

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) MINUTES**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**  
**Governor's Inn, Pierre**

**SILC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Margot Burton, Patrick Czerny, Matt Cain, Lyle Cook, Shelly Schock, Grady Kickul, Gaye Mattke, Vona Johnson and Marilyn Kinsman. **SILC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Isabel Trobaugh, Annette Gamber, Ken Rollman, Ann Fortin and Larry Puthoff. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Ann Van Loan, WRDI; Denise White, DRS Staff; Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff; and Faith Korkow, SILC Staff.

**OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** – Margot Burton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM. She welcomed everyone and then had everyone introduce themselves. **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 from members. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).**

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES** – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy; Margot called for changes/additions. Upon hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Margot noted there appeared to be no other persons in attendance, so upon hearing no other public comments, she continued.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:** Margot turned it over to Shelly, who began with a handout (See Attachment A) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) organizational chart, drawing attention to the four divisions and four boards/councils under DHS, including, the SILC.

Next, Shelly shared a larger handout (See Attachment B) that showed more details on actual functions and requirements of those boards and councils. The Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and the SILC have similar duties for different areas. The Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI) has the same functions assigned to them as does the BVR on behalf of the separate agency which serves people with blindness and visual impairments.

Shelly pointed that both the BVR and the BSBVI are connected to DHS, but not to each other. The SILC is the only one connected to both DRS and DSBVI.

Grady offered up an interesting point, that nowhere does it say that the SILC “funds” independent living (IL) services – a role that the SILC has been part of in the past. Other SILCs around the country have carried out larger efforts carrying out their responsibilities than South Dakota. He feels it’s because several years ago the SILC, DSU and blind agency decided to dedicate IL dollars to go to the provision of services, rather than SILC activities. Shelly agreed that Rehabilitation Services Authority (RSA) has told the SILC specifically that they do not have enough resources to carry out their functions in the past.

Shelly asked the group if this information was helpful, and invited feedback on future training for SILC members.

Next, Denise shared a handout entitled, SILC Duties and Responsibilities (See Attachment C). It points out that the SILCs three main duties are: planning, implementation, and evaluation. The SILC is charged with the development, monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating of the IL State Plan. She suggested that this calls for more real work to be done, more actual projects, more meaningful tasks to accomplish the SILC’s goals.

Denise reviewed the SILC and the four main SILC goals:

1. To improve the quality of IL service, including the four core services,
2. To provide IL services to people who need them, especially the underserved,
3. To ensure that staff are qualified, and
4. To collaborate with other agencies, including other state, tribal and local agencies, to identify issues and to work to address them.

An example activity might be more IL educational promotions to the medical field. It’s surprising how many doctors still think people with disabilities should not be independent and living alone.

Next Denise shared a detailed handout of the 2010-2013 SPIL Work Plan (See Attachment D). This chart shows the goals, how we’ll evaluate our progress, the individual objectives within each goal and the activities or strategies developed to reach these goals.

Denise pointed to the back of Handout/Attachment D, and two areas that are in need of more development. She asked SILC members to help Staff think

of ways we can carry out joint efforts with other agencies who are working towards similar goals.

Denise proposed that the Work Plan be an on-going agenda item for every meeting agenda vs. one item under someone else's report. Shelly added that SILC members have suggested having the Work Plan on each meeting agenda. Consensus was that this approach sounds fine.

Margot agreed that the SILC frequently seems to take a more passive role, and it's time to step up, take more active roles and move this group forward. Shelly added that as SILC Staff, we're looking for more direction, more active guidance from the SILC.

It was suggested that maybe some areas may need Staff to carry them out. Margot turned to Shelly, wearing her Coalition hat, and asked, "Do you think that is something the Coalition could maybe help the SILC with in the future?" Shelly indicated there is that possibility.

A great example of an issue that was brought to the SILC's attention at the last meeting is the housing issue surrounding persons with disabilities, including the mental health arena. We need ideas of how to collaborate and cultivate solutions. Margot added it's the same with ideas on the used equipment topic from the past meeting. It got some discussion, and at least now some actions are taking shape.

Shelly continued by sharing the next handout on the meaning of IL (See Attachment E). This graphic shows that IL means to be in control of their own lives, control over their own services, and it also can mean to have control at the policy-making level, over advocacy efforts and its agenda, and also at the staffing level. Shelly cautioned though that other agencies have their own definitions of IL, and when hearing reference to "IL" it's always important to know what definition is being used.

Vona added that they are seeing people with mental health disabilities are not receiving actual supports they need to successfully live independently. They have current examples in the Sioux Falls area at a brand new facility, where people have only lived there one week and are already on their third infraction and facing eviction. It seems they may not have the capacity to understand the dire predicament they are in; it becomes a revolving door issue. These tenants do not appear to be prepared to live independently, nor do landlords know how to effectively address such situations beyond eviction.

Denise agreed that it is hard if they've never been held accountable for such things before, needed IL skills simply may not be in place. Consensus is that work needs to be done with renters and landlords so they don't kick people back out on the street – an opposite outcome of the main objective to provide people with safe and affordable housing. Margot thanked members for their participation in this conversation on a current IL issue that goes beyond one agency or service.

Shelly continued with the next handout (See Attachment F) addressing the difference between advocating and lobbying. Advocating is educating in general, but lobbying is when you ask for a very specific action, such as vote one way or another on a bill. Grady cautioned that the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) does consider these two terms interchangeable; and reminded the group of a time that the word “advocacy” had to be taken out of the state plan.

The bill currently in the legislature regarding raising the fee on background checks was brought up. It was noted how SD is already 3 to 5 times higher than area states around us. A member mentioned a service called, Intelicorp which is about \$22 per personal background check. They only take a couple of business days to get back, and you can have contracts for higher volume discount.

Margot reminded all SILC members to please read their State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and especially the Work Plan, think it through, and come up with some ideas of actual action plans for us to carry out by the next meeting. Shelly requested to please have these ideas for work plan projects to staff 30 days prior to our next SILC meeting. This will allow time to have them looked at, determine their place on the agenda, and if needed, to line up presenters.

## **BREAK**

**DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Grady explained that tomorrow there was supposed to have been a meeting with Department of Social Services (DSS) new Assistive Technology Reuse Recycle Workgroup, which we has been postponed. It more than likely won't get rescheduled until after Session, so our plan to combine two meetings in one trip to Pierre – just fell through.

On a more serious note, Grady took time to honor a dear friend, Joel Niemeyer, a former SILC member who recently passed away. Joel worked at North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. While serving

on the SILC, he had served as Chair. All shared comments on Joel's knowledge, strong dedication and his legacy in our state. Shelly added that Betty Coon, also a past SILC member, had also passed away recently. Betty was a strong believer in advocacy, in the disability community. Joel and Betty will be missed.

Grady announced the timeframe to submit comments on the Assisted Daily Living Services (ADLS) Waiver Renewal. Visit the DRS website or contact staff for details. The deadline for comments is Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Next Grady moved to some legislative bills that the Department is watching: SB 21: The Committee on Health and Human Services, at the request of the Department of Human Services, brought this forward to repeal and revise certain outdated provisions, as part of the Governor's Red Tape Reduction initiative. It has passed both houses and is headed to the Governor for his action.

SB 2: The Interim Human Services Agency Review Committee brought this bill forward to repeal and make style and form revisions to certain provisions related to DHS. Again, this is a clean-up bill and it has also passed both houses and is headed to the Governor for his action.

**DRS IL SPECIALIST REPORT: IL SERVICES REPORT** – Denise White explained that Grady had covered several of her items. She affirmed that the ADLS Waiver Renewal Process seeking public comments are open until Friday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, please visit our website or give staff a call.

It was asked if comments are being sought because we foresee many changes coming or there are other major revisions in the renewal. Denise replied that one key change is for people with disabilities who work and receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to contribute less for the cost of their services since earned income won't be counted in the cost share formula. This is being done to encourage more people to find work and not fear losing benefits.

Denise also strongly urged that the SPIL Work Plan become an on-going, stand-alone agenda item to really be effective and to get the attention it warrants.

Denise told the group that there is some federal level legislation regarding working and paying overtime pay to occupational therapy Staff over and

above a normal 40 hour work week. Matt shared that at ILC, they have already begun doing that too.

**DSBVI DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Gaye Mattke provided members with a copy of the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI) Annual Report (See Attachment G). This year the reports were printed by the marketing agency that helped them produce their TV ads. A special area to point out that we're proud of is the personal stories we added to the report this year. They are crucial to telling the story about who uses our services and how they benefit people's lives.

A member brought up that they had seen the "Burnie the Bunny" show which focused on blind disability awareness and was filmed at the SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind. It is very well done, and done at a level children can connect with. The show's producers approved, and encouraged that we share this with others in the name of education. For further details on how to watch this show, contact Gaye Mattke.

Gaye announced they are working on their annual public meeting schedule. Their Board meets March 23<sup>rd</sup> and plans will be finalized at that time. Proposed schedule is a DDN video meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> and a face to face meeting in Rapid City on April 13<sup>th</sup>. They are also working with Tribal VR programs to schedule a meeting and this might be one the SILC would want to join in on.

Gaye also shared a resource entitled, "Vet Success on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment". This Veteran's Administration Resource guide is packed with contact information on federal programs that assist veterans. She invited members and others to feel free to take several to share.

**SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: BUDGET REPORT** – Shelly distributed and reviewed a report (See Attachment I). Conversation followed on the strategic planning budget item and how there will be \$1,000 coming out of that soon for the 2011 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). No big changes or issues to point out today. Grady encouraged SILC members to bring forward ideas that could be supported through the use of strategic planning funds. **SILC REPRESENTATION ON JOINT SUB-COMMITTEES** – Shelly brought forward that last year the SILC had representation on two joint committees with membership from the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and the Board of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (BSBVI). They were the Governor's Awards Committee, and Shelly

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Schock was the SILC representative; and the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Committee, on which Ann Fortin was the SILC representative.

Margot asked Shelly Schock if she would consider serving on this Governor's Awards Committee for the SILC, and Shelly agreed that she would.

Since Ann Fortin is not here today, it was felt we should not simply re-assign her, but instead we would like to put out a request to other SILC members not in attendance who may also be interested in helping with this, such as Annette Gamber and Isabel Trobough. It was agreed to have staff pose the question to these members and let them decide. It was noted that Lyle, who is a member of all three groups – BVR, SILC, and BSBVI – does serve on both of these sub-committee.

Shelly shared that she has received a copy of an official resignation letter from Jenneil Watkins to Governor Daugaard. Jenneil feels committed to her job, to her other position on another board and regrettably feels she is not able to commit the necessary time and energy needed to stay on the SILC. She will be missed. Jenneil's resignation, along with the earlier news of key advocates passing away, led to the discussion of recruiting new SILC members. Where and how are we planting seeds to foster new members for the Council? The past process was explained, and the question was asked, "How can we attract new candidates?"

Ideas were raised to try newspaper ads, public service announcements, radio ads, newspaper stories and maybe human interest stories.

Matt offered to share the names of nominations that their Board has received in the past, who are not presently serving on their Board. At a minimum it proves they have an interest in IL services in SD.

Ann Van Loan said she had at least three names in mind that she could nominate from past experiences. She will discuss with them the idea of submitting their names for consideration.

The idea was discussed about to recruiting with peer-support groups, to help us think beyond what we're used to looking at. Staff cautioned that we not focus on a certain number of openings, but rather that we focus on getting a broad selection of qualified candidates to choose from. This comes back to the idea the Council, needing to focus on growing leaders in the IL arena.

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Another idea was to think of others who have been active before, such as the people who are no longer on the Freedom to Work Leadership Council. Another member suggested that maybe a pool of people be tagged for giving live presentations of their personal stories to groups or councils such as ours.

Staff explained that the BVR, BSBVI, and SILC will do the mass mailing as a joint project under all three names. These will go out in the foreseeable future. Staff will draft a thank you letter to Jenneil Watkins thanking her for her dedicated service to this Council and her tireless efforts on behalf of the entire disability community.

**Third Party IL Cost Effectiveness Study** – Matt explained 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 had been point of contact at the USD Research Bureau, but is no longer there. 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 asked for a refund, which has already been paid back to them.

The current news is that Mike Allgrunn is the new Director of the USD Research Bureau. Matt says he seems extremely committed, he's reviewed tons of data in person sitting at our office, and he has promised a report by the end of June or even sooner. Matt is more confident about this study than ever before, and is looking forward to the results.

It was asked, if this study will only be using data from the eastern portion of the state. Matt said yes, that is true. Matt feels the study results will prove a very useful tool in presentations for grant funding, etc. He also mentioned that Mike Ullgrunn agreed to be available to help do such presentations or at a minimum review it with us to do better.

Grady asked if we eventually like the end product of this study and want to do the western half of the state, and/or add in the reservations, would that be possible? Matt said he thought that yes, it could work be worked out if we wanted to do that down the road. It was also asked if we can use their exact same questions. Matt agreed to check into that for us.

After noting that we're ahead of schedule, Margot asked permission to move ahead on the agenda and to do the CIL Director Reports at this time. Everyone agreed.

## **CIL REPORTS:**

**ILC** – Matt handed out his report (See Attachment J) using the newly developed CIL Director Report Template. He reviewed that they have office locations in seven towns, and are covering the additional Chamberlain area with staff from Mitchel. In total, they touch 43 counties in eastern SD. Under four core services activities, they've trained four new Peer Visitors; established a new Peer Support group in Aberdeen; encouraged participants to attend the Sioux Falls Area Metro meeting regarding changing the bus routes, and completed an ADA assessment. He also pointed out they're proud to collaborate now with the Watertown Project Search through the ILC Watertown office. Matt added a special thank you to fellow SILC member, Annette Gamber, for helping get that worked out. Plans continue to expand their Summer Transition Programs for area youth with disabilities.

ILC has a new nurse case manager hired to start the end of Feb. Her name is Janice Jaacks; she's been with Sanford for 11 years. Matt said they continue to participate in the Disability Advocacy Network (DAN). Next Matt explained how ILC sold the oil domain name for \$17,000. He next added that their annual Harley Raffle Ticket Sales are going strong. ILC now can do training on a negative pressure pump for treating pressure wounds, and through that particular company can now get a 20% discount on other assistive devices.

**WRDI** – Ann Van Loan shared her report (See Attachment K). She began by saying they are now an official Ticket To Work Employment Network provider. They're losing one staff member who is pregnant with twins. They're currently at nine staff right now. In January, they hired two full-time IL specialists, Bill Clucus and Sheree Kissick; plus a part-time Deaf Services Coordinator, Tonya Wilson. Ann also noted one special item that they did again receive for a third time, the \$250,000 from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. This will be used to assist 25 homeowners outside the Rapid City area, with their home modifications and adaptive devices. Other details are in the report as requested, if you have any questions; Ann invited members to contact her.

**NAAP** – Marla Bull Bear was not able to attend today, but she had provided her report to Staff, which was shared with members (See Attachment L). Shelly reviewed a few portions, and encouraged members to read it in its entirety later, and if you have any questions you can contact Marla or staff.

Lyle pointed out that it was recently in the national news that four of the poorest counties in the entire nation are right here on our SD reservations or on the state line with ND. He simply wanted to bring to light how much harder everything is for the Native Americans living in such financial conditions. Lyle told of a recent story of a counselor coming from Rapid City to meet with a consumer. Road conditions were causing troubles, and they had no contact phone numbers for the consumer. Some Native people do not have landlines, or do not live where there is cell phone service, or they do not have a reliable vehicle or gas money to get to an out of town appointment. He simply wanted to ask members to have their staff keep in mind that there can be many extenuating circumstances that come up when dealing with consumers on, or near the reservations. Lyle suggested that staff must ask consumers questions, such as, “Do you have reliable transportation?” and “Can you get to this appointment or do you need help lining something up?” Lyle hopes that keeping these things in mind when setting appointments or re-arranging appointments at the last minute, can make a big difference in the success of the appointment.

As a member of the committee that helped develop the CIL Directors Report Template, Shelly Schock said that after hearing today’s reports she feels that they seem to be working as intended. She feels that in some cases more details would be helpful.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Margot asked if there was any other business to report. Lyle reported how he had gone to the Lakota Nations Invitational (LNI) Basketball Tournament in Rapid City. In collaboration with BVR, SILC, and BSBVI, and his own VR program, Lyle was thankful to these groups for the promotional materials he was given for a booth at the tournament. They had a great booth location with high daily traffic. Lyle added that this always feels like a success, that they see a lot of people in that one weekend.

Gaye added a personal thank you to Lyle for being such a great ambassador in the Native American community. Lyle has always been instrumental in getting our public meetings arranged when they are held on the reservations, and his contacts are immeasurable to us. He also helped with the SBVI television commercial he recorded in Lakota for us, and that

his version got more comments than any of the others. Again, Gaye offered a thank you to Lyle for his hard work and dedication to VR and IL.

Grady mentioned a past SILC member, Mary Italia, started the LNI, and it has grown to be an extremely large event. Staff said it's a great example of thinking outside the regular box we're used to so that a broad range of people are reached. Grady extended his own invitation that if people want to do things like that, call us for help, if we can, we will try to help, whether it is to help work a booth, or provide promo materials, we will try to help where we can, but you have to at least ask or we won't know what you need.

Margot agreed that large conference or events like that can have expensive booth/registration fees and that makes it hard for small entities. It was stressed that's why we need to go together, to collaborate, share the fees, split the time, split the promo items cost, it all helps if we can do half or even a third. A member inquired if the SILC Strategic Funds could be applied for to cover expenses such as that, and it was agreed that yes, those could work as applicable expenses, just need to do the paperwork application like everyone else does. Contact staff for those details if interested. Marilyn Kinsman added that the DSS agency is also always more than willing to discuss collaborating ideas such as these, interested in partnering to do events of any size. She welcomes any and all opportunities like that; please feel free to contact her with ideas.

**ADVOCACY ISSUES:** Margot told members that she has been attending the Disability Advocacy Network (DAN) DDN meetings being held every other Thursday during Legislative Session. This network is loosely made up of over 20 organizations that collectively come together to work on like issues that affect them all. The DAN is facilitated by the SD Coalition. Margot turned to Shelly to share more about the DAN. Shelly confirmed permission to change hats, and speak as the Coalition, Margot agreed. Shelly explained that it has been busy keeping up with the Legislative calendar, committee hearings, and bill updates. She issues an update daily. It's been rewarding to watch how in several areas this large of a group of varying organizations has been able to come together for the good of a common cause and develop some bargaining power. As a group, the DAN has written letters or statements on issues affecting people with disabilities. DAN members are then given the option to sign off on it or not. The DAN has sent letters to DSS, DHS, DOT, DOH, DOE asking them if "clean up bills" removing or updating old and obsolete language, would negatively impact persons with disabilities. They also sent a letter to the Governor on cutting the autism program budget, a yearly cap on adult dental services and

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urge policymakers to invite people with disabilities to the table to discuss issues at the beginning of the process rather than later. DAN members also work within their own organizations to encourage and support persons with disabilities and family members becoming engaged in the legislative and other policy processes. Some issues being monitored are a bill to require mandatory drug testing for all people on any form of assistance, such as TANF or food stamps; changes to voting practices and education reform.

Margot further explained how the DAN gets out position/issue statements. First, we all discuss the issue over the DDN meeting. We agree on the position we want to take. Then specific members are asked to draft a sample letter. It is then shared via email with contacts of the 20 organizations. Everyone has opportunities to provide edits or additions. Those are all reviewed again, incorporated, and another draft sent to all. Organizations that agree to either “sign off” on it have their name added to the letter. Then it’s sent to the appropriate audience already selected, i.e. the Governor, Legislators, Department Secretaries.

Margot thanked Shelly and the Coalition for their role in DAN meetings and keeping such a good close eye on happenings up at the Capitol.

Grady asked when “Disability Awareness Day” is at the Capitol. Staff replied that it will be 8 am – 2:30 pm, Wed. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. To date 17 organizations will be represented in the Rotunda, on hand to mingle and chat with Legislators, other elected officials and other members of the general public. Shelly extended an open invitation to all, please feel free to stop in that Wednesday for conversation and a fresh fruit cup. Grady added that SILC members should keep in mind they are welcome to attend such functions. They simply need to turn in their travel reimbursement requests to Staff.

Margot asked if there was any further business. Vona asked if members had advice on finding resource information on the topic of bullying amongst the elderly. Matt suggested his wife, who is with the state office of Special Education. It appears that bullying is happening everywhere, not only at school and with youth. Bullying is bullying, no matter who it is done to or done by.

**CONVERSATION – HOUSING NEEDS & INDEPENDENT LIVING:** Vona began by introducing Lisa Bondy from the SD Housing Development Authority, who came to discuss housing and homelessness issues and how they’re closely tied to the IL world, as well as the current troubles they’re seeing. For Lisa’s benefit, Margot asked the group to introduce themselves

and say what and where they work, to help give her an idea of the group makeup.

Lisa thanked the SILC for inviting her. She started by sharing a handout (See Attachment M) which launched into the varying definitions of homeless, how it varies from agency to agency and the on-going difficulty this adds to programs.

Next, Lisa shared how the feds give us one day, an exact 24 hour period, in which to survey and hand count the homeless people in every state in the nation. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, SD had a total of 1,453 officially counted as homeless based on the federal definition. That number 1,453 breaks down into 369 women, 707 men, and 377 children.

Lisa spoke to how tough it can be for families of people with disabilities trying to get other services when they can't yet keep an apartment or other safe living arrangement. Until they have the housing taken care of it is hard to focus on other issues, such as making appointments to see your VR counselor, IL person or your benefits counselor.

Vona asked members if they're seeing increased numbers of homeless in their activities. Matt said yes, his Staff is seeing increased numbers, especially in the Sioux Falls area due to the growing number of different ethnicities there. There are waiting lists at all the housing units that offer some form of assistance.

Lisa reviewed one of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) newer housing programs called "Continuum of Care Process". They solicit applications from communities to address the needs of those experiencing homelessness. This process facilitates two, competitively-awarded grants created to address the problems together in a comprehensive manner. For more information go to [www.sdha.org](http://www.sdha.org) or [www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm)

1. The Shelter + Care Program (S +C) provides housing and supportive devices long-term for homeless persons with disabilities and their families who are living in places not intended for human habitation. For example, she learned recently of a woman and her five children right here in Pierre that were living in a family member's unheated garage.
2. Supportive Housing Program (SHP) provides funds to support new projects, as well as renewal or expansion of existing projects, i.e. new

supportive housing facilities or facilities getting new supportive services.

Lisa explained how frustrating doing this homeless count as a one-day window, or a one-time snapshot really is and how it can skew the results. For example, if someone who had been homeless on the streets for months, and had just moved into a weekly motel rental that exact day or the day before, then that person is not counted any longer as homeless, even if he only had the motel room for a very short period.

Lisa shared examples of how landlords have trouble with tenants who appear to not have the proper life skills to successfully live independently. They come from lifestyles that simply focus on extreme basics and are not accustomed to social/community norms or expectations. Lisa specifically pointed out that only about 10% of the homeless consumers they work with are chronic alcoholics. The remainder tend to be people with mental health issues or other disabilities in general. They're hearing stories of persons being assisted through transitional housing programs, and in less than one week are on their third strike and already about to be evicted. The landlords are overwhelmed and not well prepared to effectively deal with these tenants. Frequently stories revolve around how programs help the consumer "shoot themselves in the foot" without being aware of it. For example, if a person gets a raise at McDonald's and is just over an income threshold limit, the kids are not going to qualify for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Has the overall situation improved? Can that person afford better housing now - probably not. A question was asked as to how we can collaborate to improve this type of situation.

Lisa spoke of a new training program - SOAR through DSS, and its purpose is to assist people who are homeless with filling out better Social Security applications. These trainings, sponsored by the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness (ICH) as a collaborative effort, help homeless persons with disabilities get off the streets by having their benefits claim more readily approved. She reported that people assisted by SOAR trained case managers have about a 50 - 60% better chance that their SSA application will be approved. There is a large email address list serve that they use to distribute details on such trainings. If you're interested in being added to this list serve, email Lisa Bondy at [lisab@sdhda.org](mailto:lisab@sdhda.org)

CIL staff and other IL professionals are encouraged to familiarize themselves with all the housing options available out there. Since it is hard to remember and know everything, maybe one person on the staff could

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specialize in keeping that information current for the whole staff, someone who can be a “go to” person.

These HUD programs all require a case manager be involved with the consumer, with continuing contact, helping to keep the person focused and going down the right road from the start. She pointed out that some programs even cover the salary cost of a case manager for a specified length of time. The overall aim is independence, to help people become much more self-sufficient.

Lisa directed our attention to the very last page of her handouts, a chart showing the actual county by county headcount breakdowns for that one day snapshot on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 vs. the 2010 date. It was noted that many counties do not submit information.

In the Pierre area there is Project Connect, an event with over 30 different agencies were involved, homeless or near homeless people, came to this one location where a variety of services were available, i.e. haircuts, family pictures, help finding needed program/services, filling out paperwork, massages, manicures – all free that one day. It has been a huge success, and we expect it to grow even larger next year.

When asked, other than the list serve idea, what are others way to learn about your housing programs or trainings? Lisa directed us to page four of her handout; there is a listing of numerous relevant websites, including:

- Corporation for Supportive Housing - [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)
- HUD Homeless website – [www.hudhre.info/](http://www.hudhre.info/)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness – [www.endhomelessneww.org/](http://www.endhomelessneww.org/)
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) – [www.ich.org](http://www.ich.org)
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – [www.samhsa.gov/housingHomeless/](http://www.samhsa.gov/housingHomeless/)
- Beyond Shelter – [www.beyondshelter.org](http://www.beyondshelter.org)

Lisa thanked the SILC once more for inviting her. She offered her contact information once more. Vona also said that her office has tons of resource materials available, and people can contact her, she'll try to get you what you need.

Margot and Grady both thanked Lisa for her time, saying this has been very useful and we appreciate the opportunity to learn more and move towards future collaboration on behalf of those we seek to serve.

## **CLOSING ACTIONS:**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Staff suggested someone present on the SOAR program. It was agreed that could be interesting, and staff will investigate. Otherwise, if members have items to suggest for the next agenda, Margot asked members to please contact staff.

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING** – After discussion, two dates were narrowed down – May 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. It was not decided if we should go back to the half-day/half-day meetings, or stick to a one day meeting. It was agreed that staff will email all SILC members asking their preference and availability on these date options. Once a majority has been heard from, and a location has been explored, word will go out to all SILC members. Staff reminded members to turn in their travel reimbursement forms today, or send them in later.

**ADJOURNMENT – THANK YOU** – Again, Margot thanked everyone for their participation and for the great discussions.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN – MSC.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 3 pm.