

Minutes of February 4, 2015

Attending Members
Executive Committee: RJ Robertson, Chair, Murphysboro
Terri Finn, Vice Chair, Salem
Dana Craig, Secretary, Chenoa
Jeri Wooters, Treasurer, Decatur

Members: Gianna Baker, Chicago
Margarite Brooks, Normal
Melanie Fleenor, ISBE, Springfield
Andres Gallegos, Chicago
Ed Heflin, Macomb
Roy Miller, Carbondale
Sara Powell, Springfield
Barbara Pritchard, Urbana
Cynthia Swanson, Naperville

Guest: MaryBeth Farmer, ILU Manager
Ann Ford, INCIL

Staff: Sarah Durbin, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chair Robertson at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. He introduced MaryBeth Farmer who has recently accepted the job as manager of the Independent Living Unit within the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 5, 2014 meeting were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Finn motioned to accept the minutes of November 5, 2014 meeting as presented. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Chair Robertson reminded the Council that his term will end on June 30. He reviewed the duties of the chairperson and encouraged veteran members of the

Council to consider taking a leadership position. Elections are in May for the four officers.

Operations Committee Report: Robertson directed the Council to review the October, November and December financial reports in their packets. Also in need of approval is the organizational budget for 2016 fiscal year.

MOTION: Finn motioned to accept all three of the financial reports as presented. Miller seconded this motion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Pritchard motioned to accept the FY2016 organizational budget as presented. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SILC Congress Report: Brooks gave a brief report on her experience at this year's SILC Congress in San Diego. She felt it was a useful conference especially for new members. She distributed a handbook developed by Michigan on the importance of Centers for Independent Living. Brooks also discussed the Standards and Indicators work group that both she and Durbin have joined.

Executive Director's Report: Durbin discussed the transfer of all independent living programs from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Regulations from ACL for CILs and SILC are still unknown but are expected no earlier than April.

Durbin discussed a new Advocacy Strategy Group that will look at ways that SILC can further support centers as well as opportunities for SILC and INCIL to collaborate more closely. The Advocacy Strategy Group will allow centers to join their individual advocacy resources resulting in a collective statewide advocacy strategy. In turn, centers can have a much greater influence on public policy and advocacy issues in the State of Illinois that impact people with disabilities. The group will meet on Feb. 18-19 following the Governor's budget address.

Durbin discussed Part C funding allocation under Section 3.2 of the SPIL. She reported that at the November INCIL meeting, there was a motion for SILC to amend the current SPIL, specifically Section 3.2 which is the expansion of network. There was a great deal of confusion based on the fact that this section of the SPIL deals with new Part C funds and not existing ones which is the basis for the centers' concern. While SILC will send the letter with INCIL to show support, the focus of the letter and its content will come from centers. The intent is to get clarity from RSA as to how existing Part C funds were allocated irrespective of ARRA funds.

Durbin discussed her involvement with CCDI. SILC continues to work with CCDI to re-establish the grassroots component for the organization. A plan has been developed

and approved by the board of directors. Durbin has assisted with the revision of the by-laws and provided direction to plan implementation.

Durbin discussed the search for new office space. She has been working with 3 realtors to search for an office that also has conference space for SILC's quarterly meetings. The Council discussed the difficulty of finding such a space at a cost we could afford versus finding an office to accommodate staff and holding our meetings at INCIL or other space that is available to us for free. Durbin discussed several offices that are possibilities.

Outreach Committee Report: Powell reported that Outreach Committee has met to discuss the recruitment of new members. Several documents were reviewed and discussed including candidate information questionnaire and interview questions.

Advocacy Advisory Group Report: Pritchard discussed Governor Rauner's Executive Order 15-08 which requests that all state agencies review their contracts and report to the Governor on essential and non-essential contracts.

Pritchard reviewed the goals and objectives for the Advocacy Advisory Group. The Group met recently and discussed the legislative intern mini-grants that SILC has been providing to CILs for legislative training to consumers. The Advisory Group discussed ways to change the guidelines to open up the mini-grants to other advocacy programs that CILs may already be doing.

Pritchard and Durbin discussed Great Lakes ADA Center proposal for Objective 10 in the current SPIL. Council members like the initial approach to building center capacity around accessibility surveys but voiced some concern about next steps specific to education and communication access. More conversation needs to occur with stakeholders.

Employment Advisory Group Report: Swanson reported the Employment Advisory Group met on February 2nd to review the goals and objectives. There is a Toolbox to Employment training scheduled May 7 in Pittsfield.

Housing Advisory Group Report: Baker reported that on the federal level the National Housing Trust fund has finally been funded. Mortgage financing through Fannie Mae/Freddy Mac began January 1 with \$250-\$500 million in revenue for the program. Baker reviewed the goals and objectives for the Advisory Group.

Transportation Advisory Group Report: Finn discussed the transportation objectives and activities in the current SPIL. The final reports of the HSTP mini-grants were reviewed. Durbin will send out an email to centers offering the mini-grant again for the current fiscal year. All objectives are being successfully completed or unable to be satisfied due to factors outside SILC's control. Exploring other options in their place.

INCIL Report: INCIL Representative Wooters touched on several topics that have already been discussed in detail including the WIOA regulations, Part C funding, and the development of the new Advocacy Strategy Group. She reported that the 2nd quarter outcome measurement reports went more smoothly than the 1st quarter. Finally, Wooters reported that the CCDI conference will be held on May 18-19 and INCIL will be building the independent living tract.

DSU Report: Farmer reported that while Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) transitions to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) there will be a freeze on funds from February 24 through May 8 so the Department of Education can determine balances dues on grant awards. There is not much information coming forward about this yet but it will be very important to keep on top of this so no agency has a financial crisis.

State Agency Reports: Fleenor reported that the State Board of Education has submitted their state performance plan, however, like most state agencies things are at a standstill while new administration transitions in.

Closed Executive Session: At this time, the Council went into closed session to discuss personnel evaluations.

Adjournment: Chair Robertson adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: The Statewide Independent Living Council will meet next on May 6, 2015.

Dana Craig, Secretary

Date