

Full Council Meeting of the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council Unapproved Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2016

Council Members in Attendance:

Jennifer Longdon, Bob Michaels, Jenn-Yun Tien, Scott Lindbloom, Georgia Mclaughlin, Wendy L. Swager, Randy Russel, Paula Seanez, Paul Ferry (RSA, Ex-Officio), Pete Weaver, George Garcia, Joshua Auer, Larry Clausen

Council Members Absent:

Rudy Buchanan, Joe Lee Yazzie, Dr Danita Applewhite, Meghan Cox, Laura Duval, Jonathan Hoyt

Staff:

Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora, Lilia Zacchia

Public in Attendance:

Phil Pangrazio

Welcome/Introductions

Jennifer Longdon, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. Jennifer welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Council meeting minutes, December 3, 2015*
- B. Financial Statements November 2015*
- C. Financial Statements, December 2015*

Bob Michaels motioned to approve the consent agenda. Pete Weaver seconded that motion. 11 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Committee, January 28, 2016*

Bob Michaels motioned to approve the meeting minutes for January 28, 2016. Wendy Swager seconded that motion. 11 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

Presentation of Financial Statements

- A. January, 2016*

Larry Wanger provided an overview of the various financial reports provided to the Council. He noted that the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council is overall on track in terms of the budget. However, he also alerted the Council to increased spending in a couple of budget areas. He mentioned that this month, various areas of the budget where deficits have occurred will need to be reviewed by the committee and that he would be highlighting these later in the meeting agenda.

Larry then updated the Council on financial issues related to SILC Congress. He indicated that final invoices for AV, CART, ASL and the hotel were paid in full early in February and that at no point in the process did the SILC need to take funds to cover conference expenses from our budget.

Pete Weaver motioned to approve the financial statements. Bob Michaels seconded that motion. 11 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

FY2016 Budget Revisions

Larry Wanger reported that the SILC has a deficit of \$2,015 in the line item under Council support related to lodging and per diem. He indicated this has happened as a result of greater than anticipated spending due to covering costs associated with Council members who travel from out of town to attend meetings in Phoenix from across the state of Arizona. He reminded Council that we are federally authorized and that it is appropriate for us to cover these types of expenses. We also had various Council members attend SILC Congress.

Larry reminded everyone that our financial policies and DES guidelines require that staff present a request for a vote by the Council if changes in a particular line item of the budget exceed 10 percent of the actual amount in that line.

Larry proposed the following plan in order to address the lodging deficit:

Move \$500 from equipment rental, reducing this budget line to \$0.

Move \$900.25 from meeting room rental, reducing this budget line to \$0.25

Move \$581 from directors and officers insurance, reducing this budget line to \$1.00

Move \$835 from liability insurance, reducing this budget line to \$35

Move \$1,060.12 from accommodations, reducing this budget line to \$2,189.88

Jenn-Yun Tien motioned to approve Larry's budget revision recommendations. Scott Lindbloom seconded that motion. 11 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.

Chair's Report

Jennifer Longdon stated that her report would be brief. Jennifer reminded the 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.

Jennifer also announced to the Council that she has been hired as a contractor by Ability360 to work on their quarterly magazine, *Livability*.

Executive Director's Report

Larry Wanger gave a brief report on the upcoming audit, announcing to the Council that it has not been completed yet. Larry stated that he does not anticipate any issues regarding the audit. He also mentioned that our auditor will be attending the upcoming Council meeting in April to provide a presentation regarding her findings.

Larry gave an update on the State Plan for Independent Living. Larry stated that the SPIL Development Committee met in early December and that he is in the process of writing a first draft of the SPIL. Larry told the Council that his draft will be ready to review in early March and that this draft will be distributed to the Council by email, with the final draft of the SPIL being submitted to ACL in June. He noted that significant time will be spent at our April meeting reviewing the document in addition to public input that was received to that point. Larry also mentioned that he is planning on offering an online Webinar in addition to partnering with RSA to host public hearings during the month of April in order to solicit public input.

After updating the Council on SPIL Development, Larry gave a brief report on Part B funding. Larry stated that he was hoping to identify a fiduciary agency, but has been unable to do so. Larry mentioned that there is concern among agencies about how becoming a fiduciary will impact their audit. Larry relayed to the Council that he has already spoken with three or four organizations.

After speaking to the Council regarding Part B funding, Larry updated meeting attendees on several disability related legislative issues. Larry stated that he was able to attend various meetings at the Legislature and provided information regarding different bills. First, Larry announced that the ADA notification bill (SB1284) has died. SB1284 would give small businesses 60 days to fix violations stemming from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Second, Larry updated the Council on the ABLI act (Achieving a Better Life Experience). This bill follows federal legislation enacted in 2014 and allows persons who have disabilities to accumulate a certain amount of wealth and special accounts that will not affect disability benefits. Larry stated that this bill is expected to pass. Third, Larry spoke about SB 1166, the Service Animal Bill. This bill conflicts greatly with federal law. Many provisions of the bill were omitted during recent legislative session, despite this, the bill is still not seen as effective or necessary by some advocates. Fourth, Larry spoke about RSA funding. Larry stated that the Governor has included 4 million dollars in funding for RSA in his budget proposal. This funding is a significant opportunity for increased federal match. Larry announced that the Statewide Independent Living Council is able to offer our support to this bill as it has been proposed by the Governor.

Larry then spoke about Council appointments. He stated that we have many members who are completing their second term at the end of June. Additionally, we have several members who are completing their first term and may, or may not continue within the Council. Larry also updated the Council on Federal Law changes regarding Council appointments. Larry encouraged the Council to mark Thursday, April 28th on their calendars. This Full Council meeting will review the 2017 Fiscal Year budget, the SPIL, and Council appointments. Lastly, Larry updated the Council on SILC Congress, which occurred in January. Larry announced to the Council that the conference committee is hoping to host the conference in a different hotel (as the Sheraton increased their room rates by 60 dollars).

CIL UPDATES

Larry Wanger announced to the Council that Vicki Cuscino (from *The Direct Center for Independence* in Tucson) was scheduled to present at this meeting, but will instead present at the upcoming Full Council meeting April.

State Rehabilitation Council Report

Larry Wanger stated that Danita Applewhite was unable to be present for this meeting

Rehabilitation Services Administration Report

Paul Ferry, from the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration, provided Council members with an update and overview of RSA activities. He mentioned the strategic planning process and ongoing efforts to increase communication between staff within each office and across the state. He also mentioned ongoing development of a handbook for employees and efforts to improve their existing website. Paul stated that some reorganization and centralization of programs is taking place within the organization. Paul noted the organization is still awaiting final WIOA regulations and that RSA would continue its support of the Youth Leadership Forum.

Announcements

Jennifer Longdon then opened the floor to attendees for announcements.

Call to the Public

No comments were received from the public.

Adjournment

Jennifer Longdon thanked members of the committee for their participation, and asked for a motion to adjourn. Bob Michaels motioned to end the Full Council Meeting. Georgia McLaughlin seconded that motion. 11 Council members voted in favor of this motion, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The vote carried unanimously.