



Statewide Independent Living Council – Public Policy & Legislation Committee

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 (2:00 PM– 3:30 PM)

Meeting Held Via Teleconference, To Connect Via Teleconference:

Dial 1-866- 848-2216, pin code 8099566334#

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Swager, Joy Johnson LaBarge, Randy Russell, Sonya Perduta, Carla Shelton

Staff Present:

Larry Wanger

Welcome and Introductions:

Wendy Swager, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Wendy welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were completed

Impact of Proposition 414 and Proposition 206 on Services for People with Disabilities:

Wendy discussed the potential impact of Flagstaff's Proposition 414 on services for people who have disabilities, as well as service providers in the state of Arizona.

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, and specifically care-provider organizations and community-homes, may suffer under the labor minimum wage increase.

Wendy then discussed state Proposition 206, summarizing that that Arizona's minimum wage and paid time off proposition (The Minimum Wage and Paid Time Off Initiative) was on the November 8, 2016 ballot in Arizona an initiated state statute and was recently approved.

Wendy reported that, 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. For example, Wendy announced that a provider organization in Kingman, Arizona recently closed down.

Larry also reported that the Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (a statewide consortium of providers licensed to deliver services to individuals with physical and developmental disabilities) recently pursued several million dollars in funding that they ultimately did not receive.

Current Federal Bills of Significance (HB620):

Wendy provided an update on federal House Bill 620. Wendy summarized that HB 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.

Wendy stated that advocates feel that HB 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 that violations of the law 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



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disability must afford the business a lengthy period to correct the problem.

Larry reported that Arizona Representative Kyrsten Sinema has sponsored HB 620. Additionally, Arizona Representatives Trent Franks and Andy Biggs are members of the House Judiciary Committee, who are set to vote on HB 620.

Larry summarized that HB 620 was only recently referred to the Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice and that the Bill has not recently moved forward. Larry stated that Congress has maintained a focus on health-care and that there are other more pressing priorities that are being voted upon.

Healthcare:

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 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.

Larry concluded his remarks by announcing that the Statewide Independent Living Council in New York (NYSILC) recently drafted a press release detailing the impact that dramatic cuts to Medicaid would have on the disability community. Larry stated that the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC) is interested in the possibility of also drafting a press release in collaboration with the five Centers for Independent Living in Arizona. Larry announced that, if this occurs, he would send the press release to the committee for review.

Independent Living, Proposed Cuts:

Larry reported that President Trump's budget blueprint suggests elimination of funding for Statewide Independent Living Councils, under the Administration for Community Living, beginning in 2018. Larry stated that he feels it is important for the committee 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.

Larry announced that, if elimination of funding for federally mandated councils were to occur, the Administration would have to re-write pieces of legislation (such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Larry reported that Congress established the Independent Living Program within the Department of Education, and continues to provide funding for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), which are congressionally mandated organizations that plan or deliver services and support people with disabilities to live independently. In order for Statewide Independent Living Councils to be completely eliminated, the Rehabilitation Act would have to be re-written, and Larry stated that finalization of this process would likely require significant time.



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Health Care Survey:

Wendy thanked Larry for distributing 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 summarized the purpose of this questionnaire, highlighting that the results of the survey conducted by the AZSILC focused on people who have disabilities living in Arizona and the experiences that they have had with medical providers. The survey received approximately 230 responses from people who have a variety of disabilities.

The committee then spent a substantial amount of time discussing the development of an advocacy agenda, with a focus on prioritizing state health-care needs. Committee members specifically expressed a desire to assist the public in clarifying the process behind filing health-care complaints with the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

After significant discussion, Wendy Swager entertained a motion to instruct SILC staff to contact Arizona Centers for Independent Living and provide them with a summary of today's conversation and gauge whether they have the ability to provide assistance to those who have disabilities in filing health-care complaints through the Arizona Attorney General's Office. A motion to approve this plan was made by Sonya Perduta. Randy Russel seconded the motion. The vote carried, passing with 4 voting in favor, 1 against, and 0 abstaining.

Next Meeting:

The committee agreed upon a meeting date of July 12th, 2017 from 2:00-3:30pm.

Adjournment:

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