

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

September 8th – 9th, 2010

AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Ft. Pierre

SILC MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Biffert, Vona Johnson, Patrick Czerny, Jenneil Watkins, Margot Burton, Brad Konechne, Ken Rollman, Shelly Schock, Ann Fortin, Marilyn Kinsman, Monte Tschetter, Matt Cain, Grady Kickul and Gaye Mattke. **SILC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Larry Puthoff and Isabel Trobaugh. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Ed Pinkman, OIL; Ann Van Loan, WRDI; Shelly Pfaff, SILC staff; Denise White, DRS staff; Sandy Neyhart, SBVI staff; Lamont Cain, and Faith Ellis, SILC staff.

OPENING ACTIONS: **Welcome & Introductions** – Vice-Chairperson Margot Burton called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. She welcomed everyone, especially new members, and thanked them for being here. An introduction icebreaker was suggested so members introduced themselves and shared their summer highlights and their reasons for wanting to serve on the SILC. Shelly reported that staff had received notice from Larry Puthoff and Isabel Trobaugh, sending their regrets due to being unable to attend. **Meeting Protocol** – Margot mentioned that the meeting protocol is sent out with the agenda, and she reminded all in attendance to please participate in a professional manner, as outlined in the protocol document. **Approval of Agenda** – Margot confirmed that everyone had received a copy of today's agenda. She asked if there were any changes/ additions. None were noted. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** **Approval of March Meeting Minutes** – After confirming everyone had received a copy; Margot called for any changes/additions to the March 18th and 19th, 2010 meeting minutes. Upon hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.** **Approval of May 5th Executive Committee Minutes** – After checking that all members had received them, Margot asked if anyone had additions/changes to Executive Committee Minutes dated May 5th, 2010. None were noted. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY**

5TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.
Approval of May 25th Executive Committee Minutes – After checking that all members had received them, Margot asked if anyone had changes/additions to Executive Committee Minutes dated May 25th, 2010. Hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 25TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AS WRITTEN – MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margot called for Public Comment at this time. Mr. Lamont Cain introduced himself. He explained that he is Lynn Cain's husband (a former SILC member), and in the past it had been her idea that the SILC work to implement a ramp program in partnership with the Springfield prison system. He stressed a key element of the ramp program was the ability to recycle the ramps when no longer needed by someone. The ramps were also designed to go together and come apart easily, aiding in the ability to recycle them. He had recently attempted to dismantle one, and it took him over 12 hours. Lamont's plan was to take his concerns to a meeting later today with Secretary of Corrections Tim Reisch. Grady indicated his surprise. This was his first time to hear there are problems with the ramp program. He turned to the CIL representative on this council asking what he knows about problems. Matt agreed that they've been aware of increasing problems for a while now.

ILC used to work with SD Achieve and had one contractor assemble/disassemble them. It worked better then. Lately, they are using between 6 – 8 different contractors and they all report that setting up these ramps is difficult. They report missing parts, ill-fitting parts, pre-drilled holes don't align properly, and it takes a special jigsaw to re-drill them. These issues amount to extra time being needed in the assembly of the ramps, and extra time means increased costs. Pat – DakotaLink staff – said he's experienced ramp troubles many times, and that it's been getting worse over time. The re-drilling of holes can literally add ten hours to the project. He added that he usually just does that at home on his own time, and he now stockpiles ramp parts knowing he'll need them when assembling a ramp. Pat said that the VA's aluminum ramps take ¼ the time to

assemble, but they cost twice what the Springfield ramps cost. He also said the VA ramps are 100% recyclable. The state ramp program is using low quality materials i.e., bolts, hinges, and nuts they use rust within six to nine months. Ed Pinkman, OIL, added that their main installer of ramps has also said that the Springfield ramp program has gone downhill. The ramps hardly ever fit together properly. It's been a growing problem over time, not something new and recent.

Lamont was asked, "What is the life expectancy of a state program ramp?" Lamont said the one they just took down was twelve years old, and with some care, it could last another 15, maybe even 20 years.

Ann, WRDI, added that they have trouble with the state ramps, mostly at the removal and disposal end of the cycle.

Denise interjected that she has had a very good working relationship with all the DOC people at Springfield regarding this program. She cautioned that these people would probably feel blindsided if this were taken straight to the top without having heard it through her and other proper channels. Matt stated that ILC has reported troubles before, but he didn't feel the need, or wasn't prepared, to take it directly to the Secretary of Corrections today.

Margot suggested the SILC gather more information from the four CILs and see where they all stand on the Springfield ramp program. Denise agreed to follow up with this activity. Grady asked Lamont if he would consider approaching Secretary Reisch today to report that he is working with the SILC and has requested their help in gathering information from the CILs on the status of the ramp program. Lamont agreed to this approach, and he asked to be kept in the loop with what the CILs reports. Denise agreed to do so.

Gaye commended Lamont for his continued dedication and passion for IL and the ramp program. She expressed appreciation on behalf of

the SILC for his working with us on bringing this up through the proper channels. Members gave Lamont a round of applause and asked him to greet Lynn. Lamont said thank you and excused himself from the meeting at this time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: For the benefit of the newer members, Grady explained that there are different rules for every Board/Council. Regarding the SILC, those members who represent State agencies, i.e. DRS, DHS, DSS, – cannot vote. They can make a motion, or second a motion, but cannot do both actions on any one motion. With that said, Grady presented a Slate of Officers that the SILC Executive Committee was bringing forward for their consideration. Those on the proposed slate of officers have been contacted, and they have all agreed to serve if voted in today. They are: Margot Burton for Chairperson; Larry Puthoff for Vice Chairperson and Monte Tschetter for Member at Large.

Grady moved **(M)** to nominate Margot Burton for Chairperson; it was seconded **(S)**. He called for any further nominations. He called a second time for any further nominations; and per Robert's Rules of Order, he called a third time for any further nominations. Hearing none, **MOTION THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE AND A UNANIMOUS BALLOT BE CAST IN FAVOR OF MARGOT FOR SILC CHAIRPERSON – MSC.**

Grady moved **(M)** to nominate Larry Puthoff for Vice-Chair; it was seconded **(S)**. Grady called for any further nominations. He called a second time for any further nominations; and per Robert's Rules of Order, he called a third time for any further nominations. Upon hearing none, **MOTION THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE AND A UNANIMOUS BALLOT BE CAST IN FAVOR OF LARRY FOR SILC VICE CHAIRPERSON – MSC.**

Lastly, Grady moved **(M)** to nominate Monte Tschetter for Member at Large; it was seconded **(S)**. Grady called for any further nominations. He called a second time for any further nominations;

and per Robert's Rules of Order, he called a third time for any further nominations. Hearing none, **MOTION THAT NOMINATIONS CEASE AND A UNANIMOUS BALLOT BE CAST IN FAVOR OF MONTE AS SILC MEMBER AT LARGE – MSC.**

CIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: **Independent Living Choices (ILC)** – Matt Cain reported that they raised \$4,900 at their recent golf tournament, and thanked all involved with it. Their next fundraising event will be a Bean Bag Toss contest being held after the Super Bowl. They recently completed an ADLS review with Denise and Darrel, and they feel it went well. They've hired a new case manager, Wendy Tholke, who came to them from Avera. They think she's going to do a great job. ILC has served 1,003 people through August. Last year at this time the number was 1,100, so they may not hit their target number for total number of people served this year. Jenneil complimented Matt and ILC for their Peer Support Services. Matt thanked Jenneil for her comments. He reported that the program has grown from just eight to over thirty peer support counselors. It's really taking off under their new Peer Support Coordinator. **Native American Advocacy Program (NAAP)** – No representative or report was available at this time. **Opportunities for Independent Living (OIL)** – Ed Pinkman, Acting Director, started with a thank you to everyone around the room who has assisted OIL in any manner through this transition time. Ed began with the news that their long-standing bookkeeper/finance manager retired in May. They have hired Amanda Swartz for this position. They also have a driver retiring soon, so they are working on filling that position. Their annual Harley Davidson Motorcycle Raffle was quite successful, raising over \$18,000 to date. A woman in Sioux Falls, who was saving up money to buy a motorcycle, won it. It was a great day for her and great PR for OIL. OIL assisted with the community's weeklong ADA Anniversary Celebration activities. On the schedule were a marathon, a walk, a wheelchair obstacle course, and "goggle vision" white-cane demonstrations. The Aberdeen City Finance Manager took time to get around the obstacle course, and it was an opportunity to discuss how important sidewalks are to members of

the blind community. We had Coach Don Meyers as our keynote speaker. Ed once again thanked everyone who has helped OIL through this transition period, and assured the council OIL is doing OK. **Western Resources for dis-ABLED Independence (WRDI)** – Ann Van Loan thanked the council for their time today. She shared a written report and reviewed it in detail with the council (see attached). A member asked if they received good press during their ADA Celebration, and Ann said yes, especially in the Rapid City Journal.

THIRD PARTY IL COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDY: Matt Cain reported that he had recently contacted Dr. Bill Anderson, USD Research Bureau, who is heading up this study. The study will examine the cost of IL services, seeking to provide solid proof that what we are doing benefits our consumers. We're hoping for valid data, which will prove that money spent on IL services is effective for the consumers and the funding sources. Dr. Anderson says all the staff people are in place, but they haven't officially started the study. They're aiming to have it done by November, and Matt will continue to report to the SILC as it progresses. Matt said that Dr. Anderson believes there will be a way to get data through the BIA that will help represent Native Americans, since NAAP is not involved in the study. A question was asked if the study would look at other providers of IL services; Matt indicated that only three of the four CILs would be included in this study, as they and the SILC are paying for the study.

DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Grady welcomed new members and expressed the value of having new blood on the council. **NDEAM Activities** – Grady announced the upcoming National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) activities in October. The SILC, along with the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), the Board of SBVI and the VR offices statewide, collaborate within communities to host NDEAM events. The events vary, i.e. luncheons, evening mixers, and training, usually in conjunction with a meal or reception. Grady encouraged SILC members to try and attend an NDEAM event in his/her area. The SILC will reimburse expenses to

attend these NDEAM events; members need simply to contact staff on this matter. The BVR will be finalizing details soon and will make available the list of statewide events. **SPIL Update** – Grady explained that the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is the written plan we must have approved and in place in order to receive federal IL funds. Four months ago, the current SPIL was amended. A new draft SPIL was submitted on June 28th. The effective date of the new plan, once approved by RSA, will be October 1st, 2010. RSA had a question about the draft, and a conference call was held to discuss and resolve it. Our new RSA Representative is Debra Cotter. RSA's new Chief of IL Services is Timothy Baine; he has 28 years experience with a VR agency in California. The next draft of the SPIL will be re-submitted by September 24th. The signatories do not anticipate any further issues and expect it should be approved and go into effect as planned on October 1st. **ARRA Status Report** – The federal stimulus plan awarded Part B IL money to South Dakota in March 2009. It was a one-time payment of just over \$244,000, which was designated for the Home Modification and Assistive Devices (HMAD) Program. It must be obligated before June 2011. To date half of the funds have been allocated to the four CILs; the remaining half will be allocated by the June 2011 deadline. ARRA Part C funds went directly from the federal government to the four CILs. Those funds were awarded and the first round of reports was done in June. In early to mid October, the next reports will be due. Margot asked Grady if he's heard any indication on how the next DRS budget will shake out. Grady replied that DRS submitted their next budget proposal for level funding for IL services. Level funding is the lesser of two evils – the other outcome could be cuts to funding for IL services.

DRS IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST REPORT: SPIL Work Plan – Denise shared a “draft” work plan based on the submitted new SPIL for the SILC's consideration. It would be a simpler document by which the SILC can measure progress on the SPIL's stated goals and objectives. Once the new SPIL has been approved, the “work plan” will be revised (if needed) and made available to SILC members. **Four Core Services Status Update** – Denise reported that the

following figures are from June and July 2010, which are the first two months of the fiscal year. To date, the four CILs have provided 4,000 total hours of services. The percentages spent in critical areas were: 71% on the four core services; 17% on "other" services; and 12% on HMAD services. Denise said these percentages are right about where we'd like to see them. To date, the CILS have earned approximately \$235,000 of the total available amount. She reported that it's common for IL funds to be spent more heavily in the beginning of the year.

DSBVI DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Gaye said that she was turning the first section of this report over to Sandy Neyhart. **Older Blind IL Program** – Sandy thanked the council for the opportunity to share information with them. She started with a brief description of the program. It is for persons over the age of 55, who have varying degrees of vision problems, and whose main goal is to live independently and remain in their own home. She shared a related handout (see attached) with the SILC. She stressed that staff is always trying to maximize the amount of services they provide knowing of the limited available funds. Sandy shared "give-away items" that are designed for people who are blind or visually impaired. Their staff use these items at trainings, service calls, conference exhibits; and often they help the seeing person better understand what their friend or family member with vision impairment is going through – helps them learn the how and why behind things. Sandy passed out samples of a vision simulator card, a signature guide, an Amsler Grid, and 20/20 marker pens. She stressed that they try to buy items that are useful so they can benefit people who need their contact numbers, whether that be today or down the road. Next, Sandy reported that the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) program has approximately 178 units. This program has served people since 2004. She thanked DakotaLink for their continued partnership on this program; and all that they do to keep it running smoothly. Sandy concluded her report by saying that their teacher caseloads are maxed out. They continue to learn about new devices, which means staff hours and training. Ann Van Loan complimented the program

saying that her mother raves about the service she received through them. Gaye added that they receive many positive letters from consumers. **Board of SBVI (BSBVI)** – Gaye reported that they are conducting a pilot assistive technology training for individuals who need assistance accessing their home computers, beginning on October 1st through an agreement with DakotaLink. DakotaLink will present to the BSBVI on Sept. 24th in Sioux Falls and will demonstrate new assistive technology devices designed to assist people with blindness or visual impairments. Patrick Czerny, DakotaLink staff, will be on-hand demonstrating and teaching participants. Also at this meeting, Media One of Sioux Falls will be updating the BSBVI on the SBVI marketing campaign. Gaye continued by describing the Deaf/Blind Peer Support Pilot Program. CSD is in the process of hiring peer trainers and they expect to have the project up and running soon. Referrals will be sought primarily through SBVI staff.

Vona asked permission to share something she should have mentioned during the Public Comment time; the Chair agreed. Vona explained that similar to state agencies, South Dakota Housing Authority is required to write a state plan. This year they've hired a consultant to do a survey of impediments that limit accessibility to housing. Vona invited the SILC to participate in this survey, and to share it with others from the IL arena i.e., consumers, family members, and providers. Their draft state plan is on their website for review. Their Housing conference is scheduled for November 9th and 10th, at the Pierre Ramkota Conference Centre. Registration is \$150 per person; for full details, please visit www.sdhda.org. Online registration is also available. Vona added that they hired their keynote speaker, Jan Johnson, on Matt Cain's recommendation.

Motion to adjourn for the day – MSC; meeting concluded at 5 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED: The meeting was called to order again at 8:30 a.m. on September 10th. The group was welcomed back by Chairperson, Margot Burton, and introductions were again made.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Margot invited public comments. Shelly, SILC staff, said that upon returning to the office yesterday, she had a faxed report from Marla Bull Bear of NAAP. Shelly passed out copies to everyone (see attached).

JOINT SILC/BVR/BSBVI CHAIRPERSONS MEETINGS – Margot reported that these groups are making a strong effort to stay connected to each other. Their work often crosses over, with some consumers receiving services from more than one agency. Yet, often times the groups don't know what each other are doing. These meetings are an attempt to address that reality. The general outcomes of this effort are they can readily identify opportunities to collaborate with one another, plus it provides opportunities to pool available resources. Dan Rounds, BVR Chairperson; Dave Miller, Chairperson of the Board of Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired (BSBVI); and Margot Burton, SILC Chairperson, participate in these meetings. Grady Kickul and Gaye Mattke also participate, as well as Colette Wagoner, BVR staff, and Shelly Pfaff, SILC staff.

A recent outcome of their meetings is that a member of the SILC and a member of the BSBVI will be joining the BVR Sub-committee that reviews the NDEAM event proposals submitted by communities. They're also exploring a similar approach to the Governor's Awards Sub-committee. Shelly Schock volunteered to be the SILC representative to serve on the BVR Governor's Awards selection sub-committee, if the BVR decides to add this representation. She is a past BVR member and familiar with the process. Margot and Grady thanked her for volunteering.

Margot continued by explaining that all three of the groups have written requirements to conduct public meetings. We're trying to come together and collaborate better on these events. The April 22nd Disability Services Summit in Eagle Butte is a prime example. Margot attended and she said it had a great turnout and was very successful. Gaye stressed that the key to the success of this particular event was

Lyle Cook, Director of the Native American 121 Program in Eagle Butte. Gaye said they received contacts of people needing our services and many referrals, so it was very beneficial.

Margot encouraged SILC members to attend these types of events that may come to their area in the future. Be involved, be active, stay connected with our members but also with these other groups. We're aiming in the same direction so let's work together when we can. Grady agreed that the coming together of these three groups via their Chairpersons is a great idea. It promotes more exposure, better written state plans, more input from consumers, and shares the cost of reaching consumers. Margot continued by saying that the chairpersons are also exploring an approach to joint orientation for new members. She added that the chairpersons would continue to meet regularly, primarily by conference calls. They are planning to meet up at the Fall VR Conference in Deadwood next month. Grady praised Margot for capturing the essence of what the three Chairpersons meetings are hoping to accomplish.

SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT – Shelly shared a handout of a proposed Budget Report that she would like to provide at each SILC meeting to keep them apprised of the status of their SILC funds. She reviewed the categories and explained that this report was as of July 31st. She invited comments/questions; none were raised. She will plan starting to use it at future meetings. Denise emphasized the importance of this report, because under the Rehab Act the SILC is required to show a separate budget for carrying out its responsibilities under the Act. Grady also commented that this report would help keep the available strategic planning funds in front of the SILC.

ADVOCACY ISSUES: Disability Advocacy Network (Network) Report – Margot explained that the Network involves over 20 statewide organizations from the disability arena, and she reviewed the list (see attached). The SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities has been instrumental in bringing these organizations together to one table. Participants have discovered that they have more in common

than they had thought; and there's much to be learned from each other, especially when it comes to current "hot" topics and issues.

This Network held its "3rd Annual Disability Policy Summit", on July 20th in Oacoma. A key agenda item was each organization reviewing what they feel would be their important legislative issues for next session. The most common reply was the budget – funding for needed services and supports.

Shelly was asked to speak to this initiative from the COALITION standpoint. She said that participants are recognizing and speaking to the value of the Network, and they are calling for it to continue. The COALITION is committed to this initiative, and it is seeking funding in support of it.

Grady shared his enthusiasm for the Network, saying it was evident that these organizations have more clout and persuasive power as a unit vs. as separate organizations. When a legislator can pick up concise, factual information on an issue, all in one spot, plus see how many organizations represented in this Network feel the same way about it – it is definitely a more effective way to influence public policy.

Margot explained that to date only three organizations have footed the bill for this Network – the COALITION, SD RehabACTion and the Council on Developmental Disabilities. At this year's summit, all those represented were asked to go back to their respective organizations and to ask how they can contribute to the support of Network.

Some organizations did not yet have their legislative issues pinpointed in July. A follow-up face-to-face meeting of the Network will be taking place in October to continue preparations for the upcoming session. Future Summits may be held later in the year i.e., October so the majority of organizations will have had an opportunity to set their legislative priorities for the approaching sessions.

Grady applauded the COALITION for tackling this large and important endeavor to bring these organizations together. It has established a foothold with legislators and has proved quite valuable on disability related bills and issues.

BREAK

Access to Medical Care for Individuals with Disabilities – Shelly shared a handout that past SILC member Ryan Green, North Central Paralyzed Veterans of America, had shared with the SILC on an earlier occasion. Their organization was starting to review medical sites around Sioux Falls, and they were disappointed to discover just how many were not accessible. It's been suggested that maybe the SILC could continue this as an advocacy project and get this information to medical sites across the state, not just in Sioux Falls.

Jenneil pointed to an example on page 12, which shows a couple of lifts. She spoke to how crucial it is that medical staff has *training* on how to properly use these lifts *before* putting patients in them. Another item she wished the SILC would help stress to medical personnel is the need to stop using medical jargon or detailed lingo. They need to speak to patients in layman terms, which can help alleviate fears rather than increase them. She also pointed to page 18, where they have an example of a wheelchair ramp going up a scale. She suggested that they need to have better edge protection, and she spoke of her past experience with such a scale.

Denise suggested involving Dr. Thomas Huber of Pierre. He is president of a statewide medical association and could be a great contact for starting up an awareness campaign regarding accessibility to medical services. Pat felt this was a great handout, and it would be useful to share at staff meetings. He added that a key piece of training for medical personnel is training them to do things properly so as not to injure themselves. It's still too common for medical staff to suffer back injuries, and the like, due to the improper lifting of patients. Denise agreed, saying that it simply takes more training of

staff. She added that the dental industry would also be a great place to take this medical accessibility campaign. She feels though that more information needs to be gathered on the existing situation before undertaking such a campaign.

Margot asked staff and some SILC members take on this task. Pat, Matt, Margot, Marilyn, Jenneil, Brad and Shelly volunteered to assist with this effort. Margot thanked them and said a plan of action will have to be developed and coordinated through the Executive Committee conference calls and full SILC.

Grady supported such an effort by the SILC. It was further suggested that possibly the Department of Health could be recruited to join our efforts. They would have lots of contact information, which the SILC doesn't readily have. Margot suggested inviting to the next SILC meeting PVA's new governmental affairs staff person.

OTHER BUSINESS: Margot called for any other business; none was raised at this time.

CLOSING ACTIONS: **Future Agenda Items** – Items for consideration on the next agenda are the comprehensive statewide needs assessment, the Business Resource Network and new member orientation. Members were invited to contact the chairperson or staff with any additional items they wish to have included on upcoming agendas. **Scheduling the Next Meeting** – Upon reviewing calendars, it was agreed to schedule the next meeting in Pierre/Fort Pierre for either December 6th and 7th or December 7th and 8th. Staff will set up arrangements and let everyone know. Chairperson Margot thanked everyone again for their time and wished them safe travels. Grady also extended his thanks to the group. **MOTION TO ADJOURN - MSC.** Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.