

**Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Meeting  
Tuesday – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Holiday Inn Express, Fort Pierre**

SILC Member Attendees:

Jim Simbeck	Larry Puthoff	Vona Johnson
Marilyn Kinsman	Patrick Czerny	Brad Konechne
Linda Biffert	Margot Burton	Gary Wald
Grady Kickul, DRS	Sandy Neyhart, for Gaye Matkke, SBVI	

Others Present:

Matt Cain, PFC	Denise White, DRS
Ann Van Loan, WRDI	Shelly Pfaff, Staff
Julie Paluch, Interpreter	Vickie Yeager, Interpreter
Faith Ellis, Staff	

SILC Non-Attendees:

Alex Gourneau	Jamie Mack	Jason Lorang
Ryan Green	Philomine Moran	Gaye Matkke

**OPENING ACTIONS:** Having been notified that Ryan Green could not attend, Linda Biffert, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM Tuesday. We were to have started today with facilitated dialogue on mission statement and Key Focus Areas, but due to the facilitator being unavoidably detained, the Tuesday and Wednesday agendas were being reversed. **Motion made (M) to accept the new proposed agenda. Seconded (S) and carried (C).**

Linda called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, which have not yet been approved because a quorum did not exist at the March meeting. She called for any changes or additions necessary to said minutes, hearing

none, **Motion to approve the December minutes as written – MSC.**

Next Linda called for any changes or additions to the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 minutes. One requested on page 4, where Marilyn had mentioned an initiative involving Avera Prince of Peace. It needs to read “in Sioux Falls”, and not “in Mitchell”. Plus it was noted that one change had been done since the initial mailing, adding Patrick Czerny as having attended. **Motion to accept the March minutes as corrected - MSC.**

**DRS DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Grady welcomed the group and expressed his thanks for everyone’s travel this morning. He started by mentioning the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) held last week in Aberdeen, including the awards luncheon on Thursday, the 11th. It was a huge success; these young students are inspiring and truly amazing. He complimented all the staff and workers at the event, especially SILC member Brad Konechne who was a Team Leader.

Grady reflected back to how difficult the Legislative Session was this year due to the budget cuts involved. For example, through the IL program, Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) is losing \$95,000 and the four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in SD are losing over \$300,000 in general funds. Yet the four CILs are going to have to take on additional caseloads of the deaf and hard of hearing people who are no longer going to be served by CSD. As of June 5<sup>th</sup>, there has been a plan developed to assist CSD and the four CILs with a transition to help them serve people and to enhance capacity to do so. These four CILs are going to develop satellite video conferencing centers for delivering interpreting services. We think SD will be the first state in the nation to be offering interpreter services via satellite video conferencing at their CILs statewide.

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DRS is also working with CSD with some start money to assist in creating a Center for Excellence, which would aid in providing more advance services required for the needs of the deaf.

**A. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** - Grady admitted that if he's seemed stressed lately it is thanks to the ARRA stimulus package and the initial lack of direction provided to affected agencies. That direction has arrived now. Grady shared the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) 30-page PowerPoint presentation on ARRA. It lays out the details of the dollars involved and the guidelines on how and where to spend it, and all the governing rules we must abide by in doing so. Three of the primary guiding principles in spending this ARRA money will be:

1. Spend funds rapidly and effectively to save and create jobs;
2. Ensure transparency and accountability; and
3. Invest this one-time funding carefully to minimize the "funding cliff" that results when the monies end.

For SD, ARRA, Part B funds will be over \$350,000 and Part C to CILs will be over \$243,000, for a total of over \$593,000.

There will be a conference call on June 26<sup>th</sup> with RSA staff, and the three SPIL signatories will propose how SD might use these funds based on the guidance that arrived a couple of weeks ago.

We have to determine if the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) needs to be changed. In the approved South Dakota SPIL, under Section 3.2 called "Expansion of Networks" we say that SD provides statewide coverage, but the whole state is underserved. We don't believe we'll have to revise our SPIL. Even if that's the case, we will still have to spell out in detail our recommendations for awarding of ARRA Part C funds.

Grady pointed to page 11 of the ARRA – RSA Guidance PowerPoint, the Order of Priorities:

1. provide existing CILs level funding from the previous year,
2. provide existing CILs a 3.5% Cost of Living Allocation (COLA),
3. fund new CILs if an area of the state is not currently served. (We don't want to use this new money to create "funding cliffs" where we "build and taketh away" immediately down the road.)
4. if there are insufficient funds to fund a new center, then award the funds to existing centers consistent with the SPIL, OR reallocate these funds back to other states.

The three main things that SD will be trying to do with these funds are:

- identifying our underserved and we'll need to provide guidance to the CILs. Recommending two-thirds of the money be used to serve additional people and provide additional services;
- less than one-third of the money be awarded to help CILs serve people who are deaf or hard of hearing with the previously mentioned video conferencing satellites.
- a little less than one-third of the money be awarded to the SILC to address nursing homes, transition issues, surveys and other emerging issues.

Larry suggested having a videophone demonstration at the next meeting to help the SILC understand the equipment Grady's referring to here.

Linda expressed her concern that this will take a lot of training to ensure people want to use it, and then actually use it. Denise

agreed that lots of people still want the old fashion face-to-face human contact no matter what we can provide electronically.

Grady added that hopefully through all this economic adversity some good will eventually come of it and that some new opportunities will arise. The key will be pre-planning for 2 – 3 years down the road from now when this ARRA money is gone.

**B. SILC Appointments** – Grady announced that Margot Burton has been re-appointed to the SILC, and he thanked her for her commitment and service. He also announced that Jamie Mack declined re-appointed to SILC. He announced that Matt Cain, Executive Director of Prairie Freedom Center in Sioux Falls, has been appointed to SILC. Matt will be replacing Gary Wald as the CIL Director’s representative on SILC. Grady and the SILC expressed their sincere thanks to Gary for his valuable time and input over the years. It was also announced that Monte Tschetter, Mitchell, has been appointed to the SILC. Monte is an employee with the Social Security office in Huron by day, and also works at Lutheran Social Services in Mitchell at night. Monte is currently “termining off” the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation where he was the acting Chairman for the past two years exhibiting excellent qualities. These new members will be joining us at our next SILC meeting.

**C. IL Financial Workgroup** – This group has been in existence for one year. They’ve been working on the performance-based contracts for reimbursing CILs for units of service they provide. They have done extensive time studies on CIL staff hours and quarterly cost reports on how and where that time went. It’s been all about gleaning a much better understanding of how the IL specialists work and the differences from center to center, and also finding what’s similar. A fee structure, which is based on 15-minute units, was developed to help the state properly reimburse

CILs. The service rate is based on 70% of those services provided being “core services”, 15% for other services, and the remaining 15% is working with devices. These are subject to change.

**D. SILC/BVR Staff Support Agreement** - Grady explained that the Staff Support Agreement DRS has with The Coalition was gladly renewed for another three years as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. It was renewed at the same budget level. Grady asked Margot, as a Coalition Board Member, to carry back an official “Thank You” to the Board for their help in lending us their staff. He thanked Shelly personally for her dedicated hours and expertise.

Grady’s last item was reporting that DRS will be redirecting \$100,000 in funding to purchase more materials for the ramps built at Mike Durfee Prison in Yankton. They cost almost \$2,000 each, and this amount will provide for approximately 50 more ramps.

## **BREAK**

**SBVI DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Sandy Neyhart, provided this report on Gaye Mattke’s behalf.

**A. Chapter II, Older Blind Program** – This program has one year now of being fully staffed. They have new person, Aaron Swenson, who is working out good.

Sandy reported that the CCTVs program has received funds as memorial gifts. These funds are being used to purchase new TV units. Currently there are 150 units in circulation. The program has anywhere from 45 – 60 people on a waiting list, as it constantly fluctuates. This program experiences minimal

equipment breakdowns the majority of the service calls are regarding replacement of parts.

Next Sandy reported that their IL program, serving people under the age of 55 who have some form of vision loss, is already serving more people than all of last year, due in part to that there is usually another medical problem involved, and they're simply needing vision assistance. Their staff is watching this closely to serve the most clients, as best as we can with the available money.

Sandy reported next on the Radio/Talking Book Program. The funding for this program is set to end as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Fortunately the Division is now able to get this service subscription completely for free through the State of MN and the SD Public Broadcasting System (PBS). This program has just over 200 people signed up for the service, and SBVI owns about 23 radios that are in circulation with consumers.

The Telephone Newsreader Service will come to an end as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. There were 400 people signed up initially, but there were only about 10-12 actual dedicated, full-time use.

## **B. Board of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (BSBVI)**

Sandy announced that Linda Biffert has been appointed to serve on the BSBVI as the SILC representative.

BSBVI agreed that they would also like to continue with additional joint meetings between SILC, BVR and BSBVI. They had proposed the idea of hosting a joint meeting together at next year's YLF.

BSBVI is looking at a Consumer Focus Group coming together in August, with Maureen McGowan, from the Helen Keller National Center.

BSBVI will hold their next meeting on September 23, 2009, at the SD DRS office in Sioux Falls.

Larry reported that a South Dakota gentleman, Tim Jackson, has been elected as the Vice President of the National Organization of People who are Deaf/Blind.

### **SILC STAFF REPORT:**

**A. Continuation of BVR & BSBVI Joint Meetings** – Shelly asked does the SILC still want to pursue this idea? After some discussion, consensus was, “yes”. Some activities to consider doing jointly are:

- listserves, share each other’s and create one large joint one,
- cross education of members, including joint orientations,
- joint committees,
- consumer awareness coordination,
- attend each other’s events,
- share meeting minutes,
- share funding flowcharts,
- encourage YLF students to join our groups,

Larry added that he really appreciated hearing directly from Secretary Jerry Hofer at the March joint meeting; he felt it added to the urgency and importance of their work.

Grady stated that the idea has been proposed by others to have the Executive Committees, or maybe just their Committee Chairs, hold joint conference calls on a regular schedule.

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Denise brought up that we might be missing the Freedom To Work (FTW) Leadership Council, and asked about involving them. She also suggested that when we do in orientations and other cross education we do with these groups, we need to concentrate on how to help all participants carry the messages we give them back to their respective communities.

Grady suggested that if the FTW LC were to become involved, the three groups currently involved - BVR, BSBVI, and SILC - would have to agree to invite them.

**Motion to have Staff take the lead on this initiative and start this process - MSC.**

- B. Review and Revise Bylaws** - Shelly distributed a draft handout of the SILC Bylaws with some proposed changes.
- a. the addition of the new mission statement to Article II. Section 2. Purpose and Mission;
  - b. in Article II. changing Section 3. name to Duties and Focus Areas; and rewrite of this section,
  - c. in Article IV. Entitled Officers, under Section 4, the date references were changed to what happens more often, elections are held in the first quarter of the state fiscal year.
  - d. on page 8, the previous Section 6. Minutes, was deleted entirely; we no longer have to file meeting minutes with the Auditor General's office. So this deletion then changed all the number for the rest of pgs. 8 – 10.
  - e. Article XI. Council Staff, added the phrase to make it read, "through an agreement with an outside entity."

Grady mentioned that he was initially worried about pg. 2, under Article II: Section 3., item #4, he feels we need to change back

the word “Responsibilities” back to the word “duties and also add in there the actual section of the law in Title VII.

It was also suggested that maybe we need to insert text about “collaborating with the CILs”. After much discussion, it was agreed to not do that because then we need to start listing all collaborators.

**SD United for Hope and Recovery** - Jim Simbeck reported on this new grassroots organization. They are in the process of filing for a 501C3 non-profit status. They are coordinating this group to help unify one voice to help transform the mental health system – we need to help educate people to understand that basically this whole system is “broken”. It needs to be much more family-friendly, more recovery-focused and consumer-focused, with long-term strategies. SD United started last year with their first training in Mitchell, with 48 consumer participants. This April they had their first joint consumer/provider conference hosting 85 people in Fort Pierre. Jim explained they are working closely with Daniel Fischer, Director of the National Empowerment Center, which has been quite helpful. Their next one-day workshop will be coming to Rapid City soon. SD United is also partnering with a group called, Iowa Consumers for Mental health and Recovery. Jim reported that SD United is about to launch their website soon, and they are already active on Facebook and using SKYPE for meetings. They’re working with WIconHED (acronym pronounced “wicked”) on developing a consumer survey to be released this year. Plus, to be valid for the 501C3, he’s working on renting office space in Pierre versus working out of his home. SD United memberships are free this first year, but there will be membership dues after this year.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADA Celebrations** - Grady reported that the ADA Anniversary Celebration will be Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Miracle Field in Sioux Falls. This baseball complex facility, near Covell Lake, is fully accessible. They're having a local celebrity softball tournament and a free meal for all attendees. Prairie Freedom Center helps organize this event along with the North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans, along with several other community and state organizations.

Margot announced that Rapid City has their ADA Celebration on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. It will include a picnic with music. WRDI is also sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, and a concert by Nick Dubois on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Shelly announced that she will be in DeSmet on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, presenting on the ADA as part of their Celebration of the ADA anniversary.

Linda encouraged Vona to share with everyone about the brand new SD Housing Authority location in Pierre. Vona announced that they are currently in the process of moving. Their new building is just a couple of blocks East off the Hwy 83/14 Truck Bypass, on the street that runs between the carwash and the old Econofoods building. It is the very first, totally certified "green" building in Pierre. They will have a nice sized boardroom that maybe this group can utilize in the future.

Next Marilyn announced that the Canistota Good Samaritan Nursing Home facility just opened, one wing of the existing facility to serve people with long-term challenging behaviors. DSS has made rate adjustments to pay for the services. Marilyn mentioned that the Traumatic Brain Injury facility in Irene is going good, and they're pleased so far with operations.

Gary announced that OIL has just hired an intern, Mitch Lippert, who was a mentor at YLF last week. Lippert, a recent grad from NSU, will be helping cover for Ed Pinkman, who is spending time this summer in New York getting a guide dog.

Margot added that WRDI is currently working on a survey to get a better assessment of the actual count of persons with disabilities in their service area. Board members are assisting the Staff with this project.

Matt reported that PFC recently helped host the Third Annual Lighting the Way Autism Conference for over 300 people. The keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin, a professor at Colorado State University who has autism. It was noted that Shelly also had a presentation there too.

Matt also mentioned that the MS Society and PFC is hosting the Mind-Body-Soul Conference this Friday in Sioux Falls. Shelly is presenting at this conference as well.

Matt ended by announcing that PFC will soon be releasing their new name and logo as part of a long-term strategic plan through Henken-Schultz Ad Agency in Sioux Falls. This will probably occur in November or December.

**CLOSING ACTIONS:** SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING – Staff will attempt to arrange the next meeting in Fort Pierre around the joint meeting and luncheon of BVR and Council on Developmental Disabilities, which is already scheduled for Wed. September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, at the AmericInn. Details will follow as arrangements are finalized.

**Motion to adjourn - MSC.** Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.