



Statewide Independent Living Council – Full Council Meeting, Unapproved Minutes
Friday, June 2nd, 2017 (1:00pm-4:00pm) New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center
9400 E Valley Rd Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
Meeting Held Via Teleconference, To Connect Via Teleconference:
Dial 1-866- 848-2216, pin code 8099566334#

Council Members:

Pete Fischer, Paula Seanez, Dr. Danita Applewhite, Wendy Swager, Joy Johnson LaBarge, Randy Russel, Dara Johnson, Carla Shelton, Scott Lindbloom, Laura Duval, Eileen Tohanni, Logan Wimer, Kristen Mackey

Public:

Bert Rios, Karen Thomasson, Shaun Gil, Sandi Stach,

Staff:

Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora, Lilia Zacchia

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Danita Applewhite, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Dr. Applewhite welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):

No public comment on agenda items was offered.

Action: Approval of Consent Agenda:

Dr. Danita Applewhite entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dara Johnson. Laura Duval seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 12 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining

Action: Treasurer's Report:

Wendy Swager, Treasurer, reminded the Council that SILC has exceeded the budgeted amount for website costs, as a malware attack in August brought down the four websites that we operate. She also indicated that SILC has exceeded budgeted costs in staff travel and Council support. Wendy affirmed that the SILC has funds to cover such expenses.

Larry then provided the committee with a budget update.

Larry indicated that the SILC has been experiencing delays in receiving Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds. Larry also announced that, as of April 30th, we are nearing the end of the current fiscal year, and are at 70% of expenditure. Larry concluded his report by stating that SILC is tracking along well financially and that there are presently no outstanding issues related to the budget.



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Dr. Danita Applewhite entertained a motion to approve the March 2017 and April 2017 financial statements. A motion to approve the statements was made by Scott Lindbloom. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 12 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Action: FY 2017 Financial Review and Budget Revisions:

Larry Wanger reported that, with June 30th and the end of fiscal year 2017 rapidly approaching, SILC has spent significant time reviewing our current budget. Larry stated that he has been working to identify line items where SILC has balances remaining and those where we have a deficit. Larry reminded the Council that it is essential that we end the fiscal year with all line items with positive balance, or at zero.

Larry announced that our financial policies and DES guidelines require that any budget modification requests of greater than 10 percent of the specific line item be formally presented to the Council for approval.

Larry proposed the following plan in order to address the deficit and surplus:

Line Item	Original Amount	Current Balance	Move From	Amount Moved	New Balance
Supplies	\$600	\$527.18	Rent/Occupancy	\$1,00	\$1,527.18
Accountant	\$1,600	\$7.88	Rent/Occupancy	\$500	\$507.88
Legal Svc.	\$550	-\$300	Rent/Occupancy	\$300	\$0
Liability Ins.	\$2,200	-\$124	Rent/Occupancy	\$124	\$0
Website	\$600	-\$755.68	Rent/Occupancy	\$1,100	\$344.32
Staff Travel	\$5,000	-\$4313.54	Rent/Occupancy	\$4,700	\$386.46
IT	X	\$299.81	Rent/Occupancy	\$1,000	\$1,299.81
Equipment	X	\$1594.53	Rent/Occupancy	\$800	\$2,394.53

Larry noted that all transfers are proposed to be made from the remaining balance in the Rent/ Occupancy line. The current balance of this line item is \$13,068.73. If all requested transfers are approved, the remaining balance in the Rent/ Occupancy line will be \$3,534.73.

Laura Duval motioned to approve Larry’s budget revision recommendations. Dara Johnson seconded the motion. 12 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

Chair’s Report (Dr. Danita Applewhite):

Dr. Danita Applewhite stated that her report would be brief. Dr. Applewhite reminded the



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Council that Larry Wanger's performance review will be conducted in the upcoming weeks. She told the Council to approach her, or email her with any questions or concerns regarding Larry's review. Dr. Danita Applewhite additionally highlighted Veteran's issues, stating that it is presently difficult to assess how many Veterans are receiving services through Center's for Independent Living (CILS).

Executive Director's Report (Larry Wanger):

Larry provided the Council with an update on the Arizona Community Leadership Academy (AZCLA).

Larry stated that AZCLA is in direct response to input received from the needs assessment surveys and public forums held across the state in 2015. During these forums, individuals stated that: they do not feel connected to the disability community in Arizona, they do not receive information about policy and legislative issues, they do not understand how to get involved, and they lack the knowledge and tools to be effective advocates in their communities.

AZCLA will allow each of Arizona's five Centers to receive funding to cover a staff position (approximately 32 hours) to conduct training in their given service area. Overall, staff will provide training designed to build advocacy skills, capacity, and leadership abilities among people who have disabilities.

The long-term goal of the AZCLA is that people who have disabilities will assume leadership roles on local, county and state boards, commissions and councils.

Larry stated that, overall, AZCLA will provide free statewide trainings that focus on disability and Independent Living history, advocacy skills, community leadership, mentoring and peer support, and the specific tools needed to serve on boards, councils, and commissions.

Larry stated that AZCLA will begin this summer and will offer training across the state at no cost to participants. Larry announced that AZCLA staff facilitator training will take place on June 15th and 16th. The Academy will consist of multiple class sessions held over a six-week period of time. Academy sessions include eight to twelve participants and will be held multiple times each year. Larry reported that AZCLA will be offered at each of Arizona's five Centers for Independent Living and, additionally, in Mohave County.

Melissa then provided the Council with an update on AZSILC Youth Initiatives.

Melissa reported that the 2017 Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLF) will be held on the Arizona State University Phoenix Campus from June 18-23, 2017. Through a competitive application process, approximately 42 youth from across Arizona were selected in 2017. Melissa reported that this is the largest AZYLF class to date.



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Melissa additionally reminded the council that, regarding creation of a nonprofit to assume responsibility for AZSILC Youth Initiatives, the Board of Directors, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws have been established for Diverse Ability Incorporated, which achieved incorporation on 1/17/17. Melissa reported that nonprofit status through IRS 501(c)(3) determination may take up to 18 months.

Melissa wrapped up her report by sharing an exciting announcement, stating that, Anya Carrillo (AZYLF alumni and former team leader) was recently awarded the national Advocates in Disability award. The Advocates in Disability Award program annually honors a young adult with a disability between the ages of 14 and 26 who is dedicated to positively affecting the lives of people with disabilities and their families in the United States. The program also supports an innovative project developed by the award recipient that benefits the U.S. disability community.

The selected recipient, Anya, will be awarded \$3,000 in recognition of past disability advocacy and will receive up to \$7,000 in additional funding for a proposed project to benefit the disability community.

Larry then provided an update on federal House Bill 620. Larry summarized that HR 620 requires a person with a disability to provide written notice to a business where they encounter barriers to access. The notice must provide sufficient detail to identify the prohibited act and how to comply with the law. The business would then have 60 days to acknowledge that there is a problem and then another 120 days to begin to fix it.

Larry stated that advocates feel that HR 620 shifts the burden of protecting the right to access to the person with the disability, who first has to be denied access, then must determine the violations of the law that have occurred, then must provide the business with specific notice of which provisions of the law were violated and when, and finally, the aggrieved person with the disability must afford the business a lengthy period to correct the problem.

Larry reported that Arizona Representative Kyrsten Sinema has sponsored HR 620. Additionally, Arizona Representatives Trent Franks and Andy Biggs are members of the House Judiciary Committee, which will vote on HR620 as early as the first week of May.

Larry provided an overview of the President's federal budget proposal.

Larry stated that the proposed budget, as is, may be detrimental to many of the programs and services that people with disabilities rely on. Larry stated that, if enacted, various of Centers for Independent Living across the United States may be forced to close. Larry also reported that the proposed budget would make \$72 billion in cuts to disability programs like Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Moreover, the budget proposal includes large cuts to Medicaid funding, both from the repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and additional cuts to the program.



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Lastly, Larry reported that President Trump's budget blueprint suggests elimination of funding for Statewide Independent Living Council's, under the Administration for Community Living, beginning in 2018. Larry stated that he feels it is important for the Council to be made aware that the upcoming federal budget may eliminate funding for Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council and our sister councils across the nation.

Presentation of Proposed Changes to AZSILC Bylaws:

Larry discussed several proposed changes to the bylaws, most of which are federal changes related to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Larry reminded committee members that proposed changes to bylaws need to be provided to Council members the meeting prior to voting upon them.

Larry provided the Council with a copy of the bylaws that include proposed changes. Larry suggested that the Council review prior and updated versions of the bylaws, side-by-side, so that proposed bylaws can be voted upon in September.

Committee Reports (

Policy and Legislation:

Wendy provided an overview of the Public Policy Committee's purpose. She reported that the purpose of the committee is to develop and monitor the implementation of an annual advocacy agenda for the organization and to develop strategies for sharing and promoting the advocacy agenda with other disability related commissions, councils, and organizations that support and promote the Independent Living philosophy.

Wendy Swager reported that the committee decided to prioritize the development of an advocacy agenda that focuses on legislative priorities, with an approximate completion date of Fall 2017. Additionally, the committee is currently reviewing the prior Health Care survey that was completed by the SILC in late 2015, early 2016, in order to establish related health-care priorities.

Wendy then concluded her remarks, announcing that the committee is still seeking new council members.

SPIL Evaluation:

Dara Johnson provided an update on the recent SPIL Evaluation committee meeting.

Dara reported that monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the SPIL is the SILC's core federal responsibility and that the committee is working to insure that this occurs.

Dara reminded the Council that committee members have been assigned a goal area within the



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SPIL to take the lead on in terms of reporting back to the committee. Logan Wimer is focusing on resource development (Goal D). Laura Duval will focus on Goal B (youth related activities). Paula Seanez was assigned Goal A, and Dara volunteered to report back on Goal C.

Resource Development Committee:

Dr. Applewhite provided a brief Resource Development report. Danita stated that the Resource Development Committee will address the SILC's new authority to conduct resource development activities. Resource development activities are opportunities for SILCs to obtain public and private sources of funding consistent with the SILC's mission, vision goals, and organizational needs. Danita announced that the SILC has begun work regarding the creation and distribution of a survey in order to identify resource development priorities.

RSA Report:

Kristen Mackey, RSA Administrator from the Department of Economic Security provided a report of recent RSA activities. Ms. Mackey highlighted ongoing efforts related to improving RSA's Priority One waitlist. Ms. Mackey additionally reported that, to date, RSA has removed 230 individuals from the Priority One waitlist and that current waitlist numbers are 35% lower than the previous year. Ms. Mackey also informed attendees that the proposed Federal budget puts RSA's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) grant at stake.

Announcement:

No announcements were made.

Call to the Public:

Danita Applewhite gave two calls to the public for comment. No comments were made.

Action: Adjourn:

Dr. Danita Applewhite entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paula Seanez. Scott Lindbloom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 12 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.