

Minutes of February 7, 2018

Attending Members

Executive Committee:

Kevin MacDonald, Chairperson, Vienna
Sara Powell, Secretary, Springfield

Members:

Debra Alexander, DDD, Springfield
Gianna Baker, Chicago
Margarite Brooks, Bloomington
Amy Foster, Alton
Cathy Grochowski, Crystal Lake
Michael Griswold, Rockford
Erik Hanson, DRS, Springfield
Edward Heflin, Macomb
Connie Heinz, ISBE, Springfield
Christine Hultgren, Rock Island
Matt Lakin, Bluffs
Jae Jin Pak, Chicago

Staff:

Shelly Richardson, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Guest:

Ryan Croke, INCIL, Springfield
John Jansa, Smart Policy Works, Chicago
Missy Martin, Disability Resource Center, Joliet

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chairperson MacDonald at 10:03 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Introductions and welcome to our newest member, representing Illinois State Board of Education Connie Heinz. MacDonald read SILC's mission statement and the Council reflected on its meaning.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Grochowski motion to accept the November minutes as presented. Griswold seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chair Report: Chairperson MacDonald discussed SILC Congress conference that Richardson attended in January. The Administration of Community Living (ACL) has developed Indicators and Assurances (I & A) for the SILC and Designated State Entity (DSE). SILC's indicators became effective January 31, 2018 and the DSE will be October

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1, 2018. These I & A pertain to policies and procedures for recruiting members, methods or involving the public in seeking input, communicating with the DSE, along with much more. MacDonald directed the Operations Committee and the Executive Director to move forward with assuring that Illinois is in compliance with these new directives from ACL. Chair MacDonald reported that Richardson will be attending the SILC Congress in Orlando, FL at the end of February and will learn more about the I & A at that time.

MacDonald reminded that Council members of the annual Conflict of Interest Policy that is in their packets and needs signed and turned into Dunning for the 2018 calendar year. This policy is to protect the interests of the SILC when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a Council member.

Finally, MacDonald reminded all Council members of the standing committees and advisory groups that are available to serve and encouraged anyone who is not currently serving on a committee or group to please review the list and responsibilities of each and let staff know if they are interested in joining.

Executive Director Report: Richardson discussed her activities since the last Council meeting as outlined in her monthly reports as well as the SPIL working document which are in the packet for review.

She discussed the SILC Congress which she will be attending at the end of February. She expects that much of the conference will be used to discuss the new indicators and assurances established by ACL for SILC and DSE. The Operations Committee will be working on policy to ensure that Illinois is in compliance. Any new policies and procedures will be brought before the entire Council for approval.

She discussed the recent Governor Candidates Forum held at Access Living and streamed live at several CILs. She felt the forum went very well and gave individuals information on each candidate and how they stand on the issues important to Illinoisans with disabilities. There will be a similar forum for Attorney General candidates on February 9th.

Richardson reported that she visited LIFE CIL in Bloomington in November and Lake County CIL in January. She felt these meetings are very helpful in understanding the needs of the CIL and hopes to be able to visit more CILs in the coming year.

Richardson discussed the annual meeting of the HSTP and CILs which is scheduled on February 27th at INCIL. The annual meeting has been helpful for CIL staff to sit at the table with the HSTP coordinators and discuss any issues they are having in their communities.

Treasurer/Operations Committee Report: Dunning reported in the absence of the Treasurer and Operations Committee Chairpersons. She directed the Council members to the three (3) financial reports included in the packet for months November, December and January for review and approval.

Dunning discussed the most recent budget amendment to the state contract. A new organizational budget with the new state contract budget was reviewed for discussion and approval.

MOTION: Foster made a motion to accept the financial reports for November, December and January. Lakin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

MOTION: Foster made a motion to approve the new organizational budget as presented. Pak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Outreach Committee Report: Committee Chairperson Brooks reported that she is pleased that Jae Jin Pak has joined the Outreach Committee. A written report is in the packets and was read aloud by Pak. Brooks reported that elections for SILC Officers will be held at the May meeting and nominations will need to be received no later than March 15th. She asked the Council members to please think about nominations and look for e-mails with more information in the coming weeks. ***Written report is attached as Exhibit A.***

Advocacy Advisory Group Update: Richardson reported that the Advocacy Advisory Group met on January 9th to review the progress of the SPIL objectives and activities under the Informed Policy Makers goal. Minutes of the January meeting are in the packet for review. She reported that four (4) CILs have developed videos to post to the web and SILC's website on Olmstead Supreme Court Decision. Richardson provided updates on the progress on the activities around developing a white paper and legislative report card as well as additional webinars and in-person trainings on healthcare and accessibility.

Employment Advisory Group Update: Foster provided an update on the work of the Employment Advisory Group in the absence of the chairperson. Foster reported that the Group met on January 18th to review the progress of the SPIL employment objectives and activities. Minutes of the January meeting are in the packet for review.

Housing Advisory Group Update: Richardson provided an update on the work of the Housing Advisory Group in the absence of the chairperson. Richardson reported that the Group met on January 11th to review the progress of the SPIL housing objectives and activities. Minutes of the January meeting are in the packet for review.

Transportation Advisory Group Update: Heflin provided an update on the work of the Transportation Advisory Group. He reported that the Group met on January 16th to review the progress of the SPIL transportation objectives and activities. Minutes of the January meeting are in the packet for review. Heflin discussed the HSTP grants to CILs to assist them in having meaningful interaction with their local transit authorities. Additional training is being discussed for dispatchers as well as consumers of CILs and CIL staff.

INCIL Report: Croke provided an update on the activities of INCIL since our last meeting. Croke discussed the Disability Candidates Forum: Illinois Attorney General's Race hosted by Access Living on February 9th and live streamed statewide. Ten (10) CILs will be hosting a 'Watch Party' to view the forum live.

He reported that on February 14th Governor Rauner will deliver his budget address to the state. This means that the Governor's Office of Management and Budget will prepare recommended budget allocations for all of the agencies of state government.

Lastly, Croke shared a report on recent findings related to increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the state. He discussed the provision in federal law that allows employers who hold a certificate called a 14C certificate to pay persons with disabilities less than the minimum wage. There are five states in the country that have phased out the use of that loophole in federal law. SILC and INCIL have partnered to providing screenings of the documentary "Bottom Dollars" which addresses this issue.

DSE Report: Hanson reported that the Independent Living Unit within IDHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) are in the middle of reviewing contracts for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. As, Ryan Croke mentioned, a lot of the funding in the contracts will be based on what the Governor presents on February 14th. At this time, it does not look as if there were any increases or decreases, for that matter, in funding for CILs.

DRS continues to meet with individuals working under a 14C subminimum wage certificate to explain to them what services are available through DRS to obtain competitive employment. Last June DRS met with just over 10,000 individuals statewide.

Division of Developmental Disabilities Report: Alexander reported that in December IDHS, DDD were notified by the federal CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that all three of our 1950C waivers were approved effective July 1, 2017. It was a very long process of sharing information and asking questions and clarifying but DDD is pleased that all three waivers are finally approved. You can access information about all the waivers provided by Division of DD on our website.

Alexander reported that DDD is in the planning stages for putting together another PUN selection. Details aren't finalized but likely to happen in late spring or early summer. She stated that an updated Consumer Handbook for Home Based Services is now available on DDD's website.

ISBE Report: Heinz gave a brief explanation of her position at Illinois State Board of Education. She is a principal consultant who monitors transition plans to make sure students who are 14 ½ have transition plans in place within their individual education plan. ISBE conducts audits of transition plans to review the goal of a student's goals. We look that they are measurable, that they are positive outcomes for students with disabilities and in Illinois. ISBE also requires all of students with disabilities have independent living goals in their plans. That is not in the Federal regulations but is

something that Illinois does. Heinz reported that ISBE is working hard to educate their staff about WIOA.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting of the SILC was made by Griswold and seconded by Grochowski. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.

Next Meeting: The next quarterly meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

Signed: Sara Powell, Secretary
Date: May 2, 2018

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Exhibit A: Outreach Report - February 7, 2018

Christine Hultgren (Rock Island) – has been appointed to replace Terri Finn. Christy's first term ends June 30, 2020.

Erik Hanson (DHS) – has been appointed to replace MaryBeth Farmer who retired in September 2017.

Connie Heinz (ISBE) – pending appointment to replace Melanie Fleenor who retired in September 2017.

Jose Mendez (Chicago) – pending appointment to replace Jen Phillips who resigned in July 2017. Jose may be moving out of state. He will know for sure by April.

We still have an immediate opening to fill the vacated position of Barbara Stotlar (Pinkneyville) who resigned in September 2017.

Shelly has interviewed one new candidate, Allison Boot (Urbana) and has scheduled a second interview scheduled with Grace Tsao (Chicago) on January 31. She has also sent both candidates a questionnaire to be completed and returned.

Shelly reached out to the State Rehabilitation Council and one of the members is gathering contact information for a couple of possible candidates from the Carbondale area.

Shelly has a couple of possible candidates that are thinking about submitting a resume.

The Outreach Committee has reviewed the resume and questionnaires completed by Boot and Tsao and will be making a recommendation to the Governor for immediate appointment. The Committee continues to work on finalizing the procedure for the vetting process.