

AZSILC SPIL Development Committee Meeting Notes of August 27, 2015

Participants: Jennifer Longdon, J. J. Rico, Paula Seanez, Nikki Jeffords, Cody Hallenbeck, Georgia McLaughlin, Larry Clausen, Laura Duval, Shawnnita Miranda, Karin Grandon, Scott Lindbloom, Larry Wanger, Melissa Ann Santora.

Welcome/Introductions: Jennifer Longdon, Committee Chair, welcomed all to this informational meeting, and introductions were completed.

Committee Purpose/Scope of Work: Jennifer Longdon indicated that this is a SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) Development year and it is the responsibility of this committee to keep that process on track. Jennifer described the SPIL as a 3 year plan that requires community input throughout the development process.

Overview of SPIL Development Process: Larry Wanger added that input of this committee is needed and welcomed, as this is a time to convey and discuss information pertaining to this process. Larry explained that committee support is essential throughout the process of gathering and evaluating input and information from Arizonans who have and who support people who have disabilities. The SPIL is due no later than June 30, 2016, and the primary function of the SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) is to monitor, evaluate, and report upon implementation of the SPIL. Larry described the SILC working in partnership with the Designated State Unit (DSU), which is presently Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (AZRSA), CILS (Centers for Independent Living), and others to develop and draft the SPIL.

Larry will send a copy of the current SPIL to all committee members. It is required that a number of entities have input into the SPIL. Due to WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), there are changes to the process. A new term, Designated State Entity (DSE) has been created, and SILCs will have the opportunity to select the agency to serve in this capacity. Presently AZRSA serves this function. Arizona has included partners in SPIL development, but now it is mandated that in addition to AZRSA and the CILS, others who provide Independent Living services to people who have disabilities must be included in this process.

Larry indicated that the SPIL must reflect statewide needs and priorities. Therefore, AZSILC will seek input in a variety of ways, including: community forums, focus groups, and surveys.

Nikki Jeffords inquired about a Federal draw down. Larry Wanger indicated that currently under the Rehabilitation Act, there is \$1.5 million in Part C funds directed to the CILs per a set formula. SILC doesn't see or direct those funds. Presently, there is no state match or contribution in Arizona.

Larry explained that Part B funds are used for a variety of purposes. A portion covers the SPIL Resource Plan, and AZRSA received roughly \$350,000 in Part B funds for

their Independent Living Rehabilitation Services program. Karin Grandon indicated that 100% of Part B funds go to client services. The most common services are: home modification, vehicle modification, and hearing aids.

Larry stated that Innovation and Expansion funds are what is used to support SILC operations. Due to WIOA, now 30% of Part B funds can be used for SPIL Resource Plan, and more can be authorized if a rationale is provided. The remaining Part B funds that are now received by RSA can be allocated elsewhere. This must be determined and spelled out in the SPIL. The SPIL must be signed by the DSE, SILC, and at least 3 of the 5 CILs. Larry indicated that there is much to be considered about this change, and how to best utilize the funds.

Larry Clausen indicated that the Developmental Disability Network is also engaged in strategic planning, and suggested collaboration between SILC and Arizona Developmental Disability Planning Council (ADDPC) on alignment of goals. Larry Wanger expressed his agreement and anticipation to do so.

Scott Lindbloom inquired about how the funding would affect a small town in Arizona. Larry Wanger indicated that the funding will be directed as determined in the SPIL.

Cody Hallenbeck mentioned the barrier of transportation, especially in rural communities. Larry Wanger indicated that the SPIL can't fund public transportation but could impact advocacy groups on this issue. Larry Clausen indicated that a relationship with the Developmental Disabilities Network and stakeholders would be beneficial on the transportation issue.

Larry Wanger indicated that there is currently an open needs analysis survey available online, in print, and in Braille, to gather input about the services received and needed by people who have disabilities. This is geared toward people who have disabilities themselves as well as caregivers.

Cody Hallenbeck asked if these links will be shared with the committee, and Larry Wanger indicated that it would.

Nikki Jeffords inquired about whether or not SILC has considered developing a survey tool for providers. Larry Wanger indicated that this is being worked on.

Shawnnita Miranda asked if providers receive surveys from those they work with, if they should input them into the online survey, or send them to SILC to input. Larry Wanger indicated that SILC will be happy either way, and if surveys are sent to SILC, they will be recorded.

Scott Lindbloom inquired about the possibility of DES (Department of Economic Security) assisting with getting the surveys out. Karin Grandon of AZRSA, indicated that AZRSA has and will continue to promote the survey.

Nikki Jeffords asked about other mechanisms that have been used to get the survey out. Larry Wanger responded that postcards have been printed and distributed, in addition to email blasts, website and social media posting.

Jennifer Longdon suggested that she may be able to get a student from the Cronkite School of Journalism to write and publish a story about this effort.

Nikki Jeffords indicated that she is willing to add to the information distribution list.

Larry Wanger stated that the survey will run until the document is ready to be written. In regard to the community forums, Larry explained that these will be done both in person and via video conferencing. The first two are scheduled 10/7 and 10/8/15 from 3:30-5:30pm and all 8 AZRSA video conferencing sites will be utilized for at least one forum. Promotion will begin right away.

Larry Wanger described the community forum process as: using existing data to present past areas prioritized in the SPIL, completing an exercise to further prioritize and gather information to add to the list through specific questions. The community forums will be open to people who have and support those who have disabilities. Data will be compiled and reported to the SPIL Development Committee. AZSILC will then entertain recommendations for other Governors Councils, other stakeholders, and SPIL Development Committee recommendations.

Scott Lindbloom inquired about whether or not AZSILC will travel to conduct the community forums. Larry Wanger indicated that AZSILC will go to some areas in person, and others will be completed by conferencing.

Larry Wanger indicated that SILC will take public comments throughout the SPIL Development process.

Nikki Jeffords suggested offering a public comment forum.

Cody Hallenbeck inquired about transportation, particularly in the rural areas.

Georgia McLaughlin suggested using technology to reach more people.

Jennifer Longdon mentioned social media as an avenue for engaging people. Perhaps a google hangout.

Scott Lindbloom suggested conducting community forums at DES buildings.

Georgia McLaughlin suggested libraries as a good place to hold and advertise community forums.

J. J. Rico inquired about projected attendance at community forums, which Larry Wanger indicated is unknown, J. J. stated that Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL)

will be offering free trainings and would be willing to partner with AZSILC to increase numbers at community forums.

Paula Seanez asked about the structure of the community forums. Larry Wanger responded that AZSILC staff will give an overview to highlight areas of need to try to determine if they are still a need. Questions will be used to determine other needs, and greatest needs in each locale. Opportunity will be given to discuss possible strategies and solutions.

Nikki Jeffords suggested holding a community forum at the VRATE (Vision and Rehabilitation Assistive Technology Expo).

Melissa Ann Santora commented that this is the first SPIL for the current AZSILC staff.

Nikki Jeffords asked about the presence of AZSILC on social media. Larry Wanger indicated that AZSILC has a presence. Melissa Ann Santora offered that the AZYLF (Arizona Youth Leadership Forum) Alumni Association is poised to become involved in enhancing social media for AZSILC.

Georgia McLaughlin proposed radio forums.

Karin Grandon indicated that AZRSA has social media now.

Scott Lindbloom suggested promoting on television, public television, and with City Councils.

Cody Hallenbeck inquired about how the AZYLF Alumni Association could assist. Melissa Ann Santora indicated that this will be discussed at a future meeting, and that plans are in the works for this.

Larry Wanger indicated that he will share a link to the survey as well as postcards when printed, and information about community forums, when available.

Nikki Jeffords noted the importance of ensuring that materials are available in Braille and large print.

Scott Lindbloom suggested that AZRSA share information about the survey and community forums with their clients and homecare provider organizations.

Cody Hallenbeck suggested that information be shared with schools and Disability Resource Centers.

Karin Grandon inquired about the need for facilitators at community forum sites. Larry Wanger responded that people will be asked to RSVP to ensure attendance for facilitators. Larry explained that facilitators are people who can be present to assist in

the local process of gleaning feedback, voting and ranking issues. If SPIL Development Committee members are available to assist, please inform Larry Wanger.

Larry Wanger proposes that this committee meet every 2 months. Laura Duval questioned whether or not the meetings can be held to coincide with AZSILC meetings, as there are several on the committee who would already be traveling to Phoenix for AZSILC meetings. Larry Wanger indicated that AZSILC will try to get as much done as possible prior to the 10/22/15 AZSILC meeting.

Call to Public: No comments.

Adjournment: Jennifer Longdon thanked members of the committee for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned.