

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Meeting
Wednesday – March 11, 2009
Best Western Ramkota of Pierre**

SILC Attendees:

Jim Simbeck	Larry Puthoff	Vona Johnson
Sandy Neyhart, DSBVI	Marilyn Kinsman	Patrick Czerny
Gary Wald	Grady Kickul, DRS	

Others Present:

Matt Cain, PFC	Denise White, DRS Staff
Shelly Pfaff, SILC Staff	Julie Paluch, Interpreter
Vickie Yeager, Interpreter	

SILC Non-Attendees:

Alex Gourneau	Linda Biffert	Jamie Mack
Jason Lorang	Margot Burton	Ryan Green
Brad Konechne	Philomine Moran	

OPENING ACTIONS: Patrick agreed to act as Chairman for today’s meeting, since none of the Executive Committee members were in attendance. He welcomed all and invited them to introduce themselves. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – With no quorum present, the minutes will be held over and acted upon at the next SILC meeting. FACILITATED CONVERSATION – Since the guest facilitator was not able to make the meeting due to weather, the meeting moved directly into the “SILC Business Meeting” portion of the proposed agenda.

SBVI DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Sandy Neyhart, representing Gaye Mattke, provided this report. BOARD OF SBVI – The Board of SBVI is in the process of soliciting nominations for positions, which will need to be filled as of the end of June. There is a need for nominations that will fill the following categories – SILC representative, business and industry, 121 Project representative and Workforce Development representative. The related forms

are on the Division's website, and if people are interested, they were invited to contact Gaye with questions. The Governor's office wants nominations by early April. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT – Through this federal legislation, the Division will be receiving an additional \$360,000 for vocational rehabilitation services and \$3,170 for the Older Blind IL services. It is anticipated that the additional VR funds will be used to offset over expenditures of the current year. They do not expect any problem spending the additional Older Blind funds within current services. RADIO TALKING BOOK AND TELEPHONE NEWSREADER SERVICES – Funding for these two programs were recommended by the Governor to be cut from the FY2010 budget. If that cut stands at the end of session, these services will continue through June 30th. The Division expects to send out notice of the ending services in April, and another reminder of this change in mid June. There are 194 customers of the Radio Talking Book program. It is difficult to estimate the number of user of the Telephone Newsreader Service due to the way this service is provided.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT: Shelly shared three 'thank you' notes received from previous members – Betty Coon, Mark Arneson and Betsy Valnes – for the plaques provided to them in recognition of their service on the SILC. 2009 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM REQUEST – Shelly reported that the SILC has received a request for strategic planning funds in the amount of \$1,000 to support this annual event. Shelly reviewed portions of the application with the SILC. Consensus was that the SILC should provide the requested support to the 2009 YLF. Shelly will contact the Executive Committee members, share the consensus of today's group, and ask them to officially act on this request. At this time Shelly asked to step out of role and provide a legislative update to the SILC as COALITION Executive Director. The Chairperson granted Shelly this request.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE: Shelly spoke to the tone of this legislative session, along with several bills that the COALITION has been working on or tracking during this session. She also spoke to proposed budget cuts that potentially would impact people served by the IL system, as well as other South Dakotans with disabilities i.e., IL funding, SD School for the Deaf, Autism program, Birth to Three Program, adult dental services under Medicaid, TBI services under Medicaid. Gary, Matt and Larry all provided input into this conversation.

Shelly returned to her role as Executive Secretary of the SILC. Vona suggested that the three boards/councils might want to meet sooner and more frequently at first, rather than just annually. Consensus of those in attendance was to share this with the other boards' leadership.

DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Grady Kickul joined the meeting at this time, and he provided this report. **JOINT BOARDS/COUNCIL MEETING** – Grady spoke to how feedback from various participants was that this was a good opportunity, and one that should be continued at least once annually. He suggested that the Chairpersons of the boards/councils might want to connect via conference call to talk about how to proceed with this type of activity. **DHS STRATEGIC PLAN** – He handed out a portion of the Department of Human Services' strategic plan, which covers the actions and accomplishments of the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. He invited anyone with comments or questions to contact either Gaye or him. **DRS BUDGET REPORT** – Grady expects that they have sufficient financial resources for all programs/services for FY09. He reported that the number of referrals is increasing significantly, which often occurs when the economy experiences a downturn. The additional funds coming through the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will help in meeting budget needs for a limited period of time. The proposed FY10 budget significantly impacts the DRS budget. It is still proposed at this time and key elements are: no inflationary increases; a \$378,000 decrease in general funds to IL - \$95,673 from CSD and the remaining from the CILs, an \$86,000 decrease in general funds for the neuromuscular program (used to deliver, set up and refurbish current durable medical equipment inventory), and funding for services to persons with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) needing community reintegration services. Once a budget has been passed and signed, it will be time to sit down with providers and work out budget issues as best as possible to ensure that key services are still available to eligible South Dakotans. With the ARRA, it is most likely that the proposed cut to funds for people with TBI will be restored to the budget. The hope is that we'll all know more by the end of this week. Grady suggested that the ARRA be an agenda item for future meetings, since a significant amount of dollars will be coming to the state via that piece of federal legislation. SILC APPOINTMENTS – Grady reminded all that nominations are due March 27th. The Governor wishes to have them in his office by April 10th.

Vona reported that working with South Dakota Community Foundation, SD Housing Development Authority would be sponsoring a Housing Development Training Course – two classes this year and two next year. Once more specific information is available, it will be on the SDHDA website. She also reported that the Homeless Conference would be coming again in April. It will once again be held in Chamberlain. More information on this can be found on the SDHDA website.

Marilyn reported that things continue to go well with the TBI unit in Irene. DSS is having “very” preliminary conversations with Avera Prince of Peace in Sioux Falls about providing services to

individuals who are ventilator dependent and with the Good Samaritan Center in Canistota about providing services to people with challenging behaviors. Adult Services and Aging has been active in monitoring legislation dealing with the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also reported that through the ARRA they would be receiving funds for weatherization, food stamps, elderly nutrition, domestic violence and more. She reminded everyone that these funds cannot replace existing funds, yet they must be spent within the two-year window.

Gary shared about the efforts of “Homes are Possible” of Aberdeen. They have been successful in getting moderately priced new homes built, and now they are purchasing lots that have structures on them that need to be torn down. Once this has been done, they’ve been able to put Governor’s houses on these lots, and people with disabilities have been able to get into less costly housing via this avenue. These have been community-supported efforts involving groups like the city, Presentation Sisters, OIL and others.

Matt explained that due to current economic realities, PFCIL has been looking internally to identify areas where they could make cuts that would result in savings, yet would not impact staff and services. Staff and board have identified some areas, and they will be implementing these cuts, even with the expectation of additional funding through the ARRA legislation. Doing so will result in approximately \$46,000 savings. At the same time, PFCIL is exploring ways to increase their revenue base. They are doing more employability related IL assessments for vocational rehabilitation, and they will be providing similar services to the Veterans Administration. Both of these result in generating additional revenue for the center. Their donations have also risen by 25% in the past year. PFCIL is co-sponsoring a couple of conferences in June. One is a conference focusing on autism –

Lighting the Way Conference – which will be June 11th and 12th. The second is one for people who have experienced spinal cord injuries and multiple sclerosis. This one will be held June 19th. Finally, PFCIL is readying its summer transition programs. They are charging \$50 per student for a six-week course. The course includes topics such as how to find a job, how to find an apartment, how to use public transportation and independent living skills training.

Denise spoke to a couple of situations, where programs and staff from various agencies have been able to work together to support persons with disabilities living independently. One such situation has involved the ADLS program, Governor’s House program, and IL services, resulting in a young man living in his own home on his parent’s ranch. He is now working with DRS in an effort to go to college. Another situation involves a young woman who is receiving supports and services from Adult Services and Aging, the ADLS program, PFCIL and the Mental Health Center, which have resulted in this individual being diverted from a nursing facility to her own apartment. Denise spoke to the value of “wrap around” services in meeting the needs of these two individuals.

Patrick asked about other upcoming training. Grady spoke to a DRS sponsored training next week via DDN. It will focus on the Ticket to Work reimbursement model, IL assessments and related topics.

Sandy shared that SBVI will be holding a public meeting in Pine Ridge in late May.

CLOSING ACTIONS: SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING – Patrick asked when the next meeting should be held. Consensus was to hold it in Pierre either June 16th & 17th or June 17th & 18th. Staff will work on arrangements for this meeting, and once they’ve

been finalized, word will go out to the entire SILC.
ADJOURNMENT – Hearing no other business, consensus was to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10 a.m.