

Minutes of November 1, 2017

Attending Members

Executive Committee:

Kevin MacDonald, Chairperson, Vienna
Rachael Mellen, Vice Chair, Peru

Members:

Gianna Baker, Chicago
John Eckert, DoA, Springfield
Amy Foster, Alton
Cathy Grochowski, Crystal Lake
Michael Griswold, Rockford
Erik Hanson, DRS, Springfield
Edward Heflin, Macomb
Christine Hultgren, Rock Island
Matt Lakin, Bluffs
Jae Jin Pak, Chicago
Sara Powell, Springfield

Staff:

Shelly Richardson, Executive Director
Tara Dunning, Financial Manager

Guest:

Ryan Croke, INCIL, Springfield
Richard Grafton, Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, CPA
Jose Mendez, Chicago
Russ Simpson, Business Support Resources, Mt. Carroll

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois was called to order by Chairperson MacDonald at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Introductions and a welcome was extended to Russ Simpson who is here to continue the board training and asset building session from the August meeting. Mr. Simpson will have the morning for the training at which point we will break for lunch. Following lunch, our auditor will present the recent audit.

Ongoing Board Training: Mr. Simpson provided training to the Council on Board Types, Purposes as well as Board Structure and Process.

FY17 Audit Report – Richard Grafton

Mr. Grafton from Estes, Bridgewater and Ogden, CPAs is present today to discuss the audit of fiscal year from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. 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 and SILC staff for their continued business.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting were distributed for review and approval.

MOTION: Griswold motion to accept the August minutes as presented. Mellen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chair Report: Chairperson MacDonald thanked Mr. Simpson and Mr. Grafton for their time today to speak with us. The Council discussed the training provided by Mr. Simpson and what types of training they would like to see in the future. MacDonald welcomed our newest members to the Council recognizing that we have many freshmen members and how important continued board asset building is to the Council.

MacDonald reported that the Statewide Transition Conference, which Tara Dunning is a large part of the planning, was held last week in Springfield. Dunning discussed the many organizations and agencies who are part of the planning committee to put on this annual event.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Richardson discussed her monthly report to the Council and the SPIL working document that she has shared. She plans to write a report on the 1st year of the SPIL. She discussed the comment period that ACL is holding to gather feedback on writing a SPIL. She will share this document with the Council.

Richardson discussed the healthcare webinars SILC and INCIL have hosted with Andres Gallegos which have been well received. She reported on the mini grants to CILs for transportation and building community leaders. She reported on her participation at the State Rehabilitation Council's retreat in Bloomington as well as other activities she has participated in since the last meeting.

Treasurer/Operations Committee Report: Dunning reported in the absence of the treasurer. Financial reports for July, August and September were reviewed for approval. She discussed the need to do a small amendment to our DHS budget to clean up some line items.

MOTION: Mellen made a motion to accept the financial reports for July, August and September. Lakin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Outreach Committee Report: Eckert reported in the absence of the committee chairperson. He is pleased to announce that an official appointment has been made for Christy Hultgren. Gianna Baker is still awaiting reappointment to her 2nd term. Sarita Phadke has been reappointment to her 2nd term. Jose Mendez of Chicago has been recommended to replace Jennifer Phillips who resigned in July and Barbara Stotlar also resigned in September.

Richardson reported that she will be sending letters to the four state agencies regarding appointment or reappointments of their ex-officio representative. These appointments must come from the agency directors not from the Governor.

Advocacy Advisory Group Update: Richardson reported that she and Croke have done some research on the white paper and the legislative report card. They have looked at what other agencies and states have done with similar projects. She hopes to host public forums/listening sessions to gather information.

Employment Advisory Group Update: Mellen reported the Employment Advisory Group met in October and the minutes are in the packet. She is pleased to report that four (4) Toolbox to Employment trainings have been held since July.

Housing Advisory Group Update: Baker reported that the Housing Advisory Group met in October and the minutes are in the packet. The housing objectives and activities are progressing nicely. One activity in the SPIL is to work with IHDA to make IllinoisHousingSearch.org more user friendly. The site will allow for a more detailed search for accessible units. Baker also reported the Housing Matters! annual conference was held last week in Bloomington. Richardson attended as did many CIL staff and it was a success.

Transportation Advisory Group Update: Heflin reported that the Transportation Advisory Group will meet on November 16 to review the progress on the objectives and activities. The Advisory Group continues to work towards achieving the objectives in the current SPIL.

INCIL Report: INCIL Director Croke provided a brief update on INCIL activities since our last meeting. He discussed the policy agenda that is being developed. He expects to have a final draft by the end of November. Croke also discussed cuts to CIL funding.

DSE Report: Erik Hanson reported that he is pleased to be working with the CILs and SILC in his new role as the manager of the Independent Living Unit. Today is his first day on the job so he is interested in knowing what types of reports we would like to see from him at future meetings.

DoA Report: Eckert reported he has been reviewing the Community Care Program rules to add person centered language. People with disabilities have advocated for years to change all of DoA's plans of care to person centered and all activities focused on empowering the participant and making decisions on the kind of services they receive.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting of the SILC was made by Griswold and seconded by Heflin. 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, February 7, 2018.

***Signed: Sara Powell, Secretary
February 7, 2018***