

# STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

June 15, 2006

Best Western Ramkota - Pierre

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Biffert, Betty Coon, Vona Johnson, Grady Kickul, Thomas Kober, Gaye Mattke, Mark Arneson, Betsy Valnes, Gary Wald, Lynne Cain and Ryan Green. MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Ferris, Roxanne Rice and Philomine Moran. OTHERS PRESENT: Charlie Anderson, Peter Bailey, Greg Brandner, Beth Montour, Ann Van Loan, and Shelly Pfaff. Interpreters were Julie Paluch and Greta Howe.

OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – The meeting was brought to order by Chairperson Tom Kober at 8:35 a.m. Tom welcomed all in attendance, and everyone present introduced him/herself. MEETING PROTOCOL – Tom reminded members of the meeting protocol, which was attached to the mailed agenda. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** APPROVAL OF MARCH SILC MINUTES – **MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 2006 MEETING MINUTES – MSC.**

TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were raised at this time.

DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Grady welcomed everyone to Pierre and commented on the different meeting format due to the visit from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) staff – Sue Rankin-White. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Grady spoke of the new Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Jerry Hofer. He shared a bit of Secretary Hofer's past experience in State government and what his leadership is bringing to the department. Grady then brought forward the pending Viet Nam Memorial Dedication event planned for mid September in Pierre. He invited Gaye to speak to this topic. Both covered a lot of specifics as to expectations and planning underway for the events. Grady's next topic was the 2006 Youth Leadership Forum. He reported that 36 students participated, and it was held at the University of Sioux Falls (USF). There

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will be a debriefing in the coming weeks, and at that time some of the conversation will focus on whether to return to USD or USF. One plus of being at USF was the access to a variety of “service opportunities”, as well as other supports and services. Governor Rounds did stop at the luncheon, and he presented Ian Madsen with the 1<sup>st</sup> Everyday Hero Award. Ian is a past YLF participant, and he was acting as an assistant team leader this year. Ian was at a hotel in Aberdeen and noticed a small child on the bottom of the swimming pool. He jumped in and brought the child out, literally saving their life. For this act, the Governor presented Ian with this award.

**SILC APPOINTMENTS** – Grady reported that the nominees and briefing documents were received by Secretary Hofer and then forwarded to Governor Rounds. There is no way of knowing when appointments will take place, but this administration has been very timely in taking such actions.

**DISCUSSION OF RSA ON-SITE VISIT** – Grady spoke about Sue Rankin-White’s visit to South Dakota. He shared that Sue has vast experience in the IL arena and with RSA, thus she brings a lot of expertise to her new position within RSA. The purpose of Sue’s trip is to meet and greet as many stakeholders as possible during the week. She has been meeting with a variety of individuals, representing various organizations, and she will continue doing so by meeting with the SILC, Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired members later this afternoon. In talking with Sue, it does appear that South Dakota may be in the first round of monitoring visits by the RSA team in 2007. Grady is pleased that SD will be one of the first states. He believes it will be an opportunity for all of us to learn from the process. At that time, the RSA team will review the two Designated State Units (DSU) as well as one center for independent living (CIL). He also reported that SD will need to prepare a new three-year State Plan for Independent Living in 2007, whether or not reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act is completed at that time.

**DSBVI DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** DIVISION UPDATE – Gaye started her report by updating members on the fact that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 there will be only one rehabilitation teacher in the Rapid City office. The rehabilitation counselor in the Pierre office will be receiving training so she might carry a combined caseload of VR and IL for SBVI. Gaye stated that the next year

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will be a time of transition to see how this arrangement works out, and if needed, there will be adjustments made to ensure that consumers receive timely services. Gaye then provided updates on the Radio Talking Book Program. She reported that 257 surveys were sent out to consumers. A total of 102 were received back (40%). Of that total, 14 surveys indicated that the consumer was deceased or did not have a radio. These names have been removed from the database. A total of 55 respondents said they use the radio, and another 33 said they have the radio but don't use it currently. Of the total respondents, 12 indicated that they were interested in receiving the SD Telephone Newspaper Reader application, and these have been sent out. As a result of the survey, a large number of radios have been returned. They have been cleaned and prepared for use by the next applicants. The available radios are for people in the communities of Pierpont, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Hetland and Aberdeen. It is anticipated that with this surplus, there will no longer be a waiting list for individuals in those areas. Gaye then spoke about the Division's peer support efforts. She reported that 63 people participated in a regional peer support conference held in Yankton during the month of April. Transportation was arranged for participants, and costs were covered by Chapter 2 Peer Support funds. A regional peer support conference is being coordinated by Chelle Hart and Nancy Kelsey to occur in Mitchell some time in September. Plans are for a regional peer support event in western South Dakota once the new staff alignment has been in place for a period of time. Gaye continued by sharing that the relocation of the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind is complete. Staff and those being served are "settling in". As is to be expected, there are some odds and ends being wrapped up i.e., sidewalks, getting a door between the vocational and personal adjustment areas of the building, some furniture. Staff from Paralyzed Veterans of America did an accessibility review of the facility, and it was found to be within compliance of accessibility standards. The center is located on a bus route. It happens to be the most heavily used route in Sioux Falls, thus buses only run by every two hours. Ryan explained that a task force has been formed to look at how to better provide transit throughout the community, and he, Dick Hicks, Shelly Pfaff and others are on that task force. He stated that they had met earlier this week, and that particular route is on the table as part of their work. Gaye stated that they had held a Business

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Leadership Network event at the Center, and several larger employers from Sioux Falls participated in the event. She finally explained that the Division is in the process of developing its 2008 budget request, and she expects internal DHS budget hearings will happen in July. BOARD UPDATE – The Board of SBVI will be meeting Friday at Mesa Diner. They, too, are awaiting appointments. A couple of items they will be focusing on are the election of officers and a strategic process for development of the state plan. She indicated that Board members facilitated their public meetings. A question was asked if the one rehabilitation teacher FTE removed during the legislative process would ever be re-instated. Gaye responded that if they are not able to adequately and appropriately provide needed services, then the Division would again work within the budget process to request the addition of an FTE. It was requested by a member that this issue be revisited regularly to see how it is impacting the delivery of services to those needing them.

At this time, Grady asked if he might interject an item that he neglected to cover during his Director's Report. The Chairperson invited him to do so. Grady addressed the reality that the Division of Rehabilitation Services will be going on an "order of selection" as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. What this will mean for new people seeking services is that if they are determined to be people who do not have a "significant disability" or the "most significant disability" then they will be put on waiting lists. Grady explained that the need to go on to the order of selection is a result of federal funding not keeping pace with the demand for services. A couple of questions were brought forward, and as a result, SILC staff was asked to send out a copy of the "Order of Selection" document to all SILC members.

A member brought to the attention of the SILC that the Red Cross is working on disaster preparedness approaches, and in seeking involvement of people with disabilities, they are only targeting people with mobility, visual and hearing impairments. She urged people to be in touch with the Red Cross to challenge them to broaden their approach to include people with others types of disabilities i.e., cognitive, mental. Another member indicated that the Red Cross is seeking this type of guidance and input, so he agreed to forward an email about this aspect to interested members.

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DRS IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST REPORT: SFY2006 SILC Budget – Greg handed out this report and reviewed it. He reminded them of past action by the SILC Executive Committee, which resulted in \$45,630 being equally divided between the four CILS and CSD for use towards the purchase of HMAD services, office equipment and/or supplies. He explained the reasons for over-expenditures in the area of SILC travel and SILC staff travel. He further explained that even though these categories were over-expended, the total budget was not, and thus the reason additional funds were allocated to the CILS and CSD for additional expenditures. Grady spoke to the closing of the SFY06 budget and the current SFY07 budget. He explained how former DHS Secretary Oldenkamp placed an additional \$10,000 of general funds into the IL budget, and how this amount is now a continuing part of the total IL budget.

NCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: Betsy provided a summary of her report, since she had provided a variety of materials to SILC staff, which was handed out to members at this time. A few of the highlights she shared were the multicultural session, legislative focuses, march on Capitol Hill, regional training and planning for the 2007 SILC Congress. In her visits with our congressional delegation members, or their staff, she highlighted MiCASSA and Money Follows the Person. Senator Johnson had just signed on to MiCASSA. The other two members were continuing to explore the bill and it's potential impact on other sectors of the South Dakota community. A question was asked if the SILC has taken a position on either of these bills. As of the present time, the SILC has not done so. Betsy invited members to contact her with any questions they might have after reviewing the information given to them today.

NCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Grady asked the Chairperson to put this on the agenda, and he also spoke with the SILC Executive Committee about it. While at the NCIL Conference, Betsy was asked to serve on the NCIL Board as a Region VIII representative. Grady spoke to this being a compliment to Betsy, and potentially being a very positive opportunity for SD. The problem that such an opportunity raises is that NCIL does not

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provide any financial support for their Board members. Grady asked Betsy to explore if other options existed that could assist with the related costs, and to explore with NCIL the potential to use conference calls for some of their meetings. In response to both inquiries, Betsy has not been able to identify other options. The SILC Executive Committee does not feel the SILC is in a position to be able to fully fund Betsy's participation, since it would mean diverting funds from consumer services to provide this financial support. Gary and Betsy indicated that this is not only a problem for SD, it is a problem for many states. **MOTION TO SEND A LETTER TO NCIL EXPRESSING THE SILC'S CONCERNS WITH THE FACT THAT NCIL DOES NOT PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR BOARD MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION AND THE IMPACT THIS HAS ON THE ABILITY OF VERY DEDICATED AND QUALIFIED PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THEIR BOARD – MSC.**

The SILC recessed at 11 a.m. to provide the Budget Committee with time to meet prior to the meeting being reconvened.

The Chairperson reconvened the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

**SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:** STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT AWARDS REPORT – Shelly reported that the SILC had received three requests for funds since their last meeting. The Executive Committee met via conference call, and they approved funding in support of the 2006 Native American Summit (\$2,000) and OIL's 2006 Barrier Awareness Day Events (\$1,250) out of the FY06 budget. Due to the cancellation of the Summit, only the \$1,250 was expended to OIL. The Executive Committee also tentatively approved a request from WRDI for \$1,500 in support of planned ADA training out of FY07 funds. Once the Executive Committee receives a more detailed budget from WRDI, it will make its final determination on funding. **SILC FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE** – Shelly was asked to provide the SILC with this report. Tom Kober is the chairperson for the sub-committee. They met via conference call in May and face-to-face last night. Their main focus at this time is to identify information, which will assist them in carrying out the charge they have been given by the SILC. Thus far they have received information from the

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704 reports and other sources on the number of people with disabilities, funding sources, case outcomes, and ages of persons served. Some additional information they are wanting prior to their next meeting are population density figures, geographic coverage, current funding formula, types of services provided and number of services provided. The subcommittee is due to meet on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Oacoma for their next meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Shelly brought forward that this meeting is the one within which election of officers is to take place. Tom, as Chairperson, asked Grady to take over the meeting at this point. Grady presented to the SILC a proposed slate of officers for the next year. They were: Tom Kober, Chairperson; Ryan Green, Vice Chairperson and Linda Biffert, Member at Large. Grady asked three times if there were any further nominations for chair. Hearing none, **MOTION TO ELECT TOM KOBER AS CHAIRPERSON – MSC.** Grady then asked three times if there were any further nominations for vice chair; hearing none, **MOTION TO ELECT RYAN GREEN AS VICE CHAIRPERSON – MSC.** Grady asked three times if there were any further nominations for member at large. Hearing none – **MOTION TO ELECT LINDA BIFFERT AS MEMBER AT LARGE – MSC.** The meeting was turned back over to Tom, and Tom thanked the members for their confidence in his ability to serve in this capacity once again.

**SILC REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL APRIL CONFERENCE** – Shelly indicated that we had received initial information on the 2006 APRIL Conference, and she was wondering if they wished to send a representative to the conference. After some conversation, **MOTION TO SEND GARY WALD AS A SILC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 2006 APRIL CONFERENCE – MSC.**

**CIL STAFF TRAINING REPORT** – Shelly reminded members of the written report that had been provided to them. She indicated that the evaluations, and the feedback she heard from participants, was that this was a very successful event. Two factors that were enthusiastically received were the utilization of CIL staff from one of the centers to present during the conference and the resulting interaction between center staffs, and the motivational humorist winding up the conference. Shelly invited others who participated in the training to provide feedback, and all indicated they and staff felt it was the “best” conference they could remember.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Gary reported out from the earlier committee meeting. They met to bring forward recommendations to the SILC for SFY08 Funding Priorities. The priorities they proposed to the SILC are: (1) Acquire funding to support meeting identified unmet IL needs of South Dakotans with significant disabilities; (2) Acquire funding in support of a cost of living (COLA) increase for the entire IL budget; and (3) Acquire funding in support of emerging efforts incorporating the IL philosophy, involving multiple organizations and empowering persons with disabilities of all ages to reach their IL goals. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SFY08 FUNDING PRIORITIES RECOMMENDATIONS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE – MSC.** Staff will work with the Chairperson to send a letter containing these priorities to the DRS Director.

**ASSOCIATION OF CILS REPORT:** Ann reported that the 501 c(3) paperwork is in the lawyer's office. The Association members met with RSA representative Sue Rankin-White. Their conversation was an exchange of questions from all who participated in the meeting. They asked what CILs need to do to get off the "non-performing" status. Sue indicated that CILs need to have good 704 reporting. Currently the data is not consistent, and it is imperative that consistency is present and all CILs are reporting the same things in the same way. Sue also challenged CILs not to lose sight of their purpose in the search for funding. When seeking funds, it is imperative to ask how do these funded activities fit into the IL philosophy. Sue also indicated that there may be some training on 704 reports in August, and she said that RSA is really looking for best practices so they may lift them up to others throughout the country.

At this time, Ann and Peter asked if they might give their reports now, as both had need to return home as soon as possible, and the consensus was to have them go ahead with their reports.

**WRDI:** Ann reported on various speaking opportunities, which she has completed in the past months. She also reported that they have a new employee serving the northern Hills. Kelly Keyes is their new staffperson in the Spearfish office. She reported that WRDI received \$5,000 from the SD Community Foundation to continue their "Living Well" program. She also

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reported that they received ten computers through the commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base, and they are going to explore how these might be used to implement a computer based peer support program. She also reported that in the coming months they will be holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scotty Backens Memorial Golf Tournament and an ADA Anniversary Picnic at Canyon Lake in Rapid City. Ann ended by inviting people to stop in at WRDI any time they are in the Rapid City area, and she thanked them for their time.

CSD: Peter indicated his report would be short and sweet. He indicated that they fully expended all of their IL and HMAD funding for SFY06. The number of persons served has increased, even though the number of staff has decreased. This weekend they will be hosting a community block party, and they are expecting upwards of 400 people to participate in this event. It is the second such event, and they are being joined in this effort by various community resources who will be hosting exhibits and information booths.

SDHDA News and Issues: Vona reported that they hosted a booth at the Dare to Dream Conference earlier this week. They focused their outreach at the conference on home ownership for people with disabilities and their new web-based site for locating available housing units throughout the state. She invited organizations to put the website in their newsletters, as well as to add it as a favorite link on their websites. Vona shared that she is currently working with two task forces on trying to improve home ownership outcomes for people with disabilities. One initiative is looking at bringing someone in to do a “train the trainer” for housing people who assist people in applying for SSI. She continues to work in the area of meeting the needs of the homeless. A supported housing complex for chronically homeless people with mental illness is opening in Sioux Falls. It is designed after one that is presently operating in Yankton. Another issue that is surfacing is that often younger people with disabilities find themselves living in “senior apartments” or nursing facilities. With many such facilities going “smoke free” there are growing calls for these types of facilities to go the same way. Vona asked that if anyone has ideas as to how this issue might be addressed, please let her know as they see it becoming a larger and larger

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issue. A question was asked if SDHDA expected a move during the upcoming legislative session to limit the scope of usage for Governor's houses, as was attempted last session. Vona said they have been talking with the manufactured home association, and they have some agreement, but she sees it as a temporary fix. She expects there will be an attempt during session. She asked members to please send her any "success stories" of people with disabilities who have benefited from this program so they might make those widely known. One member said he would forward a couple to her.

NAAP: Beth Montour was representing Marla Bullbear at this meeting. Beth reported that they are submitting a proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for capacity building within their organization. She also reported that they are in the process of doing major remodeling of 20 homes with funds from the Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. They are also seeking funds from the Bush Foundation to work to decrease preventable disabilities, which result from the use of alcohol and other drugs and from being a victim of violence. Grady invited NAAP to contact the SILC and DRS if any of these proposals would benefit from letters of support. Beth said that she would pass this invitation along to Marla.

OIL: Gary reported that their Watertown office has moved. It is now located at 312 Ninth Avenue SE, Suite C. The new space is more accessible, and staff and consumers are settling into it. Gary also reported on the Barrier Awareness Day events held in both Aberdeen and Watertown. He had provided a printed report, and SILC staff handed those out at this time. Gary also spoke to the fact that systems advocacy efforts continue to grow with the addition of a systems advocacy position to their staff. He asked that as the SILC's funding sub-committee continues its work, it looks at the fact that CILs do not get paid for advocacy services.

PFCIL: Charlie Anderson, Interim Director, provided the update. He indicated that their Board continues to go through applications for the Executive Director position. They have not yet filled the Director of Consumer Services position, as it is the second in command position, and they are hoping the new Executive Director would have the opportunity to

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make, or at least be part of making, that decision. They have a new IL specialist in Yankton. She is Cessilie Young. Charlie then reported on activities they are carrying out under Very Special Arts, a fishing tournament held in Yankton and staff recognition events held for personal attendants from Watertown, Pierre and Rapid City. They continue their peer support activities in Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Madison and Yankton. They have various upcoming fundraising events scheduled, and they will be participating in various ADA celebration events in the coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS: Shelly asked if she might step out of role as SILC staff and address the SILC as Executive Director of the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. Shelly explained that annually they work to make funding available to local communities to support a variety of ADA celebration activities and outreach efforts. The funds used are from the Rocky Mountain ADA and IT Center, and both organizations are committed to keep the ADA in front of all of us, as we work towards our common goal of full inclusion. This year events/activities are being supported in the communities of Watertown, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Yankton, Mitchell, Brookings, Madison and DeSmet. A comment was made that these efforts will probably continue to evolve and grow, as have the NDEAM efforts over the years.

Since representatives from the Quad Squad were unable to participate in this meeting, it was agreed that staff will work with them to see if they might attend the next meeting or if there is another way which would be more effective creating an opportunity for the SILC to hear from this funded program.

A member asked if she might bring forward an issue she has become aware of in South Dakota. Lynn explained that there is an informal group of individuals working on "fixing" the protective payee system in SD. They feel the system is broken, not only for the individuals who need this service, but also for those who are providing the service. She asked that the SILC consider looking at this as an advocacy issue. She invited anyone interested in working on this problem to contact her directly.

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CLOSING ACTIONS: SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – After reviewing calendars, staff was directed to schedule the next SILC meeting during the week of September 25<sup>th</sup> in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. ADJOURNMENT – **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MSC.**

Tom quickly shared with members information on a new video relay pay telephone system. Copies of materials will be sent out to all SILC members.