

Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC)
Executive Committee
Minutes of Thursday, May 28, 2015

Council Participating:

Bob Michaels
Jennifer Longdon
Rudy Buchanan

Staff Participating:

Larry Wanger
Lea Marie Laffartha

Introductions/Welcome:

Bob Michaels called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and announced a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes:

Bob entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the full Council meeting of April 23, 2015. Rudy Buchanan motioned to approve the minutes of April 23, 2015. Jennifer Longdon seconded the motion. Bob called for a vote. All were in favor, zero abstained, zero opposed, and the motion carried unanimously.

Financials:

Bob entertained a motion to approve the monthly financial statement from April 2015. Jennifer Longdon motioned to approve the April 2015 financials as submitted. Rudy Buchanan seconded. Bob called for a vote. All were in favor, zero abstained, zero opposed, and the motion carried unanimously.

Larry provided a brief report. He indicated that AZSILC is wrapping up the 2015 fiscal year and that office staff is working to spend down the budget line items. He may be bringing some requests to the June 18th meeting for the Council to modify some line items. If there is a need to move more than 10 percent of a line item, he is required to seek approval from the Council. Nothing unusual with the financials to report at this point.

Chairs Report:

Bob Michaels indicated that the Council is waiting for at least 3 new SILC appointees to be approved by June 30, 2015, with an additional 3 appointees on hold. They have to be appointed by the end of June, or there will be problems. Further, the Nominating Committee experienced some problems in identifying officers, as candidates cannot be officers until they are officially appointed for another term. Larry also noted that we have a more significant issue in that if current Council members and new applicants are not appointed on or before June 30, we will be out of compliance with federal and state requirements as established in the Rehabilitation Act and state executive order.

Bob moved on to the establishment of the SPIL Development Committee and indicated that Larry would be providing suggestions for potential members of that committee. Larry stated that he is still working to identify candidates and would be providing this list to Bob prior to the June 18 Council meeting.

Bob then highlighted what he sees as a greater emphasis on youth and both he and Jennifer asked if Arizona would be sending any young people to the NCIL conference. Larry noted the NCIL conference is very expensive in terms of travel and lodging and that we would be instead working to take a couple of youth with us to the APRIL conference in October as they have an outstanding program.

Executive Director's Report:

Larry indicated that the budget for 2016 is looking good and has been approved by RSA. He is awaiting notification in the state procurement system that it has been posted and he will then sign the contract electronically in the system.

Larry highlighted several issues related to reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. First, he stated that we are still awaiting regulations from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) that will guide us with SPIL development and future activities. He mentioned that NCIL has sent out an email about issues having arisen from this lack of clarification on regulations. NCIL has also sent a letter to the federal RSA regarding State retaliation and related issues that he had alluded to back in April at our Council meeting. In some states the SILCs are being directed by the governor and or legislature in regard to their future Designated State Entity (DSE). There are also issues surfacing between CILS and SILCs based on poor relationships in the past and now being forced to work together under the terms of the new SPIL process. Beyond this, the Department of Education has issued federal regulations stating that VR may continue to provide 110 funds (I&E) to SILCs for operating purposes. This is different from the language in the Rehabilitation Act that states VR is required to provide some of these funds. This has resulted in further concerns. Nationally this is an interesting time of upheaval while we are waiting for the regulations to be issued by ACL.

Larry reminded everyone that we are now at the half-way point in the current SPIL cycle and that we are about to embark on development of the next one. He is looking forward to meeting with the new SPIL committee toward the end of June. As part of the SPIL development process, he is planning to do at least 8 forums collaborating with the 5 CILS and then additional forums in a couple of areas that are currently not well served by a CIL. The forums are a key mechanism for gathering input from across the state that will be used in the SPIL development process. Additionally, a needs assessment survey will be launched later this summer.

Office Updates:

Larry reported that operations are running smoothly in the office. Our new office manager began work in late April and things appear to be going well. He also noted that the Youth Leadership Forum was now just a few weeks away and that staff is very busy preparing for the event. He reported that Laura Duval would be joining us at the NCIL conference in July and that Arizona would be sending a number of CIL staff, volunteers and board members as well. The plan is to also send staff to the APRIL Conference in October. Lastly, Larry highlighted the need for Bob to make new appointments to the Nominating Committee as two members had agreed to serve as officers. Bob indicated that he would serve and appointed Pete Weaver to serve as Chair. He asked Larry to notify Pete and to schedule the meeting.

Announcements:

Larry announced that the Council will receive an invitation to attend the Youth Leadership Forum Graduation on June 25th, it will be here at the DEC in the conference center.

Call to the Public:

Bob asked for any comments from the Public; none were received.

Adjournment:

Bob adjourned the meeting as Jennifer was disconnected from the call and a quorum was no longer present.