statewide Needs Assessments. Prior to the 2011 Needs Assessment, the assessment was done by phone surveys using the USD Government Research Center, as well as by consultants reviewing existing studies. Since then RSA came out with guidance indicating that the review of existing studies was an appropriate way to conduct a statewide needs assessment, and they are planning on using this approach in the 2014 process. **SEQUESTRATION:** Part C IL funds, which go directly from the federal government to the CILs, totals approximately \$800,000 in SD, and it will experience a 5% reduction due to sequestration. Part B IL funds, which go to the DSU for IL services and

other uses, totals around \$300,000, and it, too, will experience a 5% reduction due to sequestration. Final award letters have not yet been received, but are expected soon.

DRS IL SPECIALIST REPORT: Denise White provided this report. **IL SERVICES REPORT:** Denise shared a report format that Dave, Shelly and she have been working on as a means of providing data to the SILC that will be useful for them in monitoring implementation of the SPIL. She walked everyone through the document, and a few items were noted as possible mathematical errors, which she will check. A couple of other changes were also suggested. The definition of a 'unit' was provided – a 'unit' is 15 minutes of time, and it is paid at a current rate of \$14.94/unit. This report is a work in progress, and Denise committed to making changes as the SILC would like to see in order to make it the most effective tool for their work.

DSBVI REPORT: Sandy Neyhart provided this report. **OLDER BLIND REPORT:** Sandy reported that their new staff in Sioux Falls is off and running and doing well. Dawn Brush, a rehabilitation teacher from Aberdeen, is resigning after nine years, so they are busy 'planning forward' for this change. She had no update on the CCTV program – there are 190 machines out there and they are constantly in use. They will be holding a peer support event in Rapid City on May 8th – 'What did you say?' – for people with vision and hearing loss. It will be at the Holiday Hills Center, and they hope it will be an opportunity for people to learn how to adjust to hearing loss, as well as vision loss. **BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED:** The Board had a public meeting on April 19th in Rapid City in conjunction with the NFB Convention. There were 34 people in attendance. Some of the topics brought forward were: transportation challenges, state plan, the rehabilitation center and the talking book program. They held a public meeting via video-conference on April 25th with several sites, and a total of 28 participants. Some of the topics brought forward at this meeting were: training on the use of assistive technology, more intensive training needs of people for whom going to the rehabilitation center is not an option, peer support and transit services. The next Board meeting will be June 21st in Pierre. There will also be a Transition Week at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind June 17th – 21st.

OTHER BUSINESS: Margot asked if there was any other business. Gaye shared that the Department of Human Services will be doing a 'roll-out' of

their Strategic Plan the last two weeks of June. Tentative plans are for events to be held in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Pierre and Redfield, and when more details are available, they will be shared with the SILC and other stakeholders. These events will provide time for stakeholders to provide input to the department.

CLOSING ACTIONS: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Four items identified for the next meeting agenda are (1) a presentation by DakotaLink; (2) presentation on services provided to the deaf community through DRS; (3) election of the 'member-at-large' position on the executive committee; and (4) Planning related to the goals/objectives/activities contained within the new State Plan Independent Living. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING: It was proposed that the next meeting be held on July 30th in Pierre/Ft. Pierre. Staff will work on making arrangements and as soon as a location is determined, they will send out confirmation on the date and location.

At this time, Margot thanked Larry Puthoff for his commitment and service to the Statewide Independent Living Council. Larry is concluding his second three year term, and he is not eligible for another term until he takes a break in service. Margot said that he would be missed, and the SILC hopes that he might return at some point in the future. All wished Larry the very best and recognized his contributions via applause. Larry thanked the SILC, and he also shared that the South Dakota Association of the Deaf will be holding its annual convention in Deadwood the last week of June.

ADJOURNMENT: Margot thanked everyone for their time and service. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2 P.M.