

Minutes of November 4, 2015

Attending Members
Executive Committee: Sara Powell, Chair, Springfield
Terri Finn, Vice Chair, Salem
Edward Heflin, Secretary, Macomb
Jeri Wooters, Treasurer, Decatur

Members: Margarite Brooks, Normal
John Eckert, DOA, Springfield
MaryBeth Farmer, DRS, Springfield
Melanie Fleenor, ISBE, Springfield
Amy Foster, Alton
Michael Griswold, Rockford
Esther Lee, Arlington Heights
Kevin MacDonald, Vienna
Sarita Phadke, Schaumburg
Barbara Stotlar, Pinckneyville
Cynthia Swanson, Naperville
Hadley Ravencroft, Urbana

Guest: Ann Ford, INCIL
Richard Grafton, Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, CPA

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

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chair Powell at 10:03 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. Powell welcomed our newest member Sarita Phadke and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 6, 2015 meeting were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Finn motioned to accept the minutes of August 6, 2015 meeting as presented. Griswold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2015 Audit Report: Richard Grafton from Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden, CPAs is present today to discuss the audit of fiscal year 2015. Mr. Grafton reviewed the report noting there are no findings and it is a nice clean audit. Grafton has prepared the annual tax reports to be signed and mailed. He thanked the Council for continuing to retain Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden as their accountants.

MOTION: A motion was made by Brooks and seconded by Stotlar to accept the 2015 audit report as presented. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Powell discussed the annual CIL Consumer Satisfaction Survey report which was recently completed by the Institute on Rural Affairs. The written report was distributed for review. Wooters gave some background and discussed the process for surveying the CIL's consumers for the new members present.

Operations Committee Report: Durbin reported in the absence of Committee Chairperson Baker. She directed people to review the July, August and September financial reports that are in their packets for approval. Durbin also reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to 5 accounting firms seeking bids for a 3 year contract to perform SILC's audit. There were 3 responses. One of the bids was quite high, the other two were very close in price. The Operations Committee recommends that we retain Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden for another 3 years as we have a wonderful relationship with them and their bid is reasonable.

MOTION: Griswold motioned to accept the financial reports for July, August and September. Heflin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION: Foster motioned to award Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden the 3 year contract to perform the audit. Griswold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Outreach Committee Report: Committee Chairperson Brooks welcomed our newest member Sarita Phadke who gave a short description of herself and her job as the deaf services coordinator for the Village of Schaumburg. Brooks happily reported that the Council is at full composition and no longer have any vacancies on the board.

Executive Director's Report: Durbin discussed the work of the committees and advisory groups and the process of developing the goals, objectives and activities for the next State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). She discussed the timeline which includes a requirement to hold public forums. She will post a survey and ask CILs if they would like to host a forum.

Durbin gave a progress report on the current SPIL objectives and activities. She reported that most of the objectives have been completed or will be completed by the end of the three year SPIL. In several areas, an objective cannot be completed, or even worked on, due to factors outside of our control. In others, an objective had to be modified or a new lead organization secured.

Advocacy Advisory Group Report: The minutes of the Advocacy Advisory Group's last meeting were distributed for review. The Group continues to work toward drafting objectives for the new SPIL.

Employment Advisory Group Report: The minutes of the Employment Advisory Group's last meeting were distributed for review. The Group continues to work toward drafting objectives for the new SPIL.

Housing Advisory Group Report: The minutes of the Housing Advisory Group's last meeting were distributed for review. The Group continues to work toward drafting objectives for the new SPIL.

Transportation Advisory Group Report: The minutes of the Transportation Advisory Group's last meeting were distributed for review. The Group continues to work toward drafting objectives for the new SPIL.

INCIL Report: INCIL Representative Wooters reported INCIL has established five committees and initiatives they will be working on during FY16. The committees are aging and disability, advocacy, outcome measures, Part C funding and a sustainability committee that will be working on initiatives to ensure INCIL's future. Several activities are planned for the coming year including possibly hosting a Region V Independent Living conference, developing an Executive Director training curriculum that can be used to train new directors and possibility bring in income if we can make it available for purchase. Finally, we will be advocating for the renewal of the Home Services Program, Understanding Your Service Plan Curriculum. This is the training INCIL provided to consumers last year which was very well received and brought some income to INCIL.

DSU Report: DSU Rep Farmer has provided a written report. See Attachment A.

ISBE Report: ISBE Representative Fleenor reported the budget impasse has impacted ISBE greatly. They have 21 vacancies, travel is restricted and work is piling up. On a positive note, Fleenor reported that she and Dunning have just come back from the 11th Annual Transition Conference which was a huge success.

DoA Report: DoA Representative Eckert discussed the Nursing Home Deflection Grant that is running through the Department on Aging. These grants involve some Centers for Independent Living, Area Agencies on Aging, and Community Mental Health Centers. There are 14 lead agencies that are working in 14 areas of the state to deflect about 300 individuals. This program is a little different than Money Follows the Person because these are individuals who are not on Medicaid and are likely short-term hospital stays. We are trying to make sure they don't get sent to a nursing home on a Friday afternoon and then get lost there and lose their housing and all that entails. This pilot program, the pilot has been successful and will be extended through September 2016.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting of the SILC was made by Brooks and seconded by Swanson. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next Meeting: The Statewide Independent Living Council will meet next on February 3, 2016.

Edward Heflin, Secretary

Date

Attachment A Update from DRS

Budget: We still have no resolution regarding the budget. We are fortunate that we have a blend of both Federal and State dollars with most of our vendors and providers so that the Federal funding is assisting during this time. We are continually monitoring our budget and do have an obligation with the Feds to ensure we have our state matching funds.

Home Services Program: HSP is still working with DoA and HFS regarding the proposed DON score. Although, we have seen proposed legislation that is going through both the House and the Senate to change this requirement under the SMART Act, as well as limits on the number of individuals who would transition after the development of the Universal Assessment Tool (UAT). The bill changing the DON score has been sent to the Governor's office and he has a deadline to either Sign, Veto or submit and Amendatory Veto by November 8. We are continuing to monitor. The HSP Persons with Disabilities Waiver is up for renewal with a deadline of November 20 for submittal to Federal CMS, unless an extension is requested and granted.

Vacancies: We are pleased to report that many of our field office vacancies are being filled. One of our top priorities was the filling of the Bureau of Blind Services Bureau Chief. John Gordon started as the Bureau Chief on October 16. We are also working on review of applications for the Superintendent at the Illinois School for the Deaf. We are pleased that we are finally getting more staff in the offices on both the VR and HSP side-Counselors and Coordinators.

Regional meetings: These occurred Sept. 8, 9, 10 and served as an opportunity for all state staff to come together to learn about subjects important to the VR program.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): We continue to attend WIOA strategic planning meetings with the Governor's office staff and mandated partners of WIOA to look at the Mission/Vision and Values regarding this project. Other participating members of state agencies include: DCEO; IDES; ISBE; and the Board of Higher Education. Employers are also involved. WIOA does require the development of a unified state plan and VR is a mandated partner.

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS): Individual Placement and Supports reviews for individuals with Mental Illness in the VR program are being conducted. Initial reports indicate the office's and service providers are successfully implementing the IPS model, and that in turn is showing success for customers accessing those services. However, we will know more when the IPS reviews are completed. There are also some pilot programs that are being implemented to test how the IPS model could be used with other disability populations. Dartmouth is working with DRS regarding this review.

No Wrong Door (NWD) System: As you are aware, Illinois was awarded a grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2014 to develop a No Wrong Door (NWD) System for accessing long term services and supports over the next three years.

The plan will include a detailed work plan that Illinois will follow to bring together all the different service networks and organizations into a single and coordinated NWD system. Illinois' three-year plan was originally due in September 2015, but the state received an extension and anticipate submitting the plan by April 2016. An Executive Committee was formed by Acting DoA Director Kristine Smith with representatives from agencies and divisions that play a part in overseeing the states aging and disability services networks. The Executive Committee invited includes representatives from the Office of the Governor, Governor's Office of Management and Budget, Department of Human Services (Home Services Program, Independent Living Unit, and Division of Developmental Disabilities), Healthcare & Family Services (Balancing Incentive Program) and Department on Aging. The Committee will focus on stakeholder input collected over the last year, consider findings of a capacity assessment study, weigh different policy options, develop a vision and mission statement and identify short and long-term goals and the specific tasks to achieve those outcomes.