

**Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC)
Council Meeting
Ability360 Board Room
5025 E Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034
Minutes of Thursday, October 22, 2015**

Council Members Present

Jennifer Longdon, George Garcia, Larry Clausen, Bob Michaels, Scott Lindbloom, Pete Weaver, Dara Johnson, Wendy Swager, Paula Seanez, Laura Duval, Georgia McLaughlin, Jonathan Hoyt, Paul Ferry (AZRSA Representative).

Guests Present

Shawnnita Miranda, Vickie Hoyt, Tony DiRienzi

Staff Present

Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora.

Welcome/Introductions

Jennifer Longdon called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and introductions were completed. Jennifer noted that this is an informational meeting only, as appointments by the Governor are pending, and AZSILC is not fully constituted.

Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Longdon suggested that AZSILC members review minutes and contact Melissa Ann Santora with any corrections so she can make changes prior to the future meeting where approval of the Minutes will be addressed.

Financial Report

Larry Wanger reviewed the FY16 financials to date, for informational purposes. Larry noted that there were excess funds returned to Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZRSA) in FY14. These funds were then used for AZRSA client services. Larry referenced a \$50,000 influx of funds in June 2015, received from Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), for Emergency Preparedness work. \$20,000 of those funds are pass through funds to Ability360, which are being held until such time that the Tribal Outreach regarding Emergency Preparedness they have contracted for is complete. AZSILC is in possession of a memo from ADHS declaring the purpose for which these funds are being held.

Larry indicated that AZSILC is a quarter of the way through the Fiscal Year and an addition to the budget is the Office Manager position.

In July, Laura Duval, Larry Wanger, and Melissa Ann Santora attended the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference in Washington, DC. In addition, Larry, Melissa, and 2 Arizona Youth Leadership Forum For Students Who Have Disabilities (AZYLF) Alumni attended the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) Conference in October.

Larry stated that the Accountant will be at AZSILC on 10/23/15, and the Auditor will begin the process of conducting the Audit the first week of November 2015.

Chair Report

Jennifer Longdon reported that she took office in July 2015, and the first AZSILC meeting since, is this date. Jennifer indicated that the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is due in June 2016, and although AZSILC is not fully constituted, SPIL Development efforts must continue.

Executive Director Report

Larry Wanger discussed AZSILC composition, indicating that as of 6/30/15, there were a number of appointments pending. The Governor made several appointments in August after he and Jennifer met with his staff. Because of the way some of the appointments were categorized, the requirement that 51% of those serving on AZSILC must be people who have disabilities was not met. To ensure this requirement was met, AZSILC offered prospective applicants who were not appointed. The Governor has appointed Jonathan Hoyt and Randy Russell. As soon as Oaths are signed, AZSILC will be on track to conduct official business. Larry indicated that there will be a number of appointments needed again in June 2016.

Larry Clausen inquired about whether or not AZSILC was surveyed by the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions. Larry Wanger indicated that AZSILC was included, and speculated that this may coincide with the Governor's effort to get things paired down.

Larry Wanger referenced the proposed meeting schedule, and suggested that AZSILC members contact him if they have conflicts with a proposed date or dates.

In regard to AZSILC meetings, Larry Wanger indicated that it is necessary that out of area AZSILC members who require overnight lodging confirm that need 2 ½ weeks prior to AZSILC meetings. Once the proposed meeting schedule has been confirmed, members will know well in advance of upcoming meetings. It is very difficult to get reservations at certain times of the year, especially if accessibility is necessary. AZSILC has made and paid for reservations for members that have gone unused. This confirmation process is designed to resolve that issue. Larry Clausen asked if the reason AZSILC staff make the reservation is due to financial constraints. Larry Wanger indicated that this is one of the reasons. The other being that this is what members are accustomed to.

Larry Wanger shared that he recently received an email that NCIL hired a law firm to look at the intent of specific language in the reauthorized Rehabilitation Act regarding the role of the Designated State Entity (DSE). It was determined that the intent by Congress was to have the DSE sign the SPIL confirming agreement to serve as fiduciary, not as agreeing to the content. The Administration on Community Living (ACL)

has reversed its earlier position that the DSE was also agreeing to the SPIL content. This is a victory, because in some states, this has the potential to be problematic.

Regulations have not been issued, but it is looking as though SILCs will have more flexibility, as long as they are not providing direct services. The regulations will provide more clarity, and it has been indicated that draft regulations will be out soon.

Larry Wanger reported that October concludes a 6 month SPIL Evaluation period, and the SPIL Evaluation Committee will soon convene to begin review.

Larry Wanger reported that the 211 Arizona collaboration is going extremely well. 211 has been to all 5 Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and the level of disability related information on the 211 system has increased to 59%, as of September 2015. 211 Arizona will be asked to report at a future AZSILC meeting.

Larry indicated that there have been a few additional responses to the Healthcare Access Survey recently. The results are in the midst of being compiled and the plan is to work with the media to raise awareness of the major issues in the public sphere of discussion.

Larry noted that the response to the CIL Satisfaction Survey has been poor. He suggests that the SILC consider devoting funds to an organization that can run the survey. CILs have worked hard to promote the surveys but it is not coming together well.

Larry referenced the report Melissa Ann Santora compiled regarding Arizona Youth Leadership Forum (AZYLF) For Students Who Have Disabilities 2015. Larry asked that SILC members read the report. Larry indicated that pre-AZYLF surveys reveal that youth have very little knowledge of Independent Living, Americans with Disabilities Act, Civil Rights, Disability History, and post-AZYLF surveys show they are gaining significant knowledge in many areas. Larry noted that AZYLF Alumni Association has applied for support from Public Allies Arizona to implement a Disability Mentoring Day in 2016.

Bob Michaels mentioned that it is unfortunate that the Governor did not appoint the youth AZYLF recommended to serve on SILC, and asked if there is a strategy in mind to provide this opportunity to AZYLF youth. Larry Wanger indicated that he will again meet with the Governor's Office to discuss our vetting process and recruitment efforts as we do have an internal application process and do go out of our way to ensure that the people we send are good candidates.

Larry indicated that the AZYLF Alumni Association members are eager to get involved, and that CILs need to be educated about the value of the youth perspective in IL.

Larry Clausen mentioned that the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) also has challenges with Governor appointments, which is one of the reasons they try to maintain coordination with other Governor's Councils and providers.

Bob Michaels asked Laura Duval what the barriers are that she thought she saw with getting youth involved at CILs. Laura indicated that scheduling is an issue because many are in school. She also noted that if they are minors or not their own guardian, there are liability issues and parents have to sign off to allow staff interaction. Melissa Ann Santora offered her thanks to Laura and SMILE for all their efforts to incorporate youth and at AZYLF.

Jennifer Longdon commended Melissa Ann Santora for her commitment which goes beyond her professional capacity, and thanked Larry Wanger for his support in growing AZYLF.

Larry Wanger indicated that the Peer to Peer cross training with the mental health providers had a bit of a delay but is getting back on track.

The SPIL objective that focuses on funding for a CIL in Mohave County and the objective to increase Legislative Awareness of IL has been combined to work on a State Appropriation for IL. CIL Directors are looking for =\$1-\$1.5 million.

Office Updates

Larry Wanger indicated that the APRIL Conference was a great event with relevant workshops and information. SILC hopes to continue to bring youth to this conference in the future.

Larry mentioned that SILC Congress will be in Phoenix January 16-19, 2016. SILC members will be encouraged to participate.

Larry stated that staff is busier than usual in the office. The part time Office Manager position is currently open.

Larry, Melissa, and Jennifer Longdon will conduct SPIL Development Community Forums on the Navajo Nation in November.

Larry indicated that he and Melissa have a significant amount of vacation time to use before the end of the year, and may consider closing between the Christmas and New Years holidays. Larry Clausen asked how that would impact SILC Congress. Larry Wanger feels the bulk of SILC Congress deadlines will have already passed and that there will be a minimal impact.

Presentation by Tony DiRienzi

Tony DiRienzi provided information about the background and continuing efforts to implement a Disability Chamber of Commerce. Tony proposed doing so under the auspices of AZSILC. Tony responded to questions about his proposal, and will return to an AZSILC meeting in the future to further discuss this possibility.

CIL Updates

Laura Duval indicated that CIL updates will focus on a more in depth overview of one CIL each meeting. Laura provided the purpose of CILs as a cross disability mission and noted there are over 400 CILS and 300 satellites nationwide that deliver 5 core services.

SMILE was founded in 1998. In addition to core services, SMILE provides: home modification, assistive technology, fee for service, has a loan closet, and participated in networking and outreach.

In the last 2 months, SMILE has opened 83 Consumer Service Records (CSR) with direct 1:1 services, 17 new home mod CSR's, and completed over 900 Information and Referrals outside of the core services.

Laura indicated that she enjoyed the NCIL Conference and was grateful to have attended.

SRC Report

No report was given as Danita Applewhite was not in attendance.

RSA Report

Paul Ferry indicated that AZRSA is awaiting WIOA regulations and is status quo until they are available.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Larry provided an update on a few other disability oriented Bills:

Larry mentioned HB 2217: a Bill that would increase funding for Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration by \$12 million. This Bill appears to be stalled.

HB 2170: would move \$200,000 into Lifespan Respite. This Bill cleared appropriations yesterday.

HB 2241: Restores \$2 million into the Developmental Disabilities Trust Fund. This Bill cleared appropriations.

SB 1459: Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools. Arizona has no laws governing restraint and seclusion of students who have disabilities in schools.

Reauthorization: WIOA regulations are not yet out, but should be in March 2015. SILC's can choose to have a new Designated State Entity (DSE), but do not have to change. The AZDES procurement process has caused significant delays in SPIL Objectives. AZSILC needs to gather information and discuss options no later than June. If we choose a new DSE, the switchover date is July 2016, and we will need ample time for transition.

Healthcare Access: Larry indicated that the Healthcare Access Survey is still open. We have 190 responses. Over 50% of those do not get healthcare services when needed due to accessibility issues. A Public Forum is being planned in Spring or Fall.

Arizona Youth Leadership Forum 2015: Larry expressed that he and Melissa Ann Santora are gearing up for the event. A new website was created: www.azylf.org. Costs have been calculated at \$1200 per student. Larry asked Council members to set aside the evening of Thursday 6/25/15 for the AZYLF Graduation Ceremony.

Upcoming Surveys: Larry indicated that the CIL Consumer Survey will be launching in 2 weeks. He further stated that a larger statewide survey will also be launching within 2 weeks to collect data on needs of and services effecting people who have disabilities in Arizona.

Emergency Preparedness: Larry stated that there was a good turnout of more than 20 people for the recent Emergency Preparedness presentation in Tucson. AZSILC continues to schedule more presentations.

SILC Congress 2015: Larry, Danita Applewhite, and Melissa Ann Santora, attended SILC Congress in San Diego. SILC Congress is a gathering of SILC staff and Council members for training and networking. The training focused on the reauthorization. Larry and Melissa were both presenters. Larry was elected Vice Chair of SILC Congress, and has since been promoted to Chair.

SILC Congress 2016 will be held in Phoenix, at the Phoenix Sheraton.

FY16 Budget: In April, the FY16 Budget will need to be approved. Larry and Melissa will work on putting this together, and it will be presented to SILC members prior to the 4/23/15 meeting. Larry will be seeking a 3rd position, which will split time between Emergency Preparedness and administrative duties.

Arizona 211 Update

Catherine Rea introduced herself and indicated that things are moving forward and going well. The time was then turned over to Crashondia McCray, who started in December. Crashondia has been visiting CIL's to determine how/what they each do for Information and Referral (I & R). Crashondia shadowed Pam Larson, Information and Referral Specialist at ABIL, and Pam has shadowed Crashondia and 211 staff during I & R calls. Steve Eastwood indicated that Crashondia will continue scheduling and visiting other CIL's.

RSA Report

Paul Ferry indicated that within Governor Ducey's Budget, RSA will be able to hire counselors, Rehabilitation Technicians, Rehabilitation Teachers, and 2 Assistive Technology Coordinators.

Paul stated that since Letitia Labrecque took over as RSA Administrator, performance measures have increased from 39%-51.5%.

AZRSA continues to work its Strategic Plan. They are presently working to find out who is serving people who have disabilities within Arizona.

CIL Report

DIRECT-Laura Duval reported that DIRECT has an Interim Director, Laura Penny. Laura has 35 years of experience working in Human Services.

ABIL-Laura reported that in 10/14, ABIL hosted an IL Fair, with 100 people in attendance. ABIL continues Advocacy efforts in many areas.

New Horizons-Laura reported that New Horizons is continuing to work on funding for transportation and Employment programs. New Horizons is working with Mountain Valley Regional Rehabilitation Center on a mentoring program. In addition, New Horizons is working on Nursing Home Transition.

SMILE-Laura reported that SMILE continues efforts to outreach to LaPaz County, with increased training there. SMILE has also forged a good relationship with the Colorado River Indian Tribe. SMILE completed city CDBG grant for Home Modification.

Assist to Independence-No Report.

Committee Reports

Emergency Preparedness-Pete Weaver reported that the Emergency Preparedness Committee met two weeks ago. Pete said, "its' a small committee, but of good quality." The Partners in Preparedness Conference has been pushed out a ways for more planning time. The committee discussed the following: 508 compliance of websites; contracts for interpreters during emergencies; assistive technology contracts; the need for continued community training; and the importance of continuing the efforts of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing who have done some great YouTube training videos.

Larry Wanger mentioned that Maricopa County has asked AZSILC to help recruit people who have disabilities for an exercise at Palo Verde. Larry will send out more information.

SPIL Evaluation- Dara Johnson reported that the committee is comprised of Sherri Collins, Georgia McLaughlin, and herself. Dara reviewed the summary report and pointed out the recommendations made based on the evaluation period of April-September 2014.

State Rehabilitation Council-Danita Applewhite commented that she attended her first State Rehabilitation Council meeting on 2/19/15. In her report about AZSILC, Danita spoke about SILC Congress, ADA Anniversary events, AZYLF, and the Healthcare Accessibility Survey. Danita reported some highlights from the SRC meeting: Letitia Labrecque expressed having a very positive outlook on RSA funding; and that there was a great overview of WIOA presented.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Call to Public

There were no Public comments.

Motion to Adjourn

Dara Johnson motioned to adjourn and Pete Weaver seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.