

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
March 15th and 16th, 2011
AmericInn/Ft. Pierre

SILC MEMBERS PRESENT: Vona Johnson, Margot Burton, Shelly Schock, Ann Fortin, Jenneil Watkins, Jim Simbeck, Isabel Trobaugh, Matt Cain, Grady Kickul and Gaye Mattke. **SILC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Philomine Moran, Brad Konechne, Ken Rollman, Patrick Czerny, Marilyn Kinsman, Monte Tschetter, and Larry Puthoff. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Ann Van Loan, WRDI; Denise White, DRS staff; Shelly Pfaff and Faith Ellis, SILC staff.

OPENING ACTIONS:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Margot Burton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. She welcomed everyone and had them introduce themselves. Shelly reported that staff had received notice from Monte Tschetter, Larry Puthoff, Pat Czerny, and Brad Konechne - all sent their regrets. It was confirmed that a quorum was present. **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. It was noted that Grady suggested moving the CIL Reports and Director's Report ahead of the training item due to a scheduling conflict. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS MODIFIED – MADE (M), SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – After confirming everyone received and reviewed a copy; Margot called for changes/additions. Matt Cain clarified an error within his ILC report area, page 4, changing the \$37,000 to read \$3,500; and noted he had emailed this change to staff. Shelly Schock clarified a statement, page 10, regarding her suggestion for more consistency by creating a template for the IL director reports using the four core services. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER MINUTES AS AMENDED – MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Margot called for Public Comment at this time. Upon hearing nothing, the agenda moved forward.

CIL DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Independent Living Choices (ILC) – Matt Cain announced that as of yesterday, March 14th, ILC has now officially merged Opportunities for Independent Living (OIL) into their operation. This started last summer when OIL's Board came to ILC, looking for advice, i.e. ideas on how to spot trouble areas; methods to provide better services to the

people served. Over time the OIL Board chose to dissolve OIL and have the operations merge into ILC. OIL had eight full-time employees. Under ILC, four service positions were reorganized, and two current employees - Jim Miklos and Nancy Penaranda - were rehired. ILC added a part-time position to be half service and half administrative. The previous OIL office space was not fully accessible, so ILC has moved to a new, fully accessible office space that's larger. The IL Coordinator for the Aberdeen staff will be Beth out of Watertown. Currently, ILC staff is supporting new people. New Aberdeen staff will also go to Sioux Falls for further on-the-job training; plus, several of the ILC staff will be attending the CIL Staff Training in mid-April.

For now, ILC is concentrating efforts on introducing themselves around Aberdeen, getting to know people and providing the four core services. There will be three past OIL board members joining the ILC board to further aide relations. The Aberdeen staff will now have health and dental insurance. The overall merger will result in a cost savings of \$37,000.

Grady stated that DRS had been aware of the OIL Board's concerns with funding levels and how to best serve people in NE South Dakota. Grady stressed that the merger decision was one made by the OIL Board, independent of other influences. He commended them for their bravery and dedication needed to take such drastic action to ensure IL services were being properly provided to people in their area. The Division fully supports this merger, and believes it's all being done to provide the best services possible.

A member questioned if there are guidelines for keeping the lines of communication open. Matt replied that he's a firm believer in the "chain of command". We train staff to follow the steps in their proper order both up and down the chain of command. He also added that they have all-staff, bi-monthly staff meetings. Members were in general consensus that this sounds like a move in the right direction for IL services in SD. The SILC wished ILC the best with this new, larger endeavor.

Matt next reported on a successful Bean Bag Tournament they held in Sioux Falls. They had 38 teams play in a round-robin tourney that ran from 10 am - 6:30 pm, and they netted \$1,500 profit. He reported they had a good mix of people, and at least four teams included one or more persons with disabilities. It was suggested that they might offer to help individual players without a whole team, to be matched up with other players. It may increase the number of teams or persons with disabilities involved. Matt agreed and made note of that idea.

Native American Advocacy Program (NAAP) – No representative was in attendance, nor any written report provided.

Western Resources for dis-ABLED Independence (WRDI) – Ann Van Loan shared a written report (See Attachment A). WRDI currently has four full-time employees and three part-time employees she stated. She expressed an extra thank you to Char Crisp, who's really helped by doing much of the new staff training. She also commented that everyone has really stepped up to the plate. A couple of people are currently doing volunteer projects for WRDI - Robbie Bearden, VOA, is gathering data on fee for service. Mike Pendo is creating software to display ADA regulations while on inspections. We really appreciate the help.

Ann reported that she testified before Appropriations and also had done a letter campaign during Session, and she was contacted after that by Legislators asking for more copies. Ann noted that Third Party IL Cost Effectiveness Study has been slow due to staff changes at USD, but they assure us we will get it eventually. Ann reported WRDI will also have staff attending the CIL Staff Training here in Ft. Pierre in mid-April, and they are hoping CFAL will be one of the training topics.

THIRD PARTY IL COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDY: Matt reported that Bill Anderson, formerly the main point of contact at the USD Research Bureau, is no longer with them. This change has delayed finalizing the finished product. The original intent had never been to have it done in time for the 2011 session. We'll stay on top of it and share the report with the SILC once it is complete. Matt added that Bill Anderson may be joining the ILC Board of Directors.

DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director's Comments - Grady reported that he meet with two representatives of the SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Dave Miller, Board President, and Shelly Pfaff, Executive Director. The main topic was sustainability ideas for the federally funded Medicaid Infrastructure Grant - Freedom to Work Project. He reminded members how DRS has contracts with both Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) and The Coalition to conduct Freedom to Work business. This grant ends this year - December 31st, 2011. They discussed ideas for continuing to work together to sustain some of the training projects, similar to the Mike Walling Employment and Benefits Trainings. Shelly Pfaff and Brooke Lusk, BHSSC, are working together to create and implement trainings. More details will follow as they become available.

Grady returned briefly to the ILC and OIL merger. Grady wanted it noted in the minutes that the Division recognizes Laura Stabner, previous OIL Board member, for her outstanding work. Laura has been extremely committed to ensuring this merger was done for the right reasons and that it was all about fully serving persons with disabilities in their area. Grady said she and Matt Cain deserve much of the credit for this successful merger. Grady explained that the division is going to develop a letter showing their support for this merger and how it will provide for more money directly to the four core services. He noted that this merger would also involve modifying the State Plan. Grady added that a letter will be going to RSA explaining the change and requesting they approve OIL's request to have their remaining grant funds, approximately \$32,000, transferred directly to ILC vs. returning it to RSA and making ILC ask for it, which would take longer. They would like to include with that letter, a statement from the SILC supporting this action.

MOTION - SD SILC SUPPORTS PART C, ARRA, AND GRANT FUNDS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM OIL TO ILC; AND SUPPORTS THE NEED TO AMEND THE STATE PLAN AS SUGGESTED BY DRS - MSC.

Legislative Update - Grady reported Session was hectic, with a different feel than in the past. The focus was proposed budget cuts to close a \$127 million structural deficit. Initially Governor Daugaard proposed a 10% budget cut across the board for everyone and every program. After many budget hearings, testimonies, emails, letters, phone calls, etc., it was worked out as a graduated cut to Medicaid providers, with larger entities such as Avera, Sanford, Rapid City Regional, taking higher cuts than smaller providers such as Oahe, Inc., Dakota Milestones or Northern Hills Training Center. Grady reminded members that the 10% cuts do apply to DRS as far as staff travel expenditures and out of state travel. A cost saving method they're utilizing is holding more trainings and supervisor meetings via the state's video-conferencing system. Grady stated he was not sure yet of the net impact of the budget cuts, but feels confident it won't force them into an Order of Selection. The Activities of Daily Living Services (ADLS) program was slated for a 5% cut and in the end it was reduced by 3.5%.

A member asked Grady if the Division will track the number of people served to know exactly how the budget cuts actually end up affecting consumers. Grady replied that yes, they will have hard numbers available to review. We're still confident that an Order of Selection won't be necessary this coming year. Grady added that once a consumer is deemed "eligible" then DRS is obligated to provide needed VR services. He added that should a

consumer fall out of compliance and no longer is eligible, and then services may stop.

BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORK (BRN) - Grady reminded members that this is a newer group of business leaders from around Sioux Falls. They organized and became a 501(c)3 non-profit, and they were awarded an agreement with DRS to conduct employer related services, concentrating on diversity with disability as a component - and on having that model become a template to replicate elsewhere. They recently hired an Executive Director - Julie Briggs. They plan to partner with ILC and other disability agencies to promote and train on the many faces of diversity, including persons with disabilities; and to develop working relationship with the area's workforce leaders, in order to further develop job opportunities.

Another key player at BRN is Mary Medina of Forward Sioux Falls. She is committed to seeing results, and her contact base should be very valuable. These business leaders have more connections in the business workforce than our VR counselors, so we're looking forward to the outcomes of their efforts.

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS - Grady stated he learned the Governor requested the Division start the process to solicit appointments for the SILC and BVR. Members who are up for re-appointment are still getting back with their decisions. BVR, SILC and BSBVI staff will be conducting a joint solicitation for nominees, including brief job descriptions and nomination forms. If you have ideas on qualified persons from the disability community, please approach them about serving. It was confirmed that Pat Czerny and Jim Simbeck are open to re-appointment to the SILC. Brad Konechne has declined to accept re-appointment due to a heavier work schedule. Philomine Moran is terming off the SILC. Isabel Trobaugh only just learned of possible re-appointment, so she was unsure of her answer quite yet, and the other unknown is Monte Tschetter.

BREAK

Due to earlier technical difficulties, Matt now presented the new ILC marketing video that SILC Strategic Funding dollars partially funded. The SILC indicated they felt it was very effective. It will be available for viewing soon at the ILC website www.ilchoices.org

DRS IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST REPORT: Ramp Report - Leroy Nelson, Springfield Production Manager, said he had been aware of some of the

ramp issues and that Al Mudder is dealing with them and referred us to him. Denise will be working with the CILs to address the ramp troubles. Matt reported it has seemed better already, which leads him to wonder if maybe it wasn't a problem in Springfield but possibly with all the different contractors hired to install ramps. He added that building permit guidelines are different in every town and that can add to the confusion. Ann reported that for WRDI, the transportation cost of getting ramps from Springfield to their service area far outweighs the cost of building them from scratch. It was suggested that maybe with the ILC and OIL merger and those contracting all ramps by one contractor, ramp installation issue might decrease. Grady and Denise will work on a formal reply to Lamont Cain, who brought the ramp issues forward at the SILC's September meeting.

BSBVI DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Older Blind IL Program – Gaye reported that some units in the inventory of the closed circuit TV program are getting quite old, and they are no longer able to service them. Currently there are 176 combined total units in the field with consumers, both leased and loaned. Pat Czerny is investigating options for purchasing LCD units to replace aging units and address the waiting list.

Gaye said that the Computer Access Program is going well. Twenty-three individuals have been served through the program since it started last October. A maximum amount of five hours of training per person was set to ensure that more individuals have the opportunity to participate as opposed to extensive training for a few individuals. The majority of referrals are over age 55, and the main focus of computer access training is staying in touch with family.

Gaye showed members a sample of a large-print calendar, SBVI purchased for distribution to older blind consumers. The calendars are very popular and SILC members agreed they were nice. Gaye highly recommended this promotional company they work with for a variety of promotional products. Members may contact her for details.

The Deaf/Blind Peer Support Program - Gaye said this is a pilot program coordinated with CSD. The focus is on deaf-blind peer support and service support providers. The majority of participants are older individuals with hearing and vision loss. Individuals who have significant hearing loss and utilize American Sign Language have not been identified for participation in the project to the extent that was originally projected.

Gaye explained that the Board of SBVI (BSBVI) would soon have three members whose terms are ending; one of those is eligible for re-appointment. Nomination forms are being mailed out jointly for BVR, SILC and BSBVI.

Gaye added that SBVI would be active at the Focus on Success Conference, April 4 - 6, at the Pierre Ramkota. They provide financial assistance to ensure that individuals are not prevented from attending due to financial constraints. One of the keynote speakers will be Marcus Engel, who was also featured at the "Don't Drink and Drive - Stay Alive" campaign in Pierre last year. Gaye also explained that the National Federation of the Blind - SD Chapter, coordinated their convention in conjunction with the Focus on Success Conference. SBVI and their Board are also hosting a Public Meeting, on Wednesday, April 5th.

Gaye reported they hired Media One advertising agency from Sioux Falls to do a media campaign for them. It is scheduled for release around the middle of April, with press conferences being held in Sioux Falls the 12th, Aberdeen the 13th, and Rapid City the 14th. In addition to the press conferences, the campaign will include TV and newspaper ads.

SBVI will be conducting a Public Meeting via the DDN video-conferencing system on May 12th from 4:00 to 6:00 central time with sites in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre. This format allows participation on a statewide basis.

SBVI is working with Oglala Community College to make arrangements for a Public Meeting in Kyle. They're working with Dennis White Shield to promote and organize this event. It is set for Tuesday, May 24th, from 11 am - 2 pm MST. The Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and SILC will jointly sponsor the meeting. In addition, SD Advocacy Services and the Council on Developmental Disabilities have expressed interest in participating. Grady reminded members that, if they're interested in attending any event as a SILC representative, please contact staff, and travel costs will be covered.

As Chairperson, Margot asked the group for permission to roll a couple items from the Wednesday agenda to now since we had time remaining in the day.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE - Shelly Schock reported that this group met March 9th, and they carefully reviewed all the nominations, many of which were great. She stressed they were very hard

decisions, but they did make their recommendations. Those are now with the Division, and after their review, they'll get forwarded to the Governor's office for his final approval. Based on his calendar, the Awards ceremony and luncheon will hopefully be arranged for some time in May. Details will be sent to everyone as soon as word is received from the Governor's office. Grady added that he feels confident that Governor Daugaard will attend in person.

NDEAM JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE - Ann Fortin reported that this committee is jointly made up of BVR, SILC and BSBVI members. Ten communities had submitted NDEAM funding proposals totaling \$19,000. Upon reviewing each in detail, certain items were trimmed totaling \$4,850 such as lunches, promo items, giveaways, etc. The committee approved these requests then in the amount of \$14,650. This committee is asking the SILC if they would please consider contributing funds towards NDEAM events again this year. Margot asked staff approximately how much is currently in the SILC Strategic Planning line item of our budget, and staff replied \$4,799. Ann added that a commitment received from BSBVI to contribute up to \$4,000 if necessary; or \$3,000 if SILC can do \$1,000. It was suggested that BVR do an official request to the SILC for this funding.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FOR THE DAY – MSC; concluded at 5 p.m.

MEETING RECONVENED - The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am, Wednesday, March 16th. The group was welcomed back by Chairperson Margot and introductions were made again.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Margot invited public comments, there were no public comments at this time.

COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CSNA)

UPDATE: Grady shared a brief reminder that this is the continuation of what the groups heard at the June 2010 joint meeting in Pierre. The CSNA is conducted every three years. It's a three-year process of gathering data, facts, and figures that can tell a story. It's pulling together the data into categories and then making sense of it all. Our speaker, Bob Jahner, has 30+ years of related experience in Montana, and has extensive knowledge on state plans and needs assessments.

Bob thanked the group and started by stating that the goal of a CSNA is to look at categories and then levels of needs, especially problem areas. Seek to identify the common needs mentioned most often, and guide

policymakers down a path of meeting the needs for the largest number of people. It's designed to help policymakers find what is needed. These surveys can help a state see where the most urgent needs are that need to be filled.

A key thing Bob stressed about the survey is the fact that it's hard to ask someone what they need when they're in crisis. Bob said SD is actually doing quite a good job meeting the needs of people with disabilities in many areas. The consultants knew to not expect too many bad things to be reported. They had so many positive things told to them that for their reporting purposes, they coined the phrase "positive needs".

Bob shared a handout of his CSNA PowerPoint presentation (See Attachment B). He started with slide 2, noting that the entire "process" RSA provides to follow is actually a 200+ document. CSNA Executive Team includes the three Board Chairpersons - BVR, SILC, and BSBVI - and upper management from DRS and SBVI.

It was stressed that it's always good to limit agency goals to about 4 or 5. Too many goals simply mean it was difficult to reach consensus and chances are an agency will fail at some of them. Bob recommended meeting in the middle and compromise on a smaller number of good goals. He also suggested keeping the number of strategies under each goal to a manageable number.

Slide 6 points out that VR counselors, or other providers serving persons with disabilities, need to remember - there will always be a large number of broad needs in an un-perfect world that agencies cannot meet. Sometimes we have to be reminded to focus on problems that you can fix, and not on things beyond your control.

Upon summarizing the survey responses, Level I Primary Needs Categories were developed. Transportation comes up often and everywhere - that is the norm in rural states. Another common thread was the need for additional soft skills training both prior to getting a job and once on the job. Level I Primary Needs Categories listed in descending weight were: transportation, pre-placement services, life transition supports, mental health services, safety net SSA/Public Assistance, and job placement/coaching.

Primary Needs Categories Level II were transportation, language and cultural, VR education, assistive technology, state/Indian Nation infrastructure, and rural citizens' service supports.

Bob explained that the word cultural means how often times we simply see things differently, and we need to be the ones who learn and understand other cultures and what they expect. Sometimes people don't know they have a need and that there's someone who may be able to fill it, because in their culture or way of life, they learned to distrust government.

Bob pointed out in the survey, 80% of employment counselors said they have good relations with their workforce partners, a key ingredient for keeping communication flowing.

The good news is:

- ✓ SD has done good meeting all standards and indicators in 2010, which is quite a feat in this economy.
- ✓ The Ticket to Work Program quadrupled, which would be a feat in any economy!
- ✓ DRS supported Project Skills and the Youth Leadership Forum - popular, successful programs positively influencing the lives of students with disabilities, and
- ✓ Services are provided in rural areas and have higher placement rates than other urban-like areas in South Dakota.

Bob congratulated the SILC, BVR and the Division on these accomplishments and encouraged their good works continue.

Grady mentioned how in the past, a common misconception was that VR staff and IL staff didn't need each other. They felt they weren't intertwined. He's pleased to see much of this data shows otherwise - both are needed for persons with disabilities to reach their goals. He thanked Bob for the great presentation. On behalf of the SILC, Margot also thanked Bob for the interesting report and for his travel time getting here this week.

SILC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

SILC Budget Report - Shelly shared a handout of the SILC Budget Report as of the end of February (See Attachment C). She pointed out line item "Staff Travel" that has not been used and most likely won't get used. There's a chance later there may be need to direct those funds to CIL Staff Training and/or staff time, if need be.

Shelly explained that there will be CIL Staff Training, at the AmericInn of Fort Pierre, Tuesday through Thursday, April 12th, 13th, and 14th. Topics that may be covered include CFAL computerized reporting system, customer service,

site audits, ethics and professionalism, people first language, and sharing of best practices. There will be a social mixed planned Wednesday evening to encourage folks to network, share stories and get to know each other better. Shelly added that SILC members are welcome to attend any portion of this training. If interested in participating, simply contact staff for further details.

ADVOCACY ISSUES:

Disability Advocacy Network (DAN) - Margot reported that this is a loosely organized group of over twenty different disability organizations from around the state. The SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities is the organizing agent that has brought these groups together as one voice to increase the clout of all, especially during the Legislative session. This group met in October to learn of the early concerns the various groups saw coming. In December we started having videoconference meetings over the state's DDN system, one in December, three in January, and three in February. Shelly Pfaff, Coalition, Terry Dosch, Mental Health Centers and Substance Abuse Association Councils, and Robert Kean, SD Advocacy Services, were pivotal players in leading the charge. They spent many long hours at the Capitol, listening to committee hearings and reporting back the very latest news on bill activity. Shelly emailed daily, and sometimes more than once, Legislative Updates with a complete table of all House and Senate Bills being tracked and their current status. These DAN meetings were very educational added Margot, stating folks were on top of the latest news as it was breaking. Margot specifically thanked Shelly for the huge effort needed to develop and circulate those daily email updates.

Jenneil added that the position papers or letters that this Network wrote to all Legislators on the proposed cuts included an impressive listing of disability organizations that came together and all signed off on them. This Network is gaining in recognition, and Legislators were listening carefully to what it had to say.

Shelly stated she was going to switch hats and speak on behalf of the Coalition, if approved by the Chair, Margot granted Shelly this privilege. Shelly reported it was a successful coming together; we proved that it was key to being heard. Another key thing the Network learned, and successfully utilized, is that consumers whose lives were going to be so drastically impacted who testified. Testimony from service agencies or providers bears no clout, this Network aided in helping agencies organize and have consumers at the appropriate hearings with some talking points ready.

Shelly reported that another sign of the DAN's growth was that Governor Dennis Daugaard had agreed to meet with the DAN during Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol. The DAN was also one of the only groups asked to meet with the Governor again in the fall.

Margot added that to date, the Coalition and a couple others - the Council on Developmental Disabilities and SD RehabACTion, have contributed to the financial operations of this Network. So there's talk about what approaches may be taken to funding the Network and related activities. Grady said he also saw DAN's power grow due to strength in numbers. To have been the one and only group or agency to have received the invitation to come back and meet again with the Governor is very telling; kudos on that achievement alone. He believes it was the cooperative, educational approach taken by that laid the steppingstones to future bridges. Grady ended by agreeing with Margot that Shelly was a key player in this endeavor, and thanked her for her efforts.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM REPORT – Dan Rounds introduced Tiffany Summer, a past YLF delegate, from Pierre. Tiffany came to report on her experience with YLF. Dan reminded the group that YLF is a weeklong intensive program for high school aged students with disabilities, on campus at Northern. They learn to be their own best self-advocates. For this coming June 2011 event, 57 students from over 30 school districts around the state applied to attend. They we only have the space and budget to accept 40.

Tiffany explained that she really enjoyed YLF and had a great time. She said she liked learning about other students with many different disabilities, liked gaining new friends, and has stayed in close touch with those new friends, especially using social media, such as Facebook. Tiffany said she really liked the one speaker at YLF - Derek Johnson. He spoke about how an old sports injury lead to him losing a leg and how he overcame struggles and learned that his life actually changed for the good in the long run.

Tiffany said she feels more outgoing, more confident, especially at school, and this has led her to get on the Yearbook Staff. She is now active taking photos at school events. She continued stating she has plans to attend Dakota State University next fall and study web design. Tiffany said she felt YLF really helped her decide that she could be ready and go on to college, so she's really glad she got that chance - thank you.

Dan explained that YLF has helped establish better working relationships with special education contacts at many school districts. Today, the point of their visit was to reiterate a request from Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) to SILC for a donation to support the 2011 event.

After further discussion general consensus was that the SILC would support this again. **MOTION TO APPROVE SILC GIVING \$1,000 TO TSLP IN SUPPORT OF THE JUNE 2011 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM IN ABERDEEN - MSC.**

Staff will send Tiffany Summer and Dan Rounds a "Thank You" note for their time today.

"ROLE OF THE SILC IN THE INDEPENDENT LIVING WORLD" - Handouts were shared on two different Standards from the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) with the CILs (See Attachments D on yellow and Attachment E on green). SILC members broke into two groups for discussions and asked to select a note taker and reporter. The two groups were each given 30 minutes and delegated one of the Standards to review, discuss ideas and focus on answering the two questions regarding collaboration or partnering.

Group 1/Standard #1 = "The SILC will, in partnership with CILs, maximize cooperation, coordination, and working relations to strengthen independent living within the state." Group #1 reported that in terms of the SILC and CILs partnering together to strengthen IL in SD, they felt that maybe we could work together more on projects involving veterans groups, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, health fairs that feature health screenings, etc. These may be the type of events that we could collaborate on and help spread the word on our services.

Group 2/Standard #2 = "The SILC will collaborate with CILs in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of the SPIL." After discussion, they reported that it would be great to have more CIL involvement with the SPIL. They thought CILs could help with consumer surveys, and other projects as outlined in the SPIL.

One member asked, what more can we as individuals be doing out there? The answer, although broad, is simply to continue promoting the concept that independent living is a consumer driven system. People with disabilities in control of their own choices and have the ability to make those choices. If we all can "talk the talk" about IL being a consumer choice when visiting and

networking with our friends, family, consumers and their families, it'll contribute to the concept becoming more in-grained as time goes on.

CLOSING ACTIONS: Future Agenda Items – Items for consideration on the next agenda are that Matt Cain, Shelly Schock and Ann Fortin, will become a sub-committee that creates a first draft of a CIL Director Report template for the SILC's review at the next meeting. It was asked if the June meeting would a BVR, SILC, and BSBVI joint meeting. It was agreed that wait until next fall for a joint meeting. Margot reminded members if they have anything they would like to propose for the next meeting's agenda, please contact staff to share your thoughts.

Scheduling the Next Meeting – A suggestion was made to have the next meeting in Aberdeen in conjunction with YLF and then have the opportunity to meet the newer staff at ILC. Although a good idea, it was decided that week is already too busy. Plus, they felt that maybe the new staff with ILC Aberdeen would not be quite ready for a full tour that soon. Having it centrally located again in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area was confirmed as best for the June meeting. The two date choices of either June 21st and 22nd (first choice), or 22nd and 23rd (second choice). Staff will set up arrangements and let the group know. Chairperson Margot thanked everyone again for their attendance and wished them safe travels. Grady echoed her thank you to the group.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - MSC. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.