

Minutes of May 6, 2015

Present

Executive Officers:

RJ Robertson, Chair, Murphysboro
Terri Finn, Vice Chair, Salem
Dana Craig, Secretary, Chenoa
Jeri Wooters, Treasurer, Decatur

Members:

Gianna Baker, Chicago
Margarite Brooks, Normal
MaryBeth Farmer, DRS, Springfield
Melanie Fleenor, ISBE, Springfield
Ed Heflin, Macomb
Roy Miller, Carbondale
Jennifer Phillips, DeSoto
Sara Powell, Springfield
Barbara Pritchard, Urbana
Stacia Robertson, Murphysboro
Curtis Robinson, Grayslake
Barbara Stotlar, Pinckneyville
Cynthia Swanson, Naperville

Guest:

Mike Egbert, OFA, Mt. Vernon
Ann Ford, INCIL, Springfield

Staff:

Sarah Durbin, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chair Robertson at 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. Robertson welcomed the newest members of the Council, Stacia Robertson, Jennifer Phillips, Barbara Stotlar and MaryBeth Farmer who were appointed by Governor Rauner in April.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Robinson motioned to accept the minutes of February 4, 2015 meeting with the minor correction on page 3. Wooters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Chair Robertson reminded Council members that the Conflict of Interest policy needs to be reviewed and signed annually. He asked that everyone sign and return the policy acknowledgement page.

Chair Robertson discussed the election of officers for the fiscal year 2016. Terms are one year and will begin July 1. The proposed slate of officers is:

Sara Powell, Chair
Terri Finn, Vice Chair
Dana Craig, Secretary
Jeri Wooters, Treasurer

MOTION: Brooks motioned to hold elections by voice vote instead of a secret ballot as stated in the by-laws. Swanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Swanson motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Robertson discussed the appointment of a SPIL Drafting Committee to work on gathering the input from various stakeholders and advisory groups to write the 2017-2019 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). He explained that per SILC's by-laws the Drafting Committee will consist of 3 representatives from Centers for Independent Living, 2 Council members of SILC and the SILC Executive Director.

He would like to appoint: Gail Kear from LIFE CIL in Bloomington
Lynn Jarman from LINC in Swansea
Kelli Brooks from Lake Co. CIL in Mundelein
Ed Heflin to represent SILC
Andres Gallegos to represent SILC
Sarah Durbin to represent SILC

MOTION: Finn motioned to approve the appointments to the SPIL Drafting Committee. Wooters seconded the motion. Motioned carried with one abstention by Heflin.

Robertson discussed the appointment of committee and advisory group chairpersons. Approval of these appointments will require a motion by the Council.

Executive Committee – Sara Powell
Operations Committee – Gianna Baker
Outreach Committee – Margarite Brooks
Advocacy Advisory Group – Barbara Pritchard & Andres Gallegos
Transportation Advisory Group – Terri Finn
Employment Advisory Group – Cindi Swanson
Housing Advisory Group – Giana Baker

MOTION: Powell motioned to approve the committee and advisory group chairpersons. Robinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finally, Robertson reported that the Executive Committee will be conducting a performance review of Sarah Durbin for her one year anniversary. He will be mailing evaluation forms to the Council in the next 10 days and encouraged everyone to participate.

Operations Committee Report: RJ Robertson discussed the financial reports for January, February and March as well as the amended organizational budget that are included in the packet and asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports and the new budget.

MOTION: Heflin motioned to accept the financial reports for Jan, Feb and March. Wooters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Finn motioned to approve the amended organizational budget as presented. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Outreach Committee Report: Durbin reported that Thomas Troe has resigned from the Council. With his resignation and the four positions that will open on July 1 the Outreach Committee will be working to develop a pool of candidates.

Durbin discussed her outreach efforts in the northwestern and central parts of the state. With the help of some centers for independent living and current and past council members she has identified several potential members. Interviews will be conducted to vet the candidates.

Executive Director Report: Durbin discussed the development of the 17-19 SPIL. A timeline has been developed which includes meeting dates of all advisory groups as well as the SPIL Drafting Committee. The Council discussed the two day retreat and meeting on August 5-6. Durbin reported she is looking for a facilitator to lead this brainstorming and strategy meeting. She hopes that by the end of the two day meeting we will have the main goals of the plan and be ready to develop the objectives and activities within the means of the advisory group meetings.

Durbin discussed possibly developing a survey to collect data on the goals and objectives and setting up a DropBox to store documents. All advisory groups and committees, SILC members, CIL directors would have access to these documents. Miller suggested a chat room might also be a way to have ongoing discussions around the SPIL development.

Durbin reported that she would like to redesign SILC's website which will be a large project as the site is very outdated. She hopes to begin this process in July or August.

Durbin reported the DHS administrative review was conducted in April. DHS conducts these audits approximately every five years. The process went very smooth with the onsite review lasting less than 2 hours. There were no findings.

Update on Part C Funding Concerns: Chair Robertson gave a lengthy explanation about the Part C funding issue that has many of the CIL directors concerned. Since 2009, the allocation of existing Part C money to centers has fluctuated significantly and in an inequitable manner. These changes have left some centers realizing huge decreases while others are benefiting from huge increases. This is a complicated issue that has taken a variety of twists and turns along the way. Initially, centers thought the discrepancy was a result of Section 3.2 in our current state plan. In recent emails from Tim Beatty, who is our lead at the Administration for Community Living, we received clarification that the disparity in the allocation of existing Part C funding was not a result of the wording in Section 3.2 of our current state plan. ACL is the organization that now has oversight responsibility for CILs and SILCs. What we did learn was the inequity in funding percentages was a result of the distribution method chosen for the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds as outlined in the 2009 amendment to the 08-10 SPIL. Even with a variety of parties involved (INCIL, SILC DSU/DRE), no one recognized the negative implications and unintended consequences that would occur to some centers based on how ARRA funds were distributed in our state.

The Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL) has made an official request of SILC to amend our current state plan and return existing Part C funding allocations back to the 2009 percentages with an adjustment for the addition of the six new centers. After discussion it seems unlikely that amending the current state plan is a viable option. Desiring to support centers in finding a resolution, a meeting with Tim Beatty was held. Based on their guidance, an amendment to the state plan will not fix the funding allocation problem since it is driven by criteria found in federal law. We were pleasantly surprised to hear that ACL has asked their legal counsel to revisit the situation. They appear genuine in their commitment to finding a remedy if one exists. We still lack clarity on the best way to proceed but hopeful SILC is moving in the right direction. At this point, INCIL's request for an amendment to our state plan will be tabled.

Advocacy Advisory Group Report: Pritchard reported the Advocacy Advisory Group has been monitoring several issues including the state budget and proposed DON score changes. The Group has also agreed to expand the parameters of the legislative intern program to include all leadership development programs the CIL is conducting or wants to conduct. This has opened up the availability of CILs to seek mini-grant funds from SILC to training young leaders.

Employment Advisory Group Report: Swanson reported that the Employment Advisory Group has met to discuss future goals and objectives for the next State Plan. The Group plans to continue to provide trainings on a variety of issues as objectives in the new SPIL.

Housing Advisory Group Report: Baker reported that the Housing Advisory Group has met to discuss goals and objectives for the next State Plan. Baker gave an update on SB1547 which amends the Illinois Municipal Code to create a new section prohibiting penalizing tenants who contact police or other emergency services. Baker gave an update on the National Housing Trust Fund and on other housing program who are in a budget crisis.

Transportation Advisory Group Report: Finn reported that the Transportation Advisory Group has met to discuss future goals and objectives for the next State Plan. The Group has discussed the need for achievable objectives and activities that do not depend heavily on the activities of other groups or entities.

INCIL Report: INCIL Representative Wooters reported that seven CILs receive Bureau Blind Services Elderly Grants to provide services to individual 55 years and older with visual impairments. The Outcomes Committee has created a process for being able to provide a quarterly and annual outcomes report to the Department of Human Services. The current process doesn't gather the actual data that is needed so the Outcomes Committee is attempting to get those questions changed and how CIL gather the information. INCIL is working on getting this revised.

Wooters reported that at this time, INCIL will no longer have the Home Services Program, Understanding Your Service Plan Curriculum contract for fiscal year 2016. This is an unfortunate contract to lose as it paid for a percentage of INCIL staff salary. INCIL is currently working on a long term plan to sustain them through this budget crisis.

DSU Report: DRS Representative MaryBeth Farmer reported that DHS is working with partner agencies (ISBE, DCEO, and IDES) to discuss changes regarding WIOA and DCEO is taking the lead on writing proposed rules.

Farmer stated there are two open positions in the Bureau of Blind Services for a bureau chief and an assistant bureau chief within the Home Services Program.

DHS continues to work with the Governor's Office and sister agencies in regards to the DON score proposed changes. Farmer reported DHS is making a conscientious effort to move all contracts in a pay-for-performance milestone model so that we know when individuals within a program are getting placed and positive outcomes.

IDoA Report: Department on Aging Representative John Eckert is unable to be at the meeting however he has provided a written report. Eckert reported he is working with HFS and DHS on development of the Universal Assessment Tool (UAT). This assessment will replace the DON tool that is currently used. It is anticipated that first

trials of the UAT will begin in September. The UAT has two sections (levels). Level I can be completed and submitted online by the individual or family/friend. Given the needs expressed on Level I will trigger the more comprehensive assessment (Level II) that will be completed face-to-face with the individual and a care coordinator. Person-Centered Planning will be the standard for all assessments.

IDoA has submitted an MFP sustainability plan that will extend the Money Follows the Person program through December, 2017 (last day to transition someone). Will be looking at possibility of adding new services to the Aging waiver to allow for MFP-type services to continue.

IDoA is working with selected CILs and Area Agencies on Aging on Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) funded Nursing Home Diversion Pilot. 38 deflections have occurred since pilot went live in January. Grants were awarded for SFY '15 and '16.

IDoA is preparing to work with approximately 10,000 seniors who will lose CCP services if DON score is raised from 29 to 38. Has potential \$28 million fiscal impact.

ISBE Report: Fleenor reported that ISBE has a new superintendent, Dr. Tony Smith who replaced Dr. Chris Koch on May 1.

Fleenor discussed a pilot program ISBE is developing for an online IEP process. It will be tested with a number of smaller school districts and is expected to save a considerable amount of money if implemented statewide.

Information Sharing: Ann Ford discussed the 25th anniversary of the ADA. The Springfield ADA Celebration will be June 16 in conjunction with the ADA Legacy Tour bus stop in Springfield. She encouraged everyone to come to the event.

Craig discussed her work with Andres Gallegos regarding discrimination in healthcare settings. She and Gallegos are working to help hospitals and other healthcare settings be in compliance with the law for deaf and hard of hearing patients. Craig feels very strongly that we need to have an objective within the new State Plan that addresses healthcare access to the deaf and hard of hearing population.

Craig reported that she is now a licensed Deaf Interpreter. Currently, Deaf Interpreters work most often in tandem with hearing interpreters. The Deaf-Hearing interpreter team ensures that the spoken language message reaches the Deaf consumer in a language or communication form that he or she can understand, and that the Deaf consumer's message is conveyed successfully in the spoken language.

A Deaf Interpreter is a specialist who provides interpreting, translation, and transliteration services in American Sign Language and other visual and tactual communication forms used by individuals who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and Deaf-Blind.

Margarite Brooks discussed her desire to develop a proposal to submit to the SILC Congress to present on employment. Possibility a workshop similar to the Toolbox to Employment training that Cindi Swanson has been presenting on behalf of SILC during this SPIL quarter. Brooks, Swanson and Durbin will brainstorm this idea further.

Adjournment: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council was adjourned at 2:37pm by Chair Robertson.

Next Meeting: The Statewide Independent Living Council will meet next on August 5-6, 2015.

Edward Heflin, Secretary

Date