



**Statewide Independent Living Council – Public Policy Committee Meeting
Unapproved Minutes for Wednesday, April 5, 2017 (3:00pm-4:00pm)
Meeting Held Via Teleconference - to connect via teleconference dial 1-866-
848-2216, pin code 8099566334#**

Staff Present:

Larry Wanger, Lilia Zacchia

Council Members Present:

Carla Shelton, Wendy Swager, Randy Russel, Paula Seanez, Sonya Perduta

1. Welcome and Introduction Information:

Wendy Swager, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Wendy welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed.

2. Committee Description, Purpose and Authority:

Wendy provided an overview of the Public Policy Committee's purpose.

She reported that the purpose of the committee is to: identify issues with CIL's that are of importance to Arizonans who have disabilities, develop and monitor the implementation of an annual advocacy agenda for the organization in partnership with staff, Council members, Centers for Independent Living other strategic partners, councils, and coalitions, and to develop strategies for sharing and promoting the advocacy agenda in the community and advise and assist in developing and sustaining collaborations with other disability related commissions, councils and organizations that support and promote the Independent Living philosophy.

3. Current AZ Bills of Significance:

A. H.B. 2504:

Larry Wanger reported that, H.B. 2504, a proposed bill that would have allowed a court to penalize lawyers for unlawful behavior, died during the recent legislative session.

B. S.B. 1198/ 1406 Striker Amendment:

Larry delivered a legislative update. He reported that SB1198 was recently approved by the full Senate and moved to the Arizona House of Representatives. The bill was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and was heard on March 22nd, 2017 by the House Judiciary Public Safety Committee. Larry reported that the bill failed to pass on a vote of 6 - 2. Larry indicated that there is still much work to be done around the issues raised in this legislation.

Larry additionally reported that, most recently, Senate Bill 1406 and a striker amendment related to accessible parking issues were unanimously passed by the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, March 29. Before passage, the bill was amended to include language that allows businesses to take a wait and see approach to website accessibility.

Larry stated that, while a number of federal courts have ruled that businesses must make their websites accessible and countless other companies have recognized cyber accessibility as good business, advocates feel that this law excludes website accessibility. In summary, the language in the amendment states that websites are excluded from accessibility requirements until the Americans with Disabilities Act is amended to include this requirement, or until the United States Supreme Court rules that it is required. Larry reported that, SB1406, as amended will likely go to the floor of the House for a vote very quickly.



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Wendy asked what the committee can do to support the disability community during the state legislative process.

Larry reported that, although the SILC has new authority to participate in individual and system advocacy, the role of AZSILC is to serve as a source of information in relation to local, state and federal legislation. This includes testifying at legislative hearings, distributing information to the community and encouraging people who have disabilities to get involved in the legislative process.

Larry recapped that, in the past, the Council decided against taking a position on SB1198. He additionally reminded members that they can contact their state representatives, and encourage others in their personal and professional networks to do so as well. Lastly, Larry suggested putting together an informational email on Senate Bill 1406 and the striker amendment.

Larry also reported upon the potential negative impact of the Federal Health Care bill on individuals who have disabilities.

4. Impact of Flagstaff Proposition 414 (Minimum Wage) on Services for People with Disabilities:

Wendy discussed the potential impact of Flagstaff's Proposition 414 on services for people who have disabilities. In summary, Flagstaff voters passed Proposition 414 in November, raising the city's minimum wage incrementally each year until it reaches 15 dollars per hour by 2021.

Wendy stated that the city's business owners, specifically care-provider organizations and community-homes, may suffer under the labor minimum wage increase. While the impact may help certain people, there are also a lot of individuals who may lose jobs, as the small business community may not be able to absorb the overall cost impact. She also reported on the potentially negative impact that Proposition 414 may have on the hiring of individuals who have disabilities.

5. Next Meeting:

After significant discussion, the committee agreed upon a meeting date of April 26th, 2017 from 2:00-3:30pm. Committee members expressed that they would like to prioritize the development of an advocacy agenda, with a focus on state health-care and housing.

6. Announcements Information:

No announcements were made.

7. Public Comment Information

Larry reported upon the ABLE Act, which amends Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to create tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. These tax-advantaged savings accounts can be used to cover qualified disability expenses such as, but not limited to, education, housing and transportation. Larry stated that he would forward the



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committee an email from the ABLÉ National Resource Center, which discusses members of Congress re-introducing ABLÉ Improvement Bills.

8. Adjournment Action:

Wendy Swager entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Russel. Sonya Perduta seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, passing with 5 voting in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.